1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 3 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION 4 Case No. 08-cv-03552-MMC JOSH HAZEL, on behalf of himself, the general public, and all others similarly 5 NOTICE OF (1) PROPOSED CALIFORNIA situated.. CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND (2) 6 Plaintiffs, FINAL SETTLEMENT APPROVAL **HEARING** 7 v. 8 CONNECTICUT GENERAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, a Connecticut 9 corporation, and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, 10 Defendants. 11 12 PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO MONEY FROM THIS SETTLEMENT 13 This Notice, which has been approved by the United States District Court for the 14 Northern District of California (the "Court"), is to notify California Class Members that a 15 proposed settlement of up to \$3.3 million (the "Settlement") has been reached between the 16 parties in the class action entitled Hazel v. Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, Inc. 17 The Court has granted preliminary approval to the Settlement, and it has conditionally certified the 18 19 Class for settlement purposes only. **Important Dates** 20 21 If you wish to participate in the settlement described in this notice, and obtain a portion of the settlement proceeds, you must complete and submit a Claim Form, postmarked or 22 received by the Claims Administrator on or before October 5, 2009, or else you will not receive any money from the settlement. 23 If you wish to object to the settlement, your objection must be postmarked or received by 24 the Claims Administrator on or before September 21, 2009, or else your objections will be deemed waived. 25 If you do not want to participate in the settlement, you must request exclusion from the Settlement according to the directions in this notice, and your request for exclusion must 26 be postmarked or received by the Claims Administrator on or before October 5, 2009, or 27 else you will be bound by the settlement. 28

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All claim forms, objections, and requests not to participate in the Settlement must be postmarked or received by the Claims Administrator, Simpluris, Inc., at the address below, by the applicable deadline:

Hazel v. CGLIC Class Action Settlement Simpluris, Inc. 3176 Pullman Street, Suite 123 Costa Mesa, CA 92626 Tel: 888-654-1269

Pursuant to the order of the Court entered on July 17, 2009, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENT AND YOUR RIGHTS

§ 1.a. What Is a Class Action? A class action is a lawsuit in which the claims and rights of many similarly situated people ("Class Members") are decided in a single court proceeding. One or more representative plaintiffs ("Class Representatives") file a lawsuit asserting claims on behalf of all the class members.

§ 1.b. The Class Definition. You were sent this notice because the records of Connecticut General Life Insurance Company ("CGLIC") show that you are a Member of the California Class. The California Class includes all hourly employees employed by CGLIC in the State of California during the period June 13, 2004 to July 10, 2009, who were required to report to work, start up their computer, and log in, before being allowed to clock into an electronic timekeeping system, and were required to shut down their computer, after clocking out of the electronic timekeeping system, and who were not compensated for such "log in", "boot up" and "shut down" time (referred to herein as "preliminary" and "postliminary" time). Members of the California Class who do not timely submit a valid request not to participate in the Settlement, following the procedure described in § 9 shall become members of the California Settlement Class and shall be entitled to participate in the Settlement.

The parties have also agreed to the creation of an FLSA Class, which consists of those hourly employees employed by CGLIC within the United States in states other than California during the period June 13, 2006 to July 10, 2009, who were required to report to work, start up their computer, and log in, before being allowed to clock into an electronic timekeeping system, and were

required to shut down their computer, after clocking out of the electronic timekeeping system, and who were not compensated for such preliminary and postliminary time. Members of the FLSA Class who submit a valid request to participate in the Settlement, following the procedure described in the Notice they will be receiving, shall become members of the FLSA Settlement Class.

The California Settlement Class and the FLSA Settlement Class are jointly referred to herein as "the Settlement Classes".

