

APR 14 2021

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

DEPARTMENT 613

CAMERON YOUNG and KEANA BOLDS, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general public similarly situated and as aggrieved employees pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA"),

Case No. CGC-18-568507

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE GAP, INC., a Delaware corporation; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S REQUEST FOR COSTS, ATTORNEY'S FEES, AND ENHANCEMENT AWARD

Defendants

Plaintiff Cameron Young ("Plaintiff") moved the Court for approval of attorneys' fees and costs in connection with the settlement of the above matter The Gap, Inc. ("Defendant"). The hearing on the motion was previously set for February 24, 2021. On February 23, 2021, the Court issued a tentative ruling regarding Plaintiff's Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement; and Motion For Attorneys' Fees, Costs and Expenses, and a Class Representative Enhancement Payment. In the tentative ruling, the Court outlined its concerns regarding the motions, and continued the motions for further

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Young v. The Gap, CGC-18-568507 Order Granting Plaintiff's Request for Awards of Costs, Attorney's Fees, and Enhancement Award

briefing. The supplemental briefing deadline was March 24, 2021. Plaintiff timely submitted supplemental briefing.

The Court has granted final approval of the settlement by separate written order ("Final Approval Order"), creating a Class Settlement Amount of \$2,250,000.00. In this motion, Class Counsel seeks (1) \$750,000 in attorneys' fees, (2) \$26,844.43 in costs, and (3) a \$10,000 enhancement award. Defendant does not oppose Plaintiff's motion, and the Court has received no objections to the requests.

Having considered the application and all authorities and evidence in support of the motion, the Court orders as follows:

1. Plaintiff's Counsel requested \$750,000 in attorneys' fees, or 33 1/3% of the common fund, to be paid from the Class Settlement Amount. The Court awards \$700,000, or 31% of the common fund. This award is reasonable from the perspective of the percentage-of-recovery method. (Compare *Lealao v. Beneficial California, Inc.* (2000) 82 Cal.App.4th 19, 24 fn.1 with *In re Consumer Privacy Cases* (2009) 175 Cal.App.4th 545, 558 fn.13.) In awarding this amount, the Court also considered whether the requested amount was reasonable in light of the lodestar-star cross-check. The Court carefully considered the documentation submitted in support of the fee request, including the declarations of Plaintiff's Counsel setting forth the hours expended in this matter. Plaintiff's Counsel has spent at least 512.5 hours litigating claims, which results in a lodestar of \$324,006. (Perez Decl., ¶ 15.) Though the requested amount (\$750,000) represents a positive multiplier of approximately 2.34, the awarded (\$700,000) represents a positive multiplier of approximately 2.18 and falls within the range of appropriate multipliers used in common fund cases.

The Court finds the awarded amount under the percentage-of-recovery method and multiplier comports with applicable law and is justified given the (1) novelty and difficulty of the questions involved, (2) level of skill displayed in presenting them, (3) results achieved, (4) extent to which the nature of the litigation precluded other employment by the attorney, (5) the contingent nature of the fee

¹ The amount awarded also represents 93% of the fees requested.

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award, which meant counsel risked time and effort and advanced costs with no guarantee of compensation; and (6) the range of awards made in similar cases in this geographic area.²

Accordingly, \$700,000 in fees is justified in this case. The award shall be paid from the Class Settlement Amount subject to the terms, conditions and obligations of the Settlement Agreement.

- 2. The Court awards Class Counsel reimbursement of their litigation costs and expenses in the amount of \$26,647.90. This amount excises all meal expenses. The Court finds that the amount awarded is reasonable and was reasonably incurred in the prosecution of this action. The award shall be paid from the Class Settlement Amount subject to the terms, conditions and obligations of the Settlement Agreement.
- 3. The Court awards the named plaintiff, Cameron Young, a service award of \$4,000 from the Class Settlement Amount. This award is reasonable and justified in light of Plaintiff's contributions to the case, and the duration of the litigation. This award is separate from and in addition to any award to which plaintiff may be entitled as a Settlement Class Member. The enhancement award shall be paid from the Class Settlement Amount subject to the terms, conditions and obligations of the Settlement

² See, e.g., Vizcaino v. Microsoft Corp. (9th Cir. 2002) 290 F.3d 1043, 1050-1052 [holding trial courts have the authority to (1) determine the threshold matter of whether "a multiplier [is] appropriate in [a] case," and (2) apply the appropriate factors to "arriv[e] at a multiplier [that is] within the range of multipliers applied in common fund cases," and affirming an award of the requested fees representing 28% of the common fund and a 3.65 multiplier]; see id. at 1052, fn. 6 [range of multipliers in common fund cases is 1.0-4.0, with a "bare majority" in the 1.5-3.0 range]; In re Omnivision Technologies, Inc. (N.D. Cal. 2008) 559 F.Supp.2d 1036, 1046-1048 [noting that "fi]n similar cases, courts have approved multipliers ranging between 1 and 4" and finding the requested fees of 28% of the common fund (representing a 1.33 multiplier) reasonable]; Dyer v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. (N.D. Cal. 2014) 303 F.R.D. 326, 333-334 [noting the requested multiplier awarded fell "within the Ninth Circuit's presumptively acceptable range of 1.0-4.0," and awarding the requested fees representing 25% of the common fund and a 2.83 multiplier]; Hopkins v. Stryker Sales Corp. (N.D. Cal., Feb. 6, 2013) 2013 WL 496358, at *2-6 [noting that "[m]ultipliers of 1 to 4 are commonly found to be appropriate in complex class action cases," and adjusting the requested fees and multiplier downward from 33 1/3% to 30% of the common fund, which also represented a decrease in the multiplier from 3.2 to 2.76]; see also id. at *5 ["the Court observes that the 'usual range' for fee awards in percentage cases is 20 to 30 percent."]; *Vizcaino, supra*, 290 F.3d at 1047 ["20–30% [i]s the usual range" in Ninth Circuit common fund cases]; *Ridgeway v. Wal-*Mart Stores Inc. (N.D. Cal. 2017) 269 F.Supp.3d 975, 1000 [reducing requested fee amount in wage and hour class action from 33 1/3% to 25% of the common fund, representing a reduction in the requested multiplier from 3.0 to 2.0]; Laffitte v. Robert Half Internat. Inc. (2016) 1 Cal.5th 480, 487 [affirming an award of the requested attorneys' fees in the amount of 1/3 of the common fund, which represented a 2.03-2.13 multiplier].)

Agreement.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: April 14, 2021

as J.S. Chy

ANDREW Y.S. CHENG Judge of the Superior Court

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE

(CCP 1010.6(6) & CRC 2.260(g))

I, KEITH TOM, a Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court of the County of San Francisco, certify that I am not a party to the within action.

On April 14, 2021, I electronically served the ATTACHED DOCUMENT(S) via File&ServeXpress on the recipients designated on the Transaction Receipt located on the File&ServeXpress website.

Dated: April 14, 2021

T. Michael Yuen, Clerk

By: KEITH TOM, Deputy Clerk