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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

LARRY HUDSON, individually and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated, and on behalf of the general public,

Plaintiff,

v.

STERLING JEWELERS INC., an Ohio corporation, SIGNET JEWELERS LIMITED; a foreign corporation, and Does 1 through 30, inclusive;

Defendants.

Case No. 17-cv-09301 DSF (JEMx)

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF’S UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR AN ORDER: (1) CONDITIONALLY CERTIFYING THE SETTLEMENT CLASS; (2) PRELIMINARILY APPROVING THE CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT; (3) APPROVING CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT NOTICE; (4) APPOINTING CLASS COUNSEL AND CLASS REPRESENTATIVE; AND, (5) SETTING A FINAL APPROVAL HEARING**

1 Plaintiff LARRY HUDSON’s motion for an order: (1) conditionally  
2 certifying a settlement class; (2) preliminarily approving the class action  
3 settlement reached between the parties; (3) approving the notice of class action  
4 settlement; (4) appointing class counsel and class representative; and (5) setting  
5 the final approval hearing (the “Motion for Preliminary Approval”), came on for  
6 hearing on September 30, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 7D of the above-  
7 captioned court, the Honorable Dale S. Fischer, Judge presiding. Shadie L.  
8 Berenji, Esq. of Berenji Law Firm, APC, appeared on behalf of Plaintiff and the  
9 class. Tim L. Johnson, Esq. of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.,  
10 appeared on behalf of Defendants STERLING JEWELERS, INC. and SIGNET  
11 JEWELERS LIMITED.

12 The Court now ORDERS:

13 1. The Motion for Preliminary Approval is GRANTED and the parties’  
14 Joint Stipulation of Class Action Settlement (the Settlement) is preliminarily  
15 approved;

16 2. This Order incorporates by reference the definitions in the  
17 Settlement and all terms defined in the Settlement have the same meaning in this  
18 Order;

19 3. The class is preliminarily certified for settlement purposes only.  
20 Should the settlement not become final, the fact that the Parties were willing to  
21 stipulate to class certification as part of the Settlement shall have no bearing on,  
22 nor be admissible in connection with, the issue of whether a class should be  
23 certified in a non-settlement context;

24 4. The class action settlement contemplated by the Settlement is  
25 preliminarily approved based on the terms set forth in the Settlement. The class-  
26 action settlement appears to be fair, adequate, and reasonable to the class. The  
27 class action settlement contemplated by the Settlement falls within the range of  
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1 reasonableness and appears to be presumptively valid, subject to any objections  
2 that may be raised at the final approval hearing before this Court. The  
3 preliminary approval of the class action settlement and the parties' Settlement  
4 includes the approval for purposes of the settlement: Shadie L. Berenji, Esq. of  
5 the Berenji Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel; Larry Hudson as Class  
6 Representative; and CPT Group, Inc. as the Settlement Administrator. Class  
7 Counsel is authorized to act on behalf of the class with respect to all acts or  
8 consents required by or which may be given pursuant to the Settlement and the  
9 class action settlement contemplated by the Settlement, and such other acts  
10 reasonably necessary to consummate the Settlement. The Settlement  
11 Administrator is authorized to perform such acts as set forth in this Order and the  
12 Settlement.

13         5.       The Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement and Hearing Date  
14 for Court Approval in the form attached to the Supplemental Declaration of  
15 Shadie L. Berenji in Support of Plaintiff's Unopposed Motion for an Order: (1)  
16 Conditionally Certifying the Settlement Class; (2) Preliminarily Approving the  
17 Class Action Settlement; (3) Approving Class Action Settlement Notice; (4)  
18 Appointing Class Counsel and Class Representative; and (5) Setting a Final  
19 Approval Hearing as Exhibit 1 and the Opt-Out form in the form attached to the  
20 Settlement as Exhibit 2 (collectively, Notice Packet) is approved as to form and  
21 content.

22         6.       The Notice Packet shall be sent by first class mail to the class in  
23 accordance with the schedule set forth below. The dates selected for the mailing  
24 and distribution of the Notice Packet as set forth below meet the requirements of  
25 due process and provide the best notice practicable under the circumstances and  
26 constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to Notice.


27         7.       The Court orders the following schedule for further proceedings:  
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- a. Deadline for Defendants to provide class list to CPT Group: October 25, 2019 (or not later than 14 calendar days after Preliminary Approval, if later).
- b. Deadline for CPT Group, Inc. to mail the Notice Packet: November 4, 2019 (or not later than 10 days after receipt of Class List, if later).
- c. Deadline for Class Members to file objections with or submit Opt-Out forms to CPT Group, Inc.: December 19, 2019 (or not later than 45 days after the Settlement Administrator mails the Notice Packets to the Class Members).
- d. Deadline for Class Counsel to file a Motion for Final Approval and Motion for Attorneys' Fees: December 30, 2019.
- e. Final Settlement Approval Hearing: January 27, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. The date and time of the Final Settlement Approval Hearing can change without notice.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: October 8, 2019

  
Dale S. Fischer  
United States District Judge