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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9
10 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

11 ROSA AREVALO, MICHELLE
12 CORNEJO, ASIA FOWLER, THERESA
13 PHUONG T MAI, and LILLIAN MENA
14 individually and as representatives of a
15 Putative Class of Participants and
16 Beneficiaries, on behalf of all similarly
situated participants and beneficiaries on
behalf of the CEDARS-SINAI HEALTH
SYSTEM 403(B) RETIREMENT PLAN,

17 Plaintiffs,

18 v.

19 CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER;
20 THE CEDARS-SINAI BOARD OF
21 DIRECTORS' PENSION INVESTMENT
22 COMMITTEE, THE CEDARS-SINAI
23 DEFINED CONTRIBUTION
24 RETIREMENT PLANS' COMMITTEE,
25 ANDY ORTIZ, DEBRA LEE, ERIC
26 HOLOMAN, JOSHUA LOBEL, LESLIE
27 VERMUT, RICHARD SINAIKO,
STEVEN ROMICK, MARK
RAPAPORT, JAMES NATHAN, DAVID
WRIGLEY, JEFF SMITH, DAVID

Case No.: 5:23-cv-01124-JLS-SP

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT
(Doc. 114)**

MARSHALL, PASY WANG, BRYAN
CROFT and DOES 1 through 10,

Defendants.

On August 18, 2025, the Court conditionally granted preliminary approval of the proposed class action settlement but ordered amendment to the class notice and method in which Settlement Class Members could submit objections. (*See* Conditional Preliminary Approval Order, Doc. 124.) The Court is now in receipt of the parties' amended notice, which addresses the concerns raised by the Court in its prior Order. (*See* Supp. Brief, Doc. 125.) Accordingly, and good cause appearing, the Court ORDERS as follows:

Conditional Class Certification

The Court, on a preliminary basis and for the purposes of settlement only, concludes that the requirements for class certification under Rule 23(a) and Rule 23(b)(1)(B) are satisfied. The non-opt out Settlement Class will be preliminarily certified for settlement purposes, under the terms of the Settlement Agreement. That Settlement Class is defined as: "All Current and Former Participants in or Beneficiaries of Current Participants of the Cedars-Sinai Health System 403(B) Retirement Plan ("the Plan") at any time during the period from June 13, 2017 to April 1, 2025, (the "Class Period") excluding Defendants and members of the Defendant Boards and Plan Committees." (Ex. 1 to Corrected Humphrey Decl., Settlement Agreement ¶ 1.44, Doc. 121 at 19.)

The Court also concludes that Class Representatives have no conflicts with other Class Members or the proposed *cy pres* recipient Pension Rights Center, are adequate to represent the Settlement Class, and have retained experienced and qualified counsel to represent the Settlement Class as Class Counsel.

Preliminary Settlement Approval

The terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement are preliminarily approved, subject to further consideration at the Final Fairness Hearing. The Settlement Agreement is sufficiently within the range of reasonableness to warrant preliminary approval, the scheduling of the Final Fairness Hearing, and the issuance of Notice to Class Members, each as provided for in this Order and the Court's Conditional

1 Preliminary Approval Order. The Court finds that the Plan of Allocation proposed
2 by Plaintiffs and Class Counsel for allocating the Settlement Amount to Class
3 Members is likely to receive final approval and is within the range of reasonableness
4 to warrant preliminary approval. (*See* Ex. 2 to Second Supp. Decl., Plan of
5 Allocation, Doc. 123 at 16.)

6 The Court appoints Christina Humphrey Law, P.C., and Bradley Grombacher,
7 LLP as Class Counsel, and appoints Rosa Arevalo, Michelle Cornejo, and Theresa
8 Phuong T Mai, the Named Plaintiffs, as the Class Representatives. The Court
9 DIRECTS the Clerk of Court to change the case caption to remove the names of
10 Jason Zimmerman, Lillian Mena, and Asia Fowler as class representatives.

11 **Approval of Form and Method of Class Notice**

12 The Court approves, as to form and content, the amended notice to Class
13 Members attached as Exhibit A to the parties' Supplemental Filing in support of
14 Preliminary Approval. (*See* Ex. A to Supp. Brief, Amended Notice, Doc. 125 at 4.)

15 The Court approves the retention by Class Counsel of ILYM Group, Inc. as
16 the Settlement Administrator. Defendants shall use reasonable efforts to cause the
17 Plan Recordkeepers to provide to the Settlement Administrator, within twenty-one
18 (21) calendar days of the entry of this Preliminary Approval Order, the Class
19 Member List, as defined in the Settlement Agreement in Section 1.11, sufficient to
20 implement the Plan of Allocation, and distribute the Net Settlement on the terms
21 provided for in the Settlement Agreement. The Class Member List provided to the
22 Settlement Administrator pursuant to this Order shall be used solely for the purpose
23 of providing Notice of this Settlement and distribution of the Settlement Fund, and
24 for no other purpose.

