Shaw v. Kaiser, No. CVRI2102203; [Proposed] Order Granting Preliminary Approval

Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class and Representative Action Settlement came before this Court on August 30, 2023. The Court, having considered the proposed Class and Representative Action Settlement ("Settlement Agreement" or "Settlement"), Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval, and all papers filed in support, HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. The Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement and preliminarily finds that: (1) the Settlement is fair, adequate and reasonable to the Class when balanced against the possible risks of further litigation, including issues relating to class certification, liability, calculating damages, and potential appeals; (2) significant investigation, research, and litigation have been conducted, such that the Parties are able to fairly evaluate their respective positions; (3) settlement at this time will avoid the substantial cost, delay and risk presented by further litigation of the action; and (4) the Settlement was reached after serious, informed, and non-collusive negotiations, which were conducted at arms'-length by experienced counsel with the assistance of a reputable mediator.
- 2. The Court conditionally certifies and approves, for settlement purposes only, the following Class as set forth in the Settlement Agreement:

All non-exempt persons who were employed by Defendant in the State of California and who held the position of Customer Service Representative I, II, or III, Kaiser job code numbers 21121, 21122, 21123, or 24762 at any time between May 12, 2017 and the date of Preliminary Approval (the "Class Period.")

- 3. This class includes all Class Members other than those who exclude themselves by timely submitting a valid Request for Exclusion in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Notice and Settlement Agreement.
- 4. For the purposes of this Settlement, David Markham, Maggie Realin and Lisa Brevard of The Markham Law Firm and Richard E. Quintilone of Quintilone & Associates are hereby preliminarily appointed as Class Counsel and shall represent the Class Members in this Class Action. Any Class Member may enter an appearance in the Class Action, at their own expense, either individually or through counsel of their own choice. However, if they do not enter an appearance, they will be represented by Class Counsel.
- 5. For the purposes of this Settlement, Plaintiff Chasmine Shaw is hereby preliminarily appointed as the Class Representative.

- 6. The Court confirms ILYM, Inc. as the Settlement Administrator and preliminarily approves that Settlement administrative costs shall be paid in accordance with the Settlement Agreement and deducted from the Gross Settlement Amount. To the extent the actual costs of administration of the Settlement are less than the amount anticipated by the Settlement Agreement, the remainder shall become part of the Net Settlement Amount. The cost of administration includes all tasks required of the Settlement Administrator by this Agreement, including the issuance of the Notice to Class Members. ILYM, Inc. is directed to perform all other responsibilities set forth for the Settlement Administrator as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.
- 7. A Final Approval Hearing shall be held on January 10, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. before the Honorable Harold Hopp in Department 1 of the Superior Court for the County of Riverside. The purpose of such Hearing will be to: (a) determine whether the proposed Settlement should be finally approved by the Court as fair, reasonable and adequate and in the best interests of the Class Members; (b) determine the reasonableness of Class Counsel's request for attorneys' fees and costs; (c) determine the reasonableness of the Service Enhancement Payment requested for the Class Representative; and (d) order entry of Judgment in the Class Action, which shall constitute a complete Release and bar with respect to the Released Claims described in Section I(Z) of the Settlement Agreement.
- 8. The Court hereby approves, as to form and content, the Notice, Exclusion Form and Objection Form attached as **Exhibits A-C**, incorporated by reference herein. The Court finds the dates and procedure for mailing and distributing the Notice, Exclusion Form and Objection Form to Class Members in the manner set forth in the Settlement Agreement meets the requirements of due process and is the best notice practicable under the circumstances and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto.
- 9. The Court directs the mailing of the Court approved Notice, Exclusion Form and Objection Form via U.S. First Class mail to Class Members in accordance with the schedule and procedures set forth in the Settlement.
  - a. Within twenty-one (21) calendar days of the entry of this Order, Defendant will provide the Settlement Administrator the Class Data in an electronic format showing:

- i. the full name, last known address, telephone number, and Social Security

  Number of each Class Member; and
- ii. the information necessary to determine the estimated settlement allocation to each Settlement Class Member, including without limitation, the dates of employment (i.e., hire date and termination date, if applicable) of each Settlement Class Member, the total number of workweeks worked by each Settlement Class Member and the pay periods worked by each PAGA Employee within the relevant time period.
- b. The Settlement Administrator shall mail to Class Members' last known address the Notice, Exclusion Form and Objection Form within fourteen (14) calendar days after the Settlement Administrator receives the Class Data from Defendant. If a mailing is returned as undeliverable to a Class Member, then the Settlement Administrator will use reasonable efforts, as set forth in the Settlement, to obtain a valid current address for that Class Member, and shall send, by first-class mail, a second copy of the mailing to the Class Member.
- 10. Class Members may request exclusion from the Class by submitting a Request for Exclusion on the form provided (Exhibit B). In order to be valid, the Request for Exclusion must be signed and postmarked to the Settlement Administrator no later than forty-five (45) days after the date the Notice was first mailed. If a Class Member submits a Request for Exclusion that fails to include all required information or that cannot be verified by the Settlement Administrator as being an authentic submission by the Class Member, it will be considered invalid, and the Settlement Administrator shall mail notification of the deficiency to the Class Member within three (3) business days of receipt. The Class Member shall have until the Notice Response Deadline or fifteen (15) days from the date of the mailing of notification of the deficiency (whichever is later), to cure any deficiencies. Any Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion will not be entitled to any recovery under the Settlement and will not be bound by the Settlement or have any right to object, appeal or comment thereon (aside from any recovery allocated to PAGA penalties under the Settlement and the

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release of claims under PAGA). Class Members who fail to submit valid and timely Request for Exclusion shall be bound by all terms of the Settlement and any Final Judgment.

