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8

**FILED**  
Superior Court of California  
County of Los Angeles  
**12/14/2022**  
Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court  
By: \_\_\_\_\_ A. He \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy

9 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
10 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
11

12 PHYLLIS SALTER, individually, and on  
13 behalf of all others similarly situated,

14 *Plaintiff,*

15 vs.

16 US-REPORTS, INC., a Colorado corporation  
17 dba AFIRM dba AFIRM SOLUTIONS; H. W.  
KAUFMAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC., a  
18 Michigan corporation; and DOES 1 through  
19 10, inclusive,

20 *Defendants.*  
21

Case No.: 19STCV30384

[Hon. Stuart Rice, Dept. 1]

CLASS ACTION

~~PROPOSED~~ **ORDER GRANTING  
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS  
ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Date: December 14, 2022  
Time: 10:30 a.m.  
Courtroom: Dept. 1  
Judge: Hon. Stuart Rice

Action Filed: August 28, 2019  
Trial Date: Not Set

1 **TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD:**

2 This matter came on for hearing on December 14, 2022, upon the Motion for Preliminary  
3 Approval of the proposed settlement of this action on the terms set forth in the CLASS ACTION AND  
4 PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (the “Agreement”) *see* Declaration of H. Scott Leviant In  
5 Support of Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class and Representative Action Settlement  
6 [“Leviant Decl.”], at Exh. 1).

7 After reviewing the Agreement, the Notice process, having reviewed the entire record on this  
8 action, having heard the argument of Counsel for respective Parties, if any, and good cause appearing,  
9 the Court Orders as follows:

10 1. To the extent defined in the Agreement, the terms in this Order shall have the meanings  
11 set forth therein.

12 2. The Court preliminarily finds that the terms of the proposed class action Settlement are  
13 fair, reasonable, and adequate, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382. In granting  
14 preliminary approval of the class action settlement the Court has considered the factors identified in  
15 *Dunk v. Ford Motor Co.*, 48 Cal. App. 4th 1794 (1996), as approved in *Wershba v. Apple Computer,*  
16 *Inc.*, 91 Cal. App. 4th 224 (2001) and *In re Microsoft IV Cases*, 135 Cal. App. 4th 706 (2006).

17 3. The Court finds that the Settlement has been reached as a result of intensive, serious and  
18 non-collusive arms-length negotiations. The Court further finds that the Parties have conducted  
19 thorough investigation and research, and the attorneys for the Parties are able to reasonably evaluate  
20 their respective positions. The Court also finds that settlement at this time will avoid additional  
21 substantial costs, as well as avoid the delay and risks that would be presented by the further prosecution  
22 of the action. The Court finds that the risks of further prosecution are substantial.

23 4. The Parties’ Settlement is granted preliminary approval as it meets the criteria for  
24 preliminary settlement approval. The Settlement falls within the range of reasonableness and appears  
25 to be presumptively valid, subject only to any objections that may be raised at the final fairness hearing.  
26 The Class meets the requirements for conditional certification for settlement purposes only under Code  
27 of Civil Procedure § 382. The Court finds that it is appropriate to notify the members of the proposed  
28 settlement Class of the terms of the proposed settlement.

1           5.       The Parties’ proposed notice plan is constitutionally sound because individual notices  
2 will be mailed to all Class Members whose identities are known to the Parties, and such notice is the  
3 best notice practicable. The Parties’ proposed Class Notice, attached to the Settlement as Exhibit A, is  
4 sufficient to inform Class Members of the terms of the Settlement, their rights under the settlement,  
5 their rights to object to the Settlement, their right to receive a payment under the settlement or elect not  
6 to participate in the settlement, and the processes for doing so, and the date and location of the final  
7 approval hearing and are therefore approved.

8           6.       The following persons are certified as Class Members solely for the purpose of entering  
9 a settlement in this matter:

10                   All non-exempt, hourly employees of Defendants who worked for Defendants  
11 in California during the Class Period (the “Class Period” is August 28, 2015 to  
12 December 31, 2022, or the date upon which the Court grants Preliminary Approval of  
13 this proposed class action settlement, whichever is sooner.) “Participating Class  
14 Members” are those Class Members who do not submit timely exclusion requests to the  
15 Settlement Administrator. (Settlement, ¶ 1.35.)