- § 1.c. Options and Dates. As a member of the California Class, you have several options:
- (1) To receive a payment under the Settlement, you must complete a Claim Form (which is enclosed with this Notice) and submit it to the Claims Administrator by first-class mail, postmarked by October 5, 2009, or deliver it to the Claims Administrator by that date, following the procedure described in § 4.a. If you do not do this, you will receive no money from this Settlement.
- (2) You may object to the Settlement in writing, postmarked or delivered by September 21, 2009, following the procedure described in § 8.
- You may request that you be excluded from the Settlement according to the instructions in § 9 below. If you choose to be excluded from the Settlement, you will no longer be a California Class Member--and therefore will receive no money under this Settlement--and you will not release your claims, which means that you will be able to bring a separate lawsuit on your own for these claims. Unless you properly request to be excluded, you will be a California Class Member and will release all claims alleged in this case (see § 5, below), even if you do not fill out a Claim Form. In order to request not to participate in the Settlement, you must follow the instructions described in § 9 and submit your written request to the Claims Administrator by first-class mail, postmarked by October 5, 2009, or deliver it to the Claims Administrator by that date.

2. BACKGROUND OF THE CASE

§ 2.a. <u>The Claims at Issue.</u> On June 13, 2008, plaintiff Josh Hazel ("Plaintiff") filed a class action complaint in Alameda County Superior Court, which Defendant CGLIC subsequently removed to this Court. Plaintiffs and the other members of the California and FLSA Classes use an electronic timekeeping system called OMD which they can only access through their computers. In

the lawsuit, Plaintiff alleged that CGLIC failed to pay him and the members of the California and FLSA Classes wages for the time they spent booting up their computers at the outset of each workday (before they have logged into the OMD timekeeping system) and the time they spend shutting down their computers at the end of each workday (after they have logged out of the OMD timekeeping system). Plaintiff sought compensation due, including straight time and overtime, under the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq., and California wage-and-hour laws. Plaintiff further alleged that CGLIC failed to provide him and the other members of the California Class with correctly itemized wage statements. Plaintiff further alleged that by committing the unlawful acts alleged in their complaint, CGLIC engaged in unfair competition in violation of California Business and Professions Code section 17200 et seq.

§ 2.b. <u>CGLIC's Denial of Liability.</u> CGLIC denies all of Plaintiff's allegations. Specifically, CGLIC denies that Plaintiff or the Proposed Settlement Classes are owed any additional compensation for the time they spent booting up their computers before logging into OMD or for the time they spent booting down their computers after logging out of OMD. CGLIC further denies that it failed to provide Plaintiffs or the California Class with correctly itemized wage statements or committed any unlawful acts that constitute unfair competition. CGLIC further denies that a class can be properly certified in this case.

3. SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENT

- § 3.a. The Mediation. The parties participated in extensive settlement discussions, including a full day of mediation before a neutral third party, a respected mediator in San Francisco. At the mediation, the parties reached the Settlement which provides for total payments of up to . \$3.3 million dollars. The Settlement represents a compromise regarding disputed claims, considering the risks and uncertainties of continued litigation. Plaintiff's counsel has determined that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interests of the members of the Settlement Classes.
- § 3.b. <u>The Settlement Agreement and the Court's Final Approval Hearing.</u> The parties have presented the Settlement to the Court for its review. The Court has granted preliminary approval to the Settlement. As described in this Notice, the Court will hold a hearing on November

20, 2009 to determine whether to grant final approval to the Settlement. Only after the Settlement is granted final approval will money be paid to California or FLSA Class Members under the Settlement.

§ 3.c. How the Settlement Funds Will Be Distributed. Under the Settlement, CGLIC will pay up to \$3.3 million. These settlement funds will be used to pay (1) Class Representative Payments to Plaintiff to compensate Plaintiff for his services to the Settlement Classes (see § 6 below), (2) Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs (see § 7 below) to compensate Plaintiff's counsel for their services to the Settlement Classes, (3) the reasonable fees and expenses of the Claims Administrator, (4) money to all California and FLSA Class Members who properly submit Claim Forms (see § 4.a below), pursuant to the plan of allocation (see § 4.b below); and (5) CGLIC's share of FICA, FUTA, and all other state and federal payroll taxes and deductions for the payments made to the Settlement Class Members ("Employer Payroll Taxes"), to the extent that any unclaimed portion of the \$3.3 million is insufficient to cover the Employer Payroll Taxes.

- § 3.d. You Must File a Claim Form to Receive Money. In order to receive money from the Settlement, you (a California Class Member) must submit a Claim Form by the deadline set under the Settlement (see § 4 below).
- § 3.e. <u>Unless You Elect Not to Participate in the Settlement, You Will Be Bound.</u>
 Unless you (a California Class Member) elect not to participate in the Settlement, you will be bound by the Settlement, including its release of claims, and will not be allowed to pursue individual claims released under the Settlement against CGLIC, even if you have not submitted a claim for a settlement share (see §§ 5 and 9 below).
- § 3.f. The Final Approval Hearing. The parties have submitted the Settlement to the Court. The Court has granted preliminary approval of the Settlement. The Court will hold a hearing on November 20, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., to determine whether to grant final approval to the Settlement (see §10 below). Only after the Settlement is granted final approval can money be paid to California or FLSA Class Members under the Settlement.

. HOW TO RECEIVE MONEY FROM THE SETTLEMENT (COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING THE CLAIM FORM)

§ 4.a. Participating in the Settlement by Completing and Submitting the Claim Form. If you want to receive money from the Settlement, you must choose to participate in the Settlement by properly completing and submitting the Claim Form enclosed with this notice. Please follow all instructions on the Claim Form, and send it via U.S. Mail, or professional or personal delivery to the Claims Administrator at 3176 Pullman Street, Suite 123, Costa Mesa, CA 92626. The Claim Form must be postmarked or received by October 5, 2009. If you need another Claim Form, contact the Claims Administrator. If you do not properly submit a Claim Form, you will not receive any money from the Settlement.

§ 4.b. How Will My Settlement Share Be Calculated? CGLIC has agreed to pay up to \$3,300,000 to settle this case. From that Maximum Gross Settlement Amount, the following items shall be deducted: i) the Class Representative Payments (see § 6), (ii) a \$15,000 Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA") Payment that will be distributed 75% to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency and 25% to the eligible members of the California Class; (iii) Class Counsel Attorneys' Fees and Costs Payment (see § 7); (iv) and the Claims Administrator's fees and costs. The remainder is the "Maximum Settlement Distribution Amount". The precise amount of the Maximum Settlement Distribution Amount cannot be determined at this time but, if the Court fixes the payments described above in the amounts requested by Plaintiff and if the Claims Administrator's expenses are as expected, the parties presently estimate that the total amount of money paid to the class members ("Maximum Settlement Distribution Amount") will be approximately \$2,400,000.

From data provided by CGLIC, the Claims Administrator will calculate each Claimant's Settlement Share based on the total number of Compensable Days they were employed in a Covered Position during the applicable Covered Period. Each weekday that a Claimant was employed in a Covered Position during the applicable Covered Period will be counted as a Compensable Day – without regard to whether or not the Claimant actively worked that day. Covered Positions are those in which an hourly employee (in California for the California Class and

outside of California for the FLSA Class) was required to report to work, start up his or her computer, and log in, before being allowed to clock into an electronic timekeeping system (OMD), and was required to shut down the computer, after clocking out of OMD, and who were not compensated for such time. The Covered Period for the California Class is June 13, 2004 through July 10, 2009 and the Covered Period for the FLSA Class is June 13, 2006 through July 10, 2009.

Specifically, each Claimant's Settlement Share will be calculated as follows:

- 1. The total number of Compensable Days Employed by the California Class Members will be added to the total number of Compensable Days Employed by the FLSA Class Members. The sum of those two numbers shall be the "Total Compensable Days".
- 2. The "Dollars Per Day" will be calculated by dividing the Total Compensable Days into the Maximum Settlement Distribution Amount.
- 3. The Gross Settlement Amount allocated to each California and FLSA Class Member who timely submits a valid Claim Form and who is eligible to receive a payment under the Settlement will be calculated by multiplying the Dollars Per Day by the total Compensable Days Employed by that Class Member.
- 4. From this Gross Settlement Amount, deductions/withholding will be made for the employee's share of payroll taxes (and all other applicable deductions or withholding required by law or expressly authorized by the Settlement Class Member) and, to the extent that any unclaimed portion of the Maximum Settlement Distribution Amount is insufficient to cover them, for the Employer Payroll Taxes with the difference being the Net Settlement Amount.
- 5. In addition to the Net Settlement Amount, those members of the California Class who timely submit a valid Claim Form and who are eligible to receive a payment under this Settlement shall receive an Allocated PAGA Payment. The Allocated PAGA Payment for a California Settlement Class member will be calculated by dividing \$3,750 by the total number of Compensable Days Employed by those California Class Members who timely submit a valid Claim Form and then multiplying the quotient by the Claimant's number of Compensable Days Employed.

Your estimated Settlement Share (Net Settlement Amount + Allocated PAGA Payment) is shown on your enclosed Claim Form. This is the estimated (gross) amount of money that you will receive if you timely submit a valid Claim Form. This amount was calculated under the assumption that Court awards the Class Representative Payments and the Class Counsel Attorneys' Fees and Costs Payment as requested and that the Claims Administrator's fees and costs are as anticipated. Your actual Settlement Share may be higher or lower.

§ 4.c. What if the Information on My Claim Form is Incorrect? The information on the Claim Form, and each Settlement Share, is based on CGLIC's official employment and payroll records. The Claim Form enclosed with this Notice identifies each Covered Position in which you were employed, the dates you held that position and the number of Compensable Days you were Employed. If you believe that any of the information on the Claim form is incorrect, you must follow the instructions in § 2 of the Claim Form, including providing the correct information and enclosing supporting documentation. Challenges will be resolved by the Claims Administrator without a hearing.

§ 4.d. When Will My Share of the Settlement Be Distributed to Me? Within 30 days after the Court's order granting final approval of the Settlement becomes final and non-appealable, the Claims Administrator will mail Settlement Share checks to all Claimants who submitted valid and timely Claim Forms. It is expected that checks will be mailed out sometime in January 2010, but that date is subject to change. The Claims Administrator, working with Plaintiff's counsel and CGLIC, will diligently attempt to ensure that all eligible Claimants receive their Settlement Shares.

§ 4.e. <u>Settlement Share Checks Not Cashed Within Six Months Will Be Forfeited.</u>

If any Claimant who submitted a timely and valid Claim Form does not cash the check(s) for his or her Settlement Share within six (6) months after issuance, he or she will not receive any proceeds under the Settlement, and the Settlement Share proceeds represented by the check will be returned to CGLIC.

§ 4.f. Tax Consequences. Half of each Settlement Share is considered a settlement of claims for wages subject to Form W-2 reporting and therefore will be reduced by normal payroll tax withholding and deductions. CGLIC's share of applicable payroll taxes (*i.e.*, the Employer Payroll Taxes) shall be paid in the first instance from the unclaimed portion, if any, of the Maximum Settlement Distribution Amount. In the unlikely event that the unclaimed portion of the Maximum Settlement Distribution Amount is insufficient to cover the entire amount of the Employer Payroll Taxes, the uncovered portion shall be deducted from the Maximum Gross Settlement Amount, which will have the effect of reducing your Individual Settlement Payment.

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The other half of each Settlement Share is considered a settlement of claims for interest and penalties subject to Form 1099 reporting. Claimants will be responsible for all taxes owed based on this half of the Settlement Share.

You should consult your tax advisor regarding any questions about the tax consequences of the treatment of your Settlement Share.

§ 4.g. What Happens If Some Class Members Do Not Submit Claim Forms? CGLIC is only obligated to pay the claims of those individuals who timely submit valid Claim Forms. Thus, if not all the California and FLSA Class Members submit Claim Forms, CGLIC will pay less than the Maximum Gross Settlement Amount.

. RELEASE OF CLAIMS

Under the Settlement, as of the date the Final Approval Order is entered by the Court, each and every California Class Member who does not timely and validly request not to participate in the Settlement releases CGLIC and its former and current parents, subsidiaries, and affiliated corporations, its officers, directors, employees, partners, shareholders, and agents, and any other insurers, successors, assigns, and legal representatives (the "Released Parties"), from any and all claims, charges, complaints, liens, demands, causes of action, obligations, damages and liabilities, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, that the California Class Member had, now has, or may hereafter claim to have against the Released Parties that arise from or relate in any way to the time spent booting their computer up or down, regardless of whether such wage-and-hour related claims arise under federal, state and/or local law, statute, ordinance, regulation, common law, or other source of law ("the Released Claims"). The Released Claims specifically include, but are not limited to, those arising from or dependent upon alleged violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §201, et seq., the Portal to Portal Act of 1947, 29 U.S.C. §251, et seq., the California Labor Code (including Sections 201, 203, 226, 510, 1194, 1194.2, 1197 and 1198), the applicable Wage Orders of California's Industrial Welfare Commission, the California Business and Professions Code, the California Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA"), and/or the law of any other state in which the California Class Member was employed by CGLIC.