- 11. Class Members who do not submit a Request for Exclusion may object to the Settlement and appear at the Final Approval Hearing to show cause why the proposed Settlement should not be approved, Judgment in the Class Action should not be entered, and to present any opposition to the application of Class Counsel for attorneys' fees, costs and expenses, or the Class Representative's Service Enhancement Payment. In order to object to the proposed Settlement in writing, the Class Member must submit an objection to the Settlement Administrator, using the form attached as Exhibit C to this Order, stating the basis for the objection, no later than forty-five (45) days after the date the Class Notice was first mailed. The objecting party may also appear personally or through counsel at the Final Approval Hearing, whether or not the objecting party had submitted a written objection, but no appearance is required for an objection to be considered by the Court. Any Class Member who does not make his or her objection in the manner provided for herein shall be deemed to have waived such objection and shall forever be foreclosed from making any objection to the fairness or adequacy of the proposed Settlement Agreement or to the award of attorneys' fees and costs and expenses to Class Counsel and/or the Service Enhancement Payment to the Class Representative unless otherwise ordered by the Court. The administrator will verify the final number of opt-outs and/or objections in a declaration to be filed with the Court concurrently with the final approval motion. Plaintiff and/or Defendant may file responses to any properly filed objections at least five (5) court days before the date of the Final Approval Hearing. The administrator will give notice to any objecting party of any continuance of the Final Approval Hearing.
- 12. The Court hereby preliminarily approves the definition and disposition of the Class Settlement Amount as that term is defined in the Settlement Agreement. The Court preliminarily approves the distribution of Class Settlement Amount, all subject to the Court's Final Approval of the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing. Assuming the Settlement receives Final Approval, Defendant shall be required to pay only the Class Settlement Amount in the total amount of Nine Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$975,000.00), plus employer payroll taxes separate and in addition to the Class Settlement Amount.

- 13. Upon entry of Judgment by the Court in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, the Class Members shall fully and finally Release and discharge the Released Parties from the claims released in the Settlement, as provided in Settlement Agreement.
  - 14. The following dates shall govern for the purpose of this Settlement.

Schedule for Execution of Settlement	
No later than twenty-one (21) calendar days after the entry of this Order [by September 21, 2023]	Last day for Defendants to provide Class Data to Settlement Administrator.
No more than fourteen (14) calendar days after Settlement Administrator receives Class Data [by October 5, 2023]	Last day for Settlement Administrator to mail Notice to Class Members.
No more than forty-five (45) calendar days after mailing of Notice [on or before November 20, 2023, unless extended by remailing]	Last day to object to or opt out of the Settlement.
No later than sixteen (16) court days before the Final Approval Hearing [by December 15, 2023]	Last day to file papers in support of the Settlement and any application for reimbursement of attorneys' fees and expenses, Class Representative's Service Enhancement Payment, including any expenses associated with or incurred by the Settlement Administrator.
No later than five (5) court days before the Final Approval Hearing [by January 3, 2024].	Last day for Plaintiff's counsel and/or Defendant's counsel to file a response to any properly filed objection to the Settlement by a Class Member.
January 10, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.	Final Approval Hearing.

- 15. The Court reserves the right to adjourn the date of the Final Approval Hearing without further notice to the Class Members and retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the proposed Settlement.
- 16. In the event: (i) the Court does not finally approve the Settlement as contemplated by the Settlement Agreement; (ii) the Court does not enter a Final Approval Order as contemplated by the Settlement Agreement, which becomes final as a result of the occurrence of the Effective Date (as that term is defined by in the Settlement); (iii) Plaintiff or Defendant elect to void the Settlement as provided under the terms of the Settlement Agreement; or (iv) the Settlement does not become final for any other

reason, the Settlement and related Class shall be null and void and any order or judgment entered by this Court in furtherance of the Settlement shall be deemed as void from the beginning. In such a case, the Parties and any funds to be awarded under this Settlement shall be returned to their respective statuses as of the date and time immediately prior to the execution of the Settlement, and the Parties shall proceed in all respects as if the Settlement Agreement had not been executed. 17. If, for any reason, the Settlement Agreement is not finally approved or does not become effective, this Order Granting Preliminary Approval shall be deemed vacated and shall have no force or effect whatsoever, and the Action shall proceed as if no settlement had been attempted. IT IS SO ORDERED. Honorable Harold Hopp Judge of the Superior Court