3

4

5

6

8

9

10

11

15

23

24 25

26

27 28 LIDMAN LAW, APC

Scott M. Lidman (SBN 199433) slidman@lidmanlaw.com Elizabeth Nguyen (SBN 238571) enguyen@lidmanlaw.com Milan Moore (SBN 308095) mmoore@lidmanlaw.com 2155 Campus Drive, Suite 150 El Segundo, California 90245

Tel: (424) 322-4772 Fax: (424) 322-4775

Attorneys for Plaintiffs CESAR NAVARRO and JOSE ZUNIGA

HAINES LAW GROUP, APC

Paul K. Haines (SBN 248226) phaines@haineslawgroup.com 2155 Campus Drive, Suite 180 El Segundo, California 90245

Tel: (424) 292-2350 Fax: (424) 292-2355

Attorneys for Plaintiffs CESAR NAVARRO and JOSE ZUNIGA

Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles SEP 28 2020 Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk of Count

## RECEIVED

LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT

SEP 03 2020

S. DREW

## SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CESAR NAVARRO, as an individual, JOSE ZUNIGA, as an individual, and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRI-STAR WINDOW COVERINGS, INC., a California Corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. BC697813

[Assigned for All Purposes to the Hon. William F. Highberger, Dept. SSC-101

## PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Date: September 28, 2020

Time: 1:30 p.m. Dept.: SSC-10

Action Filed: March 13, 2018 None

Trial Date:

The Motion of Plaintiff Cesar Navarro and Plaintiff Jose Zuniga ("Plaintiffs") for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement will come on regularly for hearing before this Court on September 28, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. The Court, having considered the proposed Stipulation of Settlement and Addendum to the Stipulation of Settlement (collectively the "Settlement"), attached as Exhibits 1 and 2, respectively, to the Declaration of Scott M. Lidman filed concurrently with the Motion; having considered Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement, Memorandum of Points and Authorities in support thereof, and supporting declarations filed therewith; and good cause appearing, HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:

1. The Court GRANTS preliminary approval of the class action settlement as set forth in the Settlement and finds its terms to be within the range of reasonableness of a settlement that ultimately could be granted approval by the Court at a Final Fairness Hearing. For purposes of the Settlement, the Court finds that the proposed Settlement Class is ascertainable and that there are a sufficiently well-defined community of interest among the members of the Settlement Class in questions of law and fact. Therefore, for settlement purposes only, the Court grants conditional certification of the following Settlement Class:

All current and former non-exempt employees of Defendant Tri-Star Window Coverings, Inc. in California, who performed work, that was, at least in part, compensated on a piece-rate basis, from March 13, 2014 through the date the Court enters the order granting preliminary approval.

- For purposes of the Settlement, the Court designates named Plaintiffs Cesar Navarro and Jose Zuniga as Class Representatives, and Scott M. Lidman, Elizabeth Nguyen, and Milan Moore of Lidman Law, APC and Paul Haines of Haines Law Group, APC as Class Counsel.
- 3. The Court designates Phoenix Settlement Administrators as the third-party Settlement Administrator for mailing notices.
- 4. Plaintiffs are granted leave to file the Second Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint, which is attached as Exhibit A to the Settlement and shall be filed no earlier than November 9, 2020, after the 65 day exhaustion period. Defendant is not required to file a responsive pleading to the Second Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint.
  - 5. The Court approves, as to form and content, the proposed Notice Packet (which is

comprised of the Notice of Pendency of Class Action and Proposed Settlement and Notice of Settlement Award), which are attached to the Settlement as Exhibits B and C, respectively.

- 6. The Court finds that the form of notice to the Settlement Class regarding the pendency of the action and of the Settlement, and the methods of giving notice to members of the Settlement Class, constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constitute valid, due, and sufficient notice to all members of the Settlement Class. The form and method of giving notice complies fully with the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure section 382, California Civil Code section 1781, California Rules of Court 3.766 and 3.769, the California and United States Constitutions, and other applicable law.
- The Court further approves the procedures for Settlement Class Members to opt out of or object to the Settlement, as set forth in the Class Notice.
- 8. The procedures and requirements for filing objections in connection with the Final Fairness Hearing are intended to ensure the efficient administration of justice and the orderly presentation of any Settlement Class Member's objection to the Settlement, in accordance with the due process rights of all Settlement Class Members.
- 9. The Court directs the Settlement Administrator to mail the Notice Packet to the members of the Settlement Class in accordance with the terms of the Settlement.
- 10. The Class Notice shall provide at least 45 calendar days' notice for members of the Settlement Class to opt out of, or object to, the Settlement.
- 12. At the Final Fairness Hearing, the Court will consider: (a) whether the Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate for the Settlement Class; (b) whether a judgment granting final approval of the Settlement should be entered; and (c) whether Plaintiffs' application for reasonable attorneys' fees, reimbursement of litigation expenses, service awards to Plaintiffs, and payment to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") for penalties under the Labor

Code Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") should be granted.

13. Counsel for the parties shall file memoranda, declarations, or other statements and materials in support of their request for final approval of the Settlement, attorneys' fees, litigation expenses, Plaintiff's service award, settlement administration costs, and payment to the LWDA for PAGA penalties prior to the Final Fairness Hearing according to the time limits set by the Code of Civil Procedure and the California Rules of Court.

14. An implementation schedule is below:

Event	Date	Actual Date <sup>1</sup>
Defendant to provide Class Data to Settlement Administrator	14 calendar days after issuance of the preliminary approval order	October 12, 2020
Settlement Administrator to mail Notice Packets to Class Members	10 calendar days after receiving Class Information from Defendant	October 22, 2020
Deadline for Class Members to request exclusion from, submit disputes, or object to, the Settlement	45 calendar days after mailing of the Notice by the Settlement Administrator	December 7, 2020 <sup>2</sup>
Deadline for Plaintiffs to file Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement:	Jan. 4, 2021	
Final Fairness Hearing:	Jan. 27 , 2021 1:306	m, some

- 15. Pending the Final Fairness Hearing, all proceedings in this action, other than proceedings necessary to carry out or enforce the terms and conditions of the Settlement and this Order, are stayed.
- 16. Counsel for the parties are hereby authorized to utilize all reasonable procedures in connection with the administration of the Settlement which are not materially inconsistent with either this Order or the terms of the Settlement.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: 9/28 , 2020

Honorable William F. Highberger Judge of the Superior Court

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These dates are based on the Court granting preliminary approval at the hearing, currently noticed for September 28, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 45 calendars days from October 22, 2020 is Sunday, December 6, 2020. Accordingly, Plaintiffs calendared this deadline for the next business day, Monday, December 7, 2020.