Proposed Final Judgment and Order Approving Class and Representative Action Settlement

Shaw v. Kaiser, Case No. CVRI2102203

[PROPOSED] FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER

This matter came before the Court on January 10, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in Department 1 of the Riverside Superior Court, Honorable Harold Hopp presiding, for a hearing on Plaintiff's Motions for (1) Final Judgment and Order Approving Class Action Settlement; and for (2) Approval of Attorneys' Fees and Costs and Class Representative's Enhancement Payment. Due and adequate notice having been given to Class Members as required by the Court's August 29, 2023 Order Granting Plaintiffs' [Unopposed] Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class and Representative Action Settlement, which required Notice to be given to the Class, the Court having considered all papers filed and proceedings in this action, and determining that the settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable, and otherwise being fully informed and good cause appearing therefore, it is hereby **ORDERED**, **ADJUDGED**, **AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS:**

- 1. This Order hereby incorporates by reference the definitions in the Settlement Agreement (titled STIPULATION AND SETTLEMENT OF CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION, filed on August 23, 2023, exhibit 1 to the Supplemental Declaration of David R. Markham) as though fully set forth herein, and all terms used herein shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.
- 2. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims of the members of the Class asserted in this proceeding, personal jurisdiction over the Plaintiff and Defendant, and the members of the Class, as defined in the Settlement Agreement.
- 3. The Court 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 during the period from May 12, 2017 through August 29, 2023

4. Notice given to the class fully and accurately informed Class Members of all material elements of the proposed settlement and of their opportunity to exclude themselves from, object to, or comment on the settlement, and to appear at the final approval hearing. The notice was reasonable

and the best notice practicable under the circumstances. Accordingly, this Court finds that the notice program described in the Settlement and completed by the Settlement Administrator complied fully with the requirements of due process, Rule 3.766 of the California Rules of Court, and all other applicable laws.

- 5. The Settlement Agreement is not an admission by Defendant or by any other Released Parties nor is this Order a finding of the validity of any allegations or of any wrongdoing by Defendant or any other Released Parties. Neither this Order, the Settlement Agreement, nor any document referred to herein, nor any action taken to carry out the Settlement Agreement, may be construed as, or may be used as, an admission of any fault, wrongdoing, omission, concession, or liability whatsoever by or against Defendant or any of the Released Parties.
- 6. There were no objections to the settlement and two Class Members (Robin Dick and Geraldine Garcia) opted-out. All Class Members who did not submit a valid Request for Exclusion are bound by this Final Approval Order and by the terms of the parties' Settlement Agreement, including releases provided for in the Settlement and this Final Approval Order. As of the effective date of Settlement, by operation of the entry of this Final Approval Order, each Settlement Class Member, including Plaintiff, shall be deemed to have fully released, waived, relinquished and discharged, to the fullest extent permitted by law, all Released Claims that he or she may have against the Released Parties.
- 7. Settlement Class Members were given a full opportunity to participate in the Final Approval hearing, and all Settlement Class Members and other persons wishing to be heard have been heard. All Class Members, but those who submitted a valid Request for Exclusion, are bound by this Order.
- 8. The Court has considered all relevant factors for determining the fairness of the Settlement and has concluded that all such factors weigh in favor of granting final approval. In particular, the Court finds that the Settlement was reached following meaningful discovery and investigation conducted by Plaintiff's counsel; that the settlement is the result of serious, informed, adversarial and arm's-length negotiations between the parties; and that the terms of the settlement are in all respect fair, adequate, and reasonable. The Court accordingly approves the Settlement and directs the Parties to effectuate the Settlement Agreement according to its terms.

- 9. In so finding, the Court has considered all evidence presented, including evidence regarding the strength of the Plaintiff's case; the risk, expense, and complexity of the claims presented; the likely duration of further litigation; the amount offered in settlement; the extent of investigation and discovery completed; and the experience and views of Plaintiff's counsel.
- 10. The Court hereby finds the Settlement Payments provided to Settlement Class Members under the terms of the Settlement to be fair and reasonable in light of all the circumstances. The Court, therefore, orders the calculations and payments to be made and administered in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement. Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, Defendant is responsible for any employer payroll taxes separate and in addition to the Class Settlement Amount.
- 11. The settlement of civil penalties under PAGA in the amount of \$48,750 is hereby approved. Seventy-Five Percent (75%) or \$36,562.50 shall be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency. The remaining Twenty-Five Percent (25%), or \$12,187.50, will be distributed to the Aggrieved Employees as PAGA Penalty Payments. By operation of this Final Approval Order, the Aggrieved Employees release their PAGA claims in their entirety.
- 12. The Court finds that the services provided by the Settlement Administrator were for the benefit of the Class, and the cost of \$11,475 is fair, reasonable, and appropriate for reimbursement. The Court approves payment to ILYM Group, Inc. for administration fees, which include all costs and fees incurred to date, as well as estimated costs and fees involved in completing the administration of the Settlement.
- 13. The Court confirms David R. Markham, Maggie K. Realin, and Lisa Brevard of The Markham Law Firm as Settlement Class Counsel in this action.
- 14. The Court finds that Settlement Class Counsel have the sufficient experience, knowledge, and skill to promote and safeguard the interests of the Class. The Court therefore finds that Plaintiff's counsel satisfies the professional and ethical obligations of Settlement Class Counsel.
- 15. The Court further approves an award of attorneys' fees of \$325,000. The Court finds that this amount is supported by both the application of the percentage fee and the lodestar-plus-multiplier methods for awarding reasonable attorneys' fees.

- 16. In the course of this litigation, Class Counsel incurred \$16,304.82 in litigation costs including in the form of court filing fees, mediation fees, expert fees, and delivery charges. The Court approves the reimbursement to Class Counsel for the Litigation Expenses pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, with \$16,304.82 reimbursed to the Markham Law Firm.
- 17. The Court finds that Chasmine Shaw is a suitable representative for the Settlement Class and is hereby appointed as Class Representative. The Court finds that Plaintiff's investment and commitment to the litigation and its outcome ensured adequate and zealous advocacy for the Settlement Class, and her interests are aligned with those of the Settlement Class.
- 18. The Court finds the Enhancement Payment in the amount of \$10,000 to Plaintiff as fair and reasonable compensation based upon the evidence presented regarding the services provided and risks incurred by Plaintiff in assisting Settlement Class Counsel.
- 19. Without affecting the finality of this Final Approval Order, the Court reserves continuing and exclusive jurisdiction over the parties to the Settlement, including Defendant, Plaintiff, and Settlement Class Members, to administer, supervise, construe and enforce the Settlement in accordance with its terms.
- 20. This document shall constitute a judgment for purposes of California Rules of Court, Rule 3.769(h). Plaintiff shall comply with California Rules of Court, Rule 3.771(b) by filing a Notice of Entry of Judgment with the Court.
- 21. Settlement checks shall be valid for 180 days after mailing, pursuant to the terms of the settlement agreement. Any envelope transmitting a settlement check to a Settlement Class Member shall bear the language "YOUR CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT CHECK IS ENCLOSED." For checks that remain uncashed within 60 days of mailing, the Administrator shall send a reminder postcard to those Settlement Class Members. To the extent any settlement check is returned as undeliverable, and in the event a skip trace is not successful, for current employees of Defendant the administrator shall have the settlement check(s) delivered to the Settlement Class Member at their place of employment. In the event any settlement checks remain uncashed after the 180-day period, the settlement checks shall be null and avoid, and any uncashed funds shall be sent to the cy pres recipient,