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Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement filed



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FILED
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
SAN BERNARDING DISTRICT

JUL 07 2020

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

JESUS H. ROBLES, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

WINSFORD II CORPORATION, a California Corporation; the WINSFORD COMPANY, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

Defendants,

CASE NO.: CIVDS1902903

[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

W. 24.

Date: July 7, 2020 Time: 9:30 a.m. Dept: S-26

Judge: Hon. David S. Cohn

Complaint Filed: January 29, 2019

FAC Filed: May 26, 2020

Plaintiff Jesus H. Robles' ("Plaintiff" or "Class Representative") Motion for Preliminary Approval of a Class Action Settlement came before this Court, on July 7, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in department S-26 of the above-captioned Court, the Honorable David S. Cohn presiding. The Court, having considered the papers submitted in support of the application of the parties, HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. The Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement and the Settlement Class based upon the terms set forth in the <u>Joint Stipulation of Class Action And PAGA Settlement And Release of Claims</u> ("Settlement Agreement" or "Settlement") attached as **Exhibit "1"** to the Declaration of Jonathan Melmed in Support of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement. All terms used herein shall have the same meaning as defined in the Settlement Agreement.
- 2. The terms of the Settlement Agreement appear to be fair, adequate and reasonable to the Class.
- Agreement and finds that, pursuant to C.R.C. Rule 3.769(d), the proposed Class should be certified for settlement purposes only. Specifically, the Court finds that the proposed Class: (a) is ascertainable; (b) is sufficiently numerous; (c) meets the commonality requirements; (d) the claims of the Class Representative is typical of the claims of the proposed Class Members; (e) Class Representative's counsel has and is able to adequately represent the proposed Class; (f) the Class Representative is adequate to represent the Class; and (g) class-wide treatment of this dispute is superior to individual litigation because common issues predominate over individual issues for settlement purposes. Therefore, the Court certifies for settlement purposes the Settlement Class defined as follows: any individual who is or was employed as a non-exempt employee by Defendants Winsford II Corporation and the Winsford Company, LLC in the State of California between January 29, 2015 through April 26, 2020 (the "Class Period").
- 4. The Settlement falls within the range of reasonableness and appears to be presumptively valid, subject only to any objections that may be raised at the final fairness hearing and upon final approval by this Court.

- 5. This Court approves, as to form and content, the Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement and Hearing Date for Court Approval ("Class Notice"), in substantially the form attached to the Settlement Agreement as **Exhibit "A"**. The Court approves the procedures for Class Members to participate in, to opt out of, and to object to, the Settlement as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.
- 6. The Court directs the mailing of the Class Notice and the Share Form by first class mail to the Class Members in accordance with the Implementation Schedule set forth below. The Court finds the dates selected for the mailing and distribution of the Notice and the Share Form, as set forth in the Implementation Schedule, meet the requirements of due process and provide the best notice practicable under the circumstances and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto.
- 7. The Court finds that Plaintiff Jesus H. Robles is adequate and confirms him as Class Representative. The Court further finds that Jonathan Melmed of Melmed Law Group P.C. and Mehrdad Bokhour of Bokhour Law Group, P.C. are adequate Class Counsel with extensive experience in similar class action litigation.
- 8. The Court appoints Phoenix Class Action Settlement Administrators as the Settlement Administrator.
- 9. To facilitate administration of the Settlement pending final approval, the Court hereby enjoins Plaintiff and all Class Members from filing or prosecuting any claims, suits or administrative proceedings (including filing claims with the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement of the California Department of Industrial Relations) regarding claims released by the Settlement, unless and until such Class Members have filed valid Requests for Exclusion with the Settlement Administrator and the time for filing claims with the Settlement Administrator has elapsed.
- 10. A final fairness hearing on the question of whether the proposed Settlement, attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel, and the Class Representative's Enhancement Award should be finally approved as fair, reasonable and adequate as to the members of the Class is scheduled on the date and time set forth in the Implementation Schedule below.

1	11. The Court orders the following Implementation Schedule for further proceedings			
2		a.	Deadline for Defendants to provide Settlement Administrator with	[Within 5 days of the Preliminary Approval Date, S.A. 3.2]
3			Confidentiality Agreement	
4		b.	Deadline for Defendants to Submit Class Member Information to Settlement	[Within 15 days after the Preliminary Approval Date, S.A. 3.2]
5			Administrator	7 Approvia Base, Sir ii Bi-21
6		c.	Deadline for Settlement Administrator to Mail Notice to Class Members	[Within 15 business days of receipt of Class
7				Date, S.A 3.3]
8		d.	Deadline for Class Members to Postmark Share Forms with Challenges, Request	[45 days after mailing of the Class Notice and Share Form, S.A. 4.1 – 4.4]
9			for Exclusion or Object to Settlement	
10		e.	Deadline for Settlement Administrator to	[50 calendar days after initial mailing date,
11			provide Declaration of Due Diligence and Proof of Mailing	S.A. 4.5]
12		f.	Deadline for Class Counsel to file Motion	[16 Court days prior to Final Approval and
13 14		••	for Final Approval of Settlement, including Request for Attorneys' Fees,	Fairness Hearing, S.A. 7.2]
15			Costs, and Enhancement Award	
16		g.	Final Approval and Fairness Hearing	11.3.20 at 10:00am
17				
18		h.	Deadline for Defendants to pay the Gross Settlement Amount to the Settlement	[Within 15 business days after the Effective Date, S.A 5.2]
19			Administrator	
20		i.	Deadline for Settlement Administrator to mail the Individual Settlement Awards (if	[Within 30 business days after the Effective Date]
21			Settlement is Effective)	
22				
23		12. The Court shall retain jurisdiction over the Action for all purposes pursuant to		

12. The Court shall retain jurisdiction over the Action for all purposes pursuant to California Rule of Court 3.769 and California Rule of Civil Procedure § 664.6 to enforce the terms of the Settlement.

IT IS SO ORDERED. HON. DAVID S. COHN JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT, SAN BERNANRDINO COUNTY [PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT