

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS
WORCESTER DIVISION**

JOHN HEATON and CHRISTOPHER
HORIGAN on behalf of themselves
and others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

MOTOR VEHICLE ASSURANCE,
NATIONAL AUTO PROTECTION CORP.,
and SUNPATH, LTD.

Defendants.

Case No. 4:17-cv-40169-TSH

**DECLARATION OF EDWARD A. BRODERICK IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
ATTORNEYS' FEES, EXPENSES AND INCENTIVE AWARD**

1. I make this declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Expenses and Incentive Award, to describe the work done in investigating and prosecuting the claims in the case, to state my opinion that the settlement represents an excellent result for the Settlement Class and that Plaintiff's motion for attorneys' fees, expenses and incentive award should be granted.

2. I am an attorney duly admitted to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am over 18 years of age, am competent to testify and make this affidavit on personal knowledge.

Work Done in Investigating and Prosecuting the Case

3. Plaintiffs filed this action on December 18, 2017.
4. I was involved in every stage of litigation in this case, from pre-trial investigation, analysis of Plaintiffs' potential claims, drafting and researching the complaint and discovery

work, review of documents, motion practice, discovery responses, depositions and general preparation for trial. I also additionally participated in settlement negotiations and strategy and contributed on preparing the proposed settlement agreement and motion for preliminary approval.

5. The litigation was hard fought throughout, with both defendants represented by extremely experienced and capable counsel. Plaintiff successfully opposed multiple motions to dismiss and filed an amended complaint.

6. At all times, the Parties' settlement negotiations were adversarial, non-collusive, and at arm's-length. These discussions culminated in the Settlement Agreement for which Plaintiffs seek final approval.

7. In light of significant legal issues facing Plaintiff, I believe the settlement here represents a good result for the class and based on my experience in litigating TCPA cases.

8. My firm's expenses on this action to date are \$1,790, primarily incurred on filing fees, process server fees for subpoenas and ESI charges for discovery produced.

9. I spent 28.5 hours on this file, and while still with my firm Mr. Paronich spent 107.4 hours, for total hours of 135.9 yielding a lodestar at the hourly rates described below of \$68,280.

10. My billable rate, which has been approved by multiple courts, is \$700.00 an hour. My former partner Anthony Paronich's rate was \$450 per hour. Mr. Paronich and I used these rates in calculating lodestar for attorneys' fee purposes in several other nationwide class actions. *See e.g., Mey v. Frontier Communications Corporation*, No. 3:13-cv-1191-MPS (D. Ct. June 9, 2017) (approving a \$11,000,000 settlement and attorney fee of one-third that amount based on my hourly rate of \$700 and \$450 for Mr. Paronich); *Heidarpour v. Central*

Payment Co., No. 16-cv-01215 (M.D. Ga. May 4, 2017) (approving a \$6,500,000 settlement and attorney fee of one-third that amount based on my hourly rate of \$700 for myself and \$450 for Mr. Paronich); *Mey v. Interstate National Dealer Services, Inc.*, No. 14-01846 (N.D. Ga. June 8, 2016) (approving \$4,200,000 settlement and attorney fee of one-third that amount based on my hourly rate of \$700 and \$450 for Mr. Paronich); *Jay Clogg Realty Group, Inc. v. Burger King Corporation*, No. 13-cv-00662 (D. Md. April 15, 2015) (approving \$8,500,000 settlement and attorney fee of one-third that amount based on my hourly rate of \$700, plus \$425 for Mr. Paronich (who was then an associate)); *Kensington Physical Therapy, Inc. v. Jackson Therapy Partners, LLC*, No. 11-02467 (D. Md. Feb. 12, 2015) (approving settlement of \$4,500,000 and attorney fee of one-third that amount based on my hourly rate of \$700 for myself, plus \$425 for Anthony Paronich, who was an associate at the time).

Qualifications of Counsel

11. I have extensive experience in the prosecution of class actions on behalf of consumers, particularly claims under the TCPA. As a result of my extensive experience litigating TCPA class claims, I am well-aware of the significant time and resources needed to litigate such actions, and my firm possesses the resources necessary to prosecute these actions successfully. My firm keeps contemporaneous time records, and the rates for our attorneys and personnel are commensurate with my experience and are commensurate with market rates in Boston for attorneys with similar levels of experience. My hourly rate and that of my former partner Anthony Paronich have been approved as reasonable by numerous federal courts in approving settlements.

12. I am a 1993 graduate of Harvard Law School. Following graduation from law school, I served as a law clerk to the Honorable Martin L.C. Feldman, United States District Judge in the Eastern District of Louisiana.

13. Following my clerkship, from 1994 to December 1996, I was an associate in the litigation department of Ropes & Gray in Boston, where I gained class action experience in the defense of a securities class action, *Schaeffer v. Timberland*, in the United States District Court in New Hampshire, and participated in many types of complex litigation.

14. From January 1997 to March 2000, I was an associate with Ellis & Rapacki, a three-lawyer Boston firm focused on the representation of consumers in class actions.

