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Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

04/14/2022

Steri R	Cartes, Executive Officer /	Oerk of Cau
Bv:	J. Clavero	Deputy

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA SUPERIOR COURT OF LOS ANGELES

SCAR GONZALEZ, on behalf of herself and hers similarly situated, Plaintiff, v. S CORPORATION; and DOES 1-20, clusive, Defendants. 19 20 21

Case No: 20STCV41170

Assigned for all purposes to the Hon. Dennis J. Landin, Dept. 51

CLASS-ACTION

[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS

ACTION SETTLEMENT

Reservation No.: 536567622728

On April 14, 2022, a hearing was held on Plaintiff Oscar Gonzalez's ("Plaintiff") Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Class Action Settlement. Koul Law Firm appeared for Plaintiff and Gordon & Rees LLP appeared for Defendant NS Corporation ("Defendant").

The Court having read and considered the papers on the motion, the arguments of counsel, and the law, and good cause appearing therefore,

IT IS ORDERED:

- 1. This Order incorporates the defined terms in the Class Action Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement" or "Settlement"). Unless otherwise specified, all capitalized terms in this Order shall have the same meaning given to those terms in the Agreement.
- 2. The Class is defined as all of Defendant's current and former hourly, non-exempt employees who worked at any time within the period beginning September 30, 2017, and ending the earlier of the date this Court grants preliminary settlement approval, or the date the Class Workweeks reaches 14,375 (the "Class Period"). "PAGA Members" is defined as all of Defendant's non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant in California at any time from August 20, 2019 to the date of preliminary settlement approval (the "PAGA Period"). PAGA Members are a subset of the Class Members.
- 3. Pursuant to the Agreement, the Class is conditionally certified for settlement purposes only.
- 4. The Parties' Agreement is granted preliminary approval as it meets the criteria for preliminary settlement approval. The Settlement falls within the range of possible approval as fair, adequate and reasonable, and appears to be the product of arm's-length and informed negotiations and to treat all Class Members fairly. Continued litigation would have been expensive for both sides. The Parties acknowledge that litigating and trying this action may have resulted in delay of any recovery, involved significant risk as to liability and certification, and led to possible appeals. Class Counsel received the relevant information for the Class. Plaintiffs have adequately demonstrated that the Settlement did not occur until Plaintiff and Class Counsel possessed sufficient information to evaluate the case and make an informed decision about settlement.

- 5. The Parties' proposed notice plan is legally sound because individual notices will be mailed to all Class Members whose identities are known to the Parties, and such notice is the best notice practicable. The Parties' proposed Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement and Final Approval Hearing ("Class Notice") attached to the Agreement as Exhibit 1, sufficiently informs Class Members of the terms of the Settlement, their right under the Settlement, their right to object to the Settlement, their right to receive a Settlement Share or elect not to participate in the Settlement, the processes for doing so, and the date and location of the Final Approval Hearing. The Class Notice also provides notice that PAGA Members will receive payment from the Net PAGA Amount and will be bound by and release all Released PAGA Claims, irrespective of whether they opt out of the Settlement. Thus, the Court approves the Class Notice because it provides adequate notice to Class Members.
- 6. Any Class Member who does not submit a valid Request for Exclusion will receive a Settlement Share based upon the allocation formula set forth in the Agreement. Class Members who wish to exclude themselves from the Settlement must do so not later than 60 days after the Settlement Administrator mails the Class Notice to them pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Class Notice. PAGA Members will receive payment from the Net PAGA Amount and will be bound by and release all Released PAGA Claims, irrespective of whether they opt out of the Settlement.
- 7. Any Class Member who wishes to object to the Settlement, the proposed Class Counsel Fees, Class Counsel Expenses, and/or Incentive Award will have the opportunity to do so at the Final Approval Hearing.
- 8. Class Counsel must file their application for Class Counsel Fees, Class Counsel Expenses concurrently with their motion for final approval of the Settlement.
- 9. CPT Group is appointed to act as the Settlement Administrator, pursuant to the terms set forth in the Settlement.
 - 10. Koul Law Firm and Law Office of Sahag Majarian II are approved as Class Counsel.
 - 11. Plaintiff is approved as the representatives of the Class.

- 13. The Class Notice attached as <u>Exhibit 1</u> to the Agreement is approved. The Settlement Administrator is directed to mail the approved Class Notice by first-class mail to the Class Members at their last known address no later than 14 days after receipt of the Class Data.
- 14. A Final Approval Hearing will be held on July 27, 2022, 8:30 a.m. at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA, 90012, to determine whether the Settlement should be granted final approval as fair, reasonable, and whether there was adequate notice to the Class Members. The Court will hear all evidence and argument necessary to evaluate the Settlement and will consider the request for approval of Class Counsel Fees, Class Counsel Expenses, Incentive Award, and Settlement Administration Costs. Class Members and their counsel may support or oppose the Settlement and the motion for an award of Class Counsel Fees, Class Counsel Expenses, and Incentive Award, if they so desire, as set forth in the Class Notice.
- 15. Any Class Member may appear at the Final Approval Hearing in person or by his or her own attorney and show cause why the Court should not approve the Settlement, or object to the motion for an award of Class Counsel Fees, Class Counsel Expenses, and Incentive Award.

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1	1 16. The Court reserves the right to continue the	date of the Final Approval Hearing
2	without further notice to Class Members. The Court retain	ns jurisdiction to consider all further
3	applications arising out of or in connection with the Settleme	
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PROOF OF SERVICE

Case No. 20STCV41170 Gonzalez v. NS Corporation

I, JACKELINE HERNANDEZ declare that I am a resident of or employed in the County of Los Angeles, California. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the entitled case. The name and address of my residence or business is KOUL LAW FIRM, 3435 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 1710, Los Angeles, California 90010.

[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION

On March 24, 2022, I served the foregoing document described as:

SETTLEMENT

	by placing the document(s) listed above in a sealed envelope, addressed as set forth below, and placing the envelope for collection and mailing in the place designated fo such in our offices, following ordinary business practices.
	by transmitting via facsimile the document(s) listed above to the fax number(s) set forth below on this date before 5:00PM.
<u>X</u>	by transmitting via electronic mail the document(s) listed above to the electronic mailing address set forth below on this date before 5:00PM.
	by causing a true copy thereof to be personally delivered to the person(s) at the address(es) set forth below.

on the parties listed below by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope for collection and mailing in the United States Postal Service following ordinary business practices at Los Angeles, California addressed as follows:

SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST

I am readily familiar with the ordinary practice of the business of collecting, processing and depositing correspondence in the United States Postal Service and that the correspondence will be deposited the same day with postage thereon fully prepaid.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on this March 24, 2022, in Los Angeles, California.

JACKELINE HERNANDEZ

PROOF OF SERVICE

Case No. 20STCV41170 Gonzalez v. NS Corporation

Lindsey David, Esq.

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Christopher Cato, Esq.
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