14           7.       Plaintiff PHYLLIS SALTER is appointed as the Class Representative. The Court  
15 finds Plaintiff’s counsel are adequate, as they are experienced in wage and hour class action litigation  
16 and have no conflicts of interest with absent Class Members, and that they adequately represented the  
17 interests of absent class members in the Litigation. Moon & Yang, APC, is appointed Class Counsel.

18           8.       The Court appoints Phoenix Settlement Administrators to act as the Settlement  
19 Administrator, pursuant to the terms set forth in the Agreement.

20           9.       Defendants are directed to provide the Settlement Administrator the names and most  
21 recent known mailing addresses of Class Members and any other information required in accordance  
22 with the Agreement (the “Class Database”).

23           10.      The Settlement Administrator is directed to mail the approved Class Notice by first-  
24 class mail to the Class Members in accordance with the Agreement. Before mailing, the Settlement  
25 Administrator or Class Counsel shall include the appropriate dates in the Class Notice and insert the  
26 correct time and place for the Final Approval Hearing.

27           11.      Class Members will be bound by the Agreement unless they submit a timely and valid  
28 written request to be excluded from the Settlement, postmarked by the response deadline. Any request

1 for exclusion shall be submitted to the Settlement Administrator rather than filed with the Court. Class  
2 members are not required to send copies of their Exclusion request to counsel. The Settlement  
3 Administrator shall file, or provide to Counsel for filing, a declaration authenticating a copy of every  
4 Exclusion request received by the Administrator.

5 12. To be considered, Class Members must timely file and serve their written objections in  
6 accordance with the Agreement.

7 13. Upon completion of the Notice process, the Settlement Administrator shall provide a  
8 report of the results of that process to Counsel for all Parties.

9 14. A final approval hearing will be held on T æ ÅF, 2023, at  
10 FENEAD È, in Department 001, to determine whether the settlement should be granted final approval  
11 as fair, reasonable, and adequate as to the Class Members. At that time, the Court will hear all evidence  
12 and arguments necessary to evaluate the Settlement. Class Members and their counsel may support or  
13 oppose the Settlement, if they so desire, in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Class Notice  
14 and this Order. The final approval hearing may be conducted telephonically, based upon prevailing  
15 conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic at that time, or as otherwise authorized by the Court.

16 15. As set forth in the Notice, any Class Member may appear at the final approval hearing  
17 in person (which “in person” appearance may be telephonic, as noted above) or by his or her own  
18 attorney and show cause why the Court should not approve the settlement.

19 16. The Court reserves the right to continue the date of the final approval hearing without  
20 further notice to Class Members.

21 17. Class Counsel shall give notice to any objecting party of any continuance of the hearing  
22 of the motion for final approval.

23 18. The Court retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or in  
24 connection with the settlement.

25 19. In the event that the Settlement does not become effective in accordance with the terms  
26 of the Agreement, then this Preliminary Approval Order shall be rendered null and void to the extent  
27 provided by and in accordance with the Agreement and shall be vacated, and, in such event, all orders  
28 entered and releases delivered in connection herewith shall be null and void to the extent provided by and

1 in accordance with the Agreement, and each party shall retain his or its rights to proceed with litigation  
2 of the Actions.

3  
4 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**



5  
6 Dated: 12/14/2022

Stuart M. Rice / Judge

Hon. Stuart Rice  
LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

1 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

2 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

3 I am employed in the State of California, County of Los Angeles. I am over the age of 18 and not a party  
4 to the within suit; my business address is 1055 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1880, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

5 On the date indicated below, I served the document described as: **[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING**  
6 **PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT** on the interested parties in this action  
by sending [ ] the original [or] [✓] a true copy thereof [✓] to interested parties as follows [or] [ ] as stated on the  
attached service list:

7 Eric J. Erickson  
8 ejerickson@wolfewyman.com  
9 Catherine T. Phan  
10 ctpfan@wolfewyman.com  
11 WOLFE & WYMAN LLP  
12 550 South Hope Street, Suite 2550  
13 Los Angeles, California 90071  
14 Facsimile: (213) 222-4901

15 *Attorneys for Defendants*

16 [✓] **BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE:** Based on a court order or an agreement of the parties to accept  
17 electronic service, I caused the documents to be sent to the persons at the electronic service addresses  
18 listed above via third-party cloud service CASEANYWHERE. I did not receive an error message.

19 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true  
20 and correct. Executed this **November 2, 2022** at Los Angeles, California.

21 H. Scott Leviant  
22 Type or Print Name

23   
24 Signature