15. In March 2000, I co-founded the firm of Shlansky & Broderick, LLP, focusing my practice on complex litigation and the representation of consumers.

16. In 2003, I started my own law firm focusing exclusively on the litigation consumer class actions.

17. A sampling of other class actions in which I have represented classes of consumers follows:

- i. *In re General Electric Capital Corp. Bankruptcy Debtor Reaffirmation Agreements Litigation*, (MDL Docket No. 1192) (N.D. Ill) (nationwide class action challenging reaffirmation practices of General Electric Capital Corporation, settlement worth estimated \$60,000,000.)
- ii. *Hurley v. Federated Department Stores, Inc., et al*, USDC D. Mass. Civil Action No. 97-11479-NG (nationwide class action challenged bankruptcy reaffirmation practices of Federated Department Stores and others; \$8,000,000 recovery for class.)
- iii. *Valerie Ciardi v. F. Hoffman LaRoche, et al*, Middlesex Superior Court Civil Action No. 99-3244D, (class action pursuant to Massachusetts Consumer Protection Act, M.G.L. c. 93A brought on behalf of Massachusetts consumers harmed by price-fixing conspiracy by manufactures of vitamins; settled for \$19,600,000.

- iv. *Shelah Feiss v. Mediaone Group, Inc, et al*, USDC N. District Georgia, Civil Action No. 99-CV-1170, (multistate class action on behalf of consumers; estimated class recovery of \$15,000,000--\$20,000,000.)
- v. *Mey v. Herbalife International, Inc.*, Ohio County Circuit Court (West Virginia), Civil Action No. 01-cv-263. \$7,000,000 TCPA class action settlement granted final approval on February 5, 2008 following the grant of a contested class certification motion.
- vi. *Mulhern v. MacLeod d/b/a ABC Mortgage Company*, Norfolk Superior Court (Massachusetts), Civil Action No. 05-01619-BLS. TCPA class settlement of \$475,000 following the grant of a contested class certification motion, granted final approval by the Court on July 25, 2007.
- vii. *Evan Fray-Witzer, v. Metropolitan Antiques, LLC*, Suffolk Superior Court (Massachusetts), Civil Action No. 02-5827-BLS. After the grant of a contested class certification motion, a companion case went to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, which issued a decision finding insurance coverage. *See Terra Nova Insurance v. Fray-Witzer et. al.*, 449 Mass. 206 (2007). There was then a TCPA class settlement of \$1,800,000 which was granted final approval.
- viii. *Shonk Land Company, LLC v. SG Sales Company*, Circuit Court of Kanawha County (West Virginia), Civil Action No. 07-C-1800 TCPA class settlement for \$2,450,000, final approval granted in September of 2009.
- ix. *Mann & Company, P.C. v. C-Tech Industries, Inc.*, USDC, D. Mass., Civil Action No. 1:08-CV-11312-RGS, TCPA class settlement of \$1,000,000, final approval granted in January of 2010.
- x. *Evan Fray Witzer v. Olde Stone Land Survey Company, Inc.*, Suffolk Superior Court (Massachusetts), Civil Action No. 08-04165. TCPA class settlement \$1,300,000 granted final approval on February 3, 2011.
- xi. *Milford & Ford Associates, Inc. and D. Michael Collins vs. Cell-Tek, LLC*, USDC, D. Mass., Civil Action No. 1:09-cv-11261-DPW. TCPA class settlement of \$1,800,000, final approval granted August 17, 2011.
- xii. *Collins v. Locks & Keys of Woburn, Inc.*, Suffolk Superior Court (Massachusetts), Civil Action No. 07-4207-BLS2, TCPA class settlement of \$2,000,000 following the granting of a contested class certification motion, granted final approval on December 14, 2011.
- xiii. *Brey Corp t/a Hobby Works v. Life Time Pavers, Inc.*, Circuit Court for Montgomery County (Maryland), Civil Action No. 349410-V, TCPA class settlement of \$1,575,000 granted final approval in March of 2012.
- xiv. *Collins, et al v. ACS, Inc. et al*, USDC, D. Mass., Civil Action No. 10-CV-11912,