25 Within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the Class Member List, the
26 Settlement Administrator shall cause the Notice to be sent to each Class Member by
27 First Class Mail. The same date the Notice is initially mailed, the Settlement
28 Administrator shall establish a website containing, the Notice, the Settlement

1 Agreement and its exhibits, this Order, the First Amended Complaint, and the
2 Motions for Preliminary Approval and Final Approval (when filed); the Motion for
3 Attorneys' Fees and Expenses (when filed); any approval order or other Court orders
4 related to the Settlement, any amendments or revisions to these documents, and any
5 other documents or information mutually agreed upon by the Parties, as well as the
6 date, time, and instructions to attend the Fairness Hearing (and any changes thereto).
7 In addition, on the date that Notice is initially mailed, the Settlement Administrator
8 shall establish a toll-free telephone number to which Class Members can direct
9 questions about the Settlement.

10 The Court finds that the Notice to be provided as discussed in this Order and
11 the Conditional Preliminary Approval Order is the best means of providing notice to
12 the Class Members as is practicable under the circumstances and, when completed,
13 shall constitute due and sufficient notice of the Settlement and the Final Fairness
14 Hearing to all persons affected by or entitled to participate in the Settlement or the
15 Fairness Hearing, in full compliance with the requirements of due process and the
16 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

17 All reasonable costs incurred by the Settlement Administrator for providing
18 the Notice as well as for administering the Settlement shall be paid as set forth in the
19 Settlement Agreement.

20 **Procedure for Settlement Class Members to Object**

21 Class Members can request that the Court deny approval of the Settlement
22 and/or the Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Expenses of Class Counsel or the Class
23 Representative Service Fees by filing an objection or making an appearance at the
24 Final Fairness Hearing. Written objections may be submitted via mail to Class
25 Counsel or through the Settlement website. (*See* Amended Notice at 10.) All
26 objections must be timely filed and comply with the procedures identified in the
27 amended Notice. (*Id.* at 10–11.)
28

Final Fairness Hearing

The Court will hold a Final Fairness Hearing on December 5, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., in Courtroom 8A, United States District Court for the Central District of California, 350 West 1st St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, for the following purposes:

- a) determining whether the proposed Settlement on the terms and conditions provided for in the Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Class and should be finally approved by the Court;
- b) determining whether Class Counsel's Fee and Expense Application is reasonable and should be approved;
- c) determining whether Plaintiffs' request for Class Representative Service Awards is reasonable and should be approved;
- d) determining whether a Final Approval Order and Judgment should be entered dismissing with prejudice all Claims and entering judgment; and
- e) considering any other matters that may properly be brought before the Court in connection with the Settlement.

The Court may adjourn the Final Fairness Hearing and approve the Settlement with such modification as the Parties may agree to, if appropriate, without further notice to the Class.

Any Class Member who files and serves a written comment or objection may also appear at the Fairness Hearing either in person or through qualified counsel retained at their own expense. Any comment or objection that is timely filed or postmarked will be considered by the Court even in the absence of a personal appearance by the Class Member or that Class Member's counsel.

The Court sets the following deadlines in connection with this Order and the Final Fairness Hearing:

EVENT	DEADLINE
Provision of Class Member List to Settlement Administrator	September 16, 2025

1	Notice to be substantially completed	September 26, 2025
2	Plaintiffs' Motion, Memorandum of Law and	October 21, 2025
3	other materials in support of their requested	
4	award of attorneys' fees, costs, and service	
5	awards	
6	Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of Class	October 21, 2025
7	Action Settlement	
8	Deadline for Settlement Administrator to	October 31, 2025
9	submit declaration affirming that Notice has	
10	been completed	
11	Deadline for Class Member objections to	November 7, 2025
12	Settlement	
13	Defendants' Opposition to requested award of	November 14, 2025
14	attorneys' fees, costs, and service awards	
15	Plaintiffs' Reply in support of requested award	November 21, 2025
16	of attorneys' fees, costs, and service awards	
17	Deadline for parties' responses to objections	November 25, 2025
18	and to file final results of notice dissemination	
19	Deadline to file results of independent	November 25, 2025
20	fiduciary's review of the Settlement with the	
21	Court	
22	Final Fairness Hearing	December 5, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: August 28, 2025



HON. JOSEPHINE L. STATON
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE