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Moody v. Charming Shoppes of Delaware, Inc.

Doc. 107

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Shameika Moody ("Plaintiff") and Defendants Charming Shoppes of Delaware, Inc. and Lane Bryant, Inc. ("Defendants") (together as the "Parties"), by and through their respective counsel of record, hereby stipulate and agree as follows:

On October 6, 2008, Plaintiff filed a motion for preliminary approval of the Stipulation and Agreement to Settle Class Action and Limited Release ("Settlement" or "Agreement"), reached by Plaintiff and Defendants, which was originally set for hearing before this Court an November 17, 2008. Defendant did not oppose the motion.

On November 10, 2008, putative class member Stephanie Priddy ("Priddy") filed an objection and opposition to the settlement claiming, among other things, that the settlement was unfair. In response, Plaintiff and Defendants each filed their respective responses/oppositions to Priddy's objection.

On December 2, 2008, the Court held an initial hearing on Plaintiff's motion. The Court ordered that the Parties provide Priddy with data and information pertaining to the settlement and that the Parties and Priddy submit further briefing on their respective positions prior to the continued hearing date. The Court continued the hearing to January 12, 2009.

On January 12, 2009, the Court held a further hearing on Plaintiff's motion. The Court did not rule on Plaintiff's motion at that time but continued the matter for further hearing on March 2, 2009. The Court ordered Plaintiff's counsel to submit a supplemental declaration attesting to the valuation of the claims and the reasonableness of the settlement. At the January 12 hearing, the Court also stated that if further hearing was necessary that the Court would likely refer the motion to a magistrate judge for a report and recommendation. *See*, Transcript of 1/12/09 Hearing 24:13-16, 26:5-11.

On February 27, 2009, the Court issued an order stating: "The parties are notified that the hearing of the motion(s) in this matter currently on calendar for March 2, 2009, is hereby VACATED, and shall be re-noticed by further order of Court. Counsel shall submit in writing, not later than March 9, 2009, a report on outstanding issues with this action and *C 08-5377 MHP Stephanie Priddy -v- Lane Bryant et al.*"

On March 9, 2009, the Parties submitted their joint status report as ordered by the Court

describing in detail the various hearings and filings that had occurred since Plaintiff initially moved 1 2 for preliminary approval of the Parties' class action settlement six (6) months earlier. 3 In the three (3) months since the Parties' last filing, the Court has neither re-noticed the hearing on Plaintiff's motion nor issued any orders with regard to Plaintiff's motion. 4 Title 28 United States Code, Section 636(b)(1)(B) provides that: 5 "[A] judge may also designate a magistrate judge to conduct hearings, including 6 evidentiary hearings, and to submit to a judge of the court proposed findings of 7 fact and recommendations for the disposition, by a judge of the court, of any motion excepted in subparagraph (A)"1 8 In order to address and permit a more fulsome discussion of any outstanding issues and move 9 this matter closer to a ruling on Plaintiff's motion, Plaintiff and Defendants request and stipulate that 10 the Court refer Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement to the 11 Honorable Elizabeth D. Laporte, United States Magistrate Judge or, in the alternative, a random 12 assignment to a United States Magistrate Judge for the purpose of (1) reviewing and analyzing the 13 Parties' briefings on the motion to date, including Priddy's objection and the Parties' responses 14 thereto, (2) conducting any further hearing(s) deemed necessary, and (3) making findings of fact and 15 recommendations for the disposition of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval. The Parties 16 believe that referral to a magistrate judge for the above purposes will greatly assist in moving this 17 matter toward resolution. 18 IT IS SO STIPULATED. 19 20 Dated: June 9, 2009 DIVERSITY LAW GROUP 21 22 Larry W. Lee /S/ By: 23 Larry W. Lee 24 Attorneys for Plaintiff Shameika Moody 25 26 One of the motions excepted in subparagraph (A) of Section 636(b)(1) is a motion "to dismiss or to permit maintenance of a class action". Plaintiff's present motion appears to fall within the scope of "excepted motions", as it seeks preliminary 27 28

 $^{-3-\\}$ STIPULATION TO REFER MOTION TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE C 07-06073 MHP

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Dated: June 9, 2009 MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS, LLP By: Eric Meckley /S/ Eric Meckley Attorneys for Defendants Lane Bryant, Inc. and Charming Shoppes, Inc. approval of a class action settlement. STIPULATION TO REFER MOTION TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE

C 07-06073 MHP

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18	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
19	FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
20	SHAMEIKA MOODY as an individual and on behalf all of others similarly situated,	Case No.: C 07-06073 MHP
$\begin{bmatrix} 21 \\ 22 \end{bmatrix}$	Plaintiff, vs.	[PROPOSED] ORDER TO REFER PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
23	CHARMING SHOPPES OF DELAWARE, INC., a corporation; and DOES 1 through 50,	ACTION SETTLEMENT AND OBJECTION THERETO TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION
$\begin{bmatrix} 24 \\ 25 \end{bmatrix}$	inclusive, Defendants.	[28 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)(B); Civil Local Rules 7-12 72-1]
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27		
28	-1- [PROPOSED] ORDER TO REFER MOTION TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE C 07-06073 MHP	

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ORDER PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED. The parties having so stipulated, and GOOD CAUSE APPEARING THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement be referred to the Honorable ______, United States Magistrate Judge, for the purpose of (1) reviewing and analyzing the Parties' briefings on the motion to date, including Priddy's objection and the Parties' responses thereto, (2) conducting any further hearing(s) deemed necessary, and (3) making findings of fact and recommendations for the disposition of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval. Date: 9/24/2009 IT IS SO ORDERED Judge Marilyn H. Patel [PROPOSED] ORDER TO REFER MOTION TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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