- TCPA class settlement \$1,875,000 granted final approval on September 25, 2012.
- xv. *Desai and Charvat v. ADT Security Services, Inc.*, USDC, ND. Ill., Civil Action No. 11-CV-1925, TCPA class settlement of \$15,000,000 granted final approval on June 21, 2013.
- xvi. *Kensington Physical Therapy, Inc. v. Jackson Therapy Partners, LLC*, USDC, D. MD, Civil Action No. 11-CV-02467, TCPA class settlement of \$4,500,000 granted final approval on February 12, 2015.
- xvii. *Jay Clogg Realty Group, Inc. v. Burger King Corporation*, USDC, D. MD., Civil Action No. 13-cv-00662, TCPA class settlement of \$8,500,000 granted final approval on April 15, 2015.
- xviii. *Charvat v. AEP Energy, Inc.*, USDC, ND. Ill., 1:14-cv-03121, TCPA class settlement of \$6,000,000 granted final approval on September 28, 2015.
- xix. *Mey v. Interstate National Dealer Services, Inc.*, USDC, ND. Ga., 1:14-cv-01846-ELR, TCPA class settlement of \$4,200,000 granted final approval on June 8, 2016.
- xx. *Philip Charvat and Ken Johansen v. National Guardian Life Insurance Company*, USDC, WD. Wi., 15-cv-43-JDP, TCPA class settlement for \$1,500,000 granted final approval on August 4, 2016.
- xxi. *Bull v. US Coachways, Inc.*, USDC, ND. Ill., 1:14-cv-05789, TCPA class settlement finally approved on November 11, 2016 with an agreement for judgment in the amount of \$49,932,375 and an assignment of rights against defendant's insurance carrier. \$3,250,000 recovered against insurance carrier through settlement of subsequent declaratory judgment action.
- xxii. *Toney v. Quality Resources, Inc., Cheryl Mercuris and Sempris LLC, et al.*, USDC, ND. Ill., 1:13-cv-00042, TCPA class settlement of \$2,150,000 was granted final approval on December 1, 2016 with one of three defendants. Second settlement on behalf of class against two remaining defendants of \$3,300,000 granted on September 25, 2018.
- xxiii. *Smith v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co., et al.*, USDC, ND. Ill., 1:13-cv-02018, TCPA class settlement of \$7,000,000.00 granted final approval on December 8, 2016.
- xxiv. *Mey v. Frontier Communications Corporation*, USDC, D. Ct., 3:13-cv-1191-MPS, a TCPA class settlement of \$11,000,000 granted final approval on June 2, 2017.
- xxv. *Biringer v. First Family Insurance, Inc.*, USDC, ND. Fla., a TCPA class

settlement of \$2,900,000 granted final approval on April 24, 2017.

- xxvi. *Abramson v. Alpha Gas and Electric, LLC*, USDC, SD. NY., 7:15-cv-05299-KMK, a TCPA class settlement of \$1,100,000 granted final approval on May 3, 2017.
- xxvii. *Heidarpour v. Central Payment Co.*, USDC, MD. Ga., 4:15-cv-139 (CDL), a TCPA class settlement of \$6,500,000 granted final approval on May 4, 2017.
- xxviii. *Abante Rooter and Plumbing, Inc. v. New York Life Insurance Company*, USDC, SD. NY., 1:16-cv-03588-BCM, a TCPA class settlement of \$3,250,000 granted final approval on February 27, 2018.
- xxix. *Fulton Dental, LLC v. Bisco, Inc.*, USDC, NDIL, 1:15-cv-11038. TCPA class settlement for \$262,500 granted final approval on March 7, 2018.
- xxx. *Abramson v. CWS Apartment Home, LLC*, USDC, WD. Tex., 16-cv-01215, a TCPA class settlement of \$368,000.00 granted final approval on May 19, 2017.
- xxxi. *Thomas Krakauer v. Dish Network, L.L.C.*, USDC MDNC, Civil Action No. 1:14-CV-333 on September 9, 2015. Following a contested class certification motion, this case went to trial in January of 2017 returning a verdict of \$20,446,400. On May 22, 2017, this amount was trebled by the Court after finding that Dish Network's violations were "willful or knowing", for a revised damages award of \$61,339,200. (Dkt. No. 338).
- xxxii. *Mey v. Got Warranty, Inc., et. al.*, USDC, NDWV., 5:15-cv-00101-JPB-JES, a TCPA class settlement of \$650,000 granted final approval on July 26, 2017.
- xxxiii. *Mey v. Patriot Payment Group, LLC*, USDC, NDWV., 5:15-cv-00027-JPB-JES, a TCPA class settlement of \$3,700,000 granted final approval on July 26, 2017.
- xxxiv. *Charvat and Wheeler v. Plymouth Rock Energy, LLC*, et al, USDC, EDNY, 2:15-cv-04106-JMA-SIL, a TCPA class settlement of \$1,675.000 granted final approval on July 31, 2018.
- xxxv. *Mey v. Venture Data, LLC and Public Opinion Strategies*, USDC, NDWV, 5:14-cv-123. Final approval of TCPA settlement granted on September 8, 2018.
- xxxvi. *In Re Monitronics International, Inc. Telephone Consumer Protection Act Litigation*, USDC, NDWV, 1:13-md-02493-JPB-MJA, a TCPA class settlement of \$28,000,000 granted final approval on June 12, 2018.
- xxxvii. *Abante Rooter and Plumbing, Inc. v. Alarm.com, Inc.*, USDC, NDCA 4:15-cv-06314-YGR. TCPA class settlement of \$28,000,000 granted final approval on August 15, 2019.

PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I DECLARE SIGNED UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT. EXECUTED THIS 20th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020 IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

/s/ Edward A. Broderick
Edward A. Broderick