Waiver of California Civil Code Section 1542: With respect to the subject matter of their respective Released Claims, California Class Members expressly waive and relinquish the provisions, rights and benefits of section 1542 of the California Civil Code and any analogous law, statute, or rule. Section 1542 states:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor

6. CLASS REPRESENTATIVE PAYMENTS

Plaintiffs will request that the Court approve a Class Representative Payment of \$10,000 for Plaintiff. This amount is in recognition of the service performed by Plaintiff in representing the Classes and advancing the litigation. This payment will be paid in addition to Plaintiff's Settlement Share as a Class Member. The Class Representative Payment will be paid only if the Court approves them.

CLASS COUNSEL ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS PAYMENT

Plaintiff's counsel will request that the Court approve a payment of 25% of the Maximum Gross Settlement Amount (\$825,000) to compensate them for their time and effort in bringing this case, and that it award them an amount up to \$10,000 to reimburse them for the out-of-pocket costs they have incurred during the litigation. These amounts, if awarded, will be deducted from the Maximum Gross Settlement Amount. Plaintiff's counsel believe the attorneys' fees and costs requested are fair and reasonable. These fee and cost payments will be paid only if the Court approves them.

B. HOW TO OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT (IF DESIRED)

If you wish, you may object to the Settlement by submitting a written notice of objection. To be valid and effective, any objections must be postmarked or received by the Claims Administrator by September 21, 2009. The objection need not be in any specific form; a short and simple statement of your objection is sufficient. You may be represented by your own attorney, but you do not have to be to object. If you comment through an attorney, you will be solely responsible for the fees and costs of your own attorney. If you wish to present your objection at the Final

Approval Hearing scheduled for November 20, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., you must state your intention to do so in your written objection.

If you object to the Settlement, but wish to receive your individual settlement payment if the Settlement is approved, you must comply with the Claim Form submission requirements described in § 4. If the Court approves the Settlement despite any objections, and you have not properly submitted a Claim Form, you will not receive any money from the Settlement, even if you submitted an objection.

9. HOW TO ELECT NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT (IF DESIRED)

If you fall within the California Class definition provided in § 1.b, you are automatically a California Class Member, and will be bound by the Settlement's release of claims, unless you elect to be excluded from the Settlement. If you elect to be excluded from the Settlement, you will not receive any money from the Settlement, will not be bound by the Settlement, including its release of claims, and will be free to pursue your own claim against CGLIC (at your own expense). To be excluded, you must timely submit a written request not to participate in the Settlement that contains 1) your name, 2) your signature, 3) the last four digits of your Social Security Number; and 4) the following language:

I wish to opt out of the California Class in *Hazel v. Connecticut General Life Insurance Co.* I understand that, by this request to be excluded from the monetary settlement in this case, I am foregoing all monetary benefits from this Settlement and will receive no money from this Settlement. I understand that I may bring a separate legal action seeking damages, but might receive nothing or less than what I would have received if I had filed a claim under the class monetary settlement procedure in this case.

An Exclusion Form that satisfies these requirements is included with this Notice. If you mail your written request not to participate in the Settlement to the Claims Administrator, it must be mailed by registered or certified mail (return receipt requested), and postmarked by October 5, 2009. If you deliver your written request not to participate in the Settlement to the Claims Administrator by other means (professional delivery (*i.e.*, Federal Express, DHL or UPS), or personal delivery), it must be received by the Claims Administrator by October 5, 2009.

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10. FINAL SETTLEMENT APPROVAL HEARING

The Court will hold a final approval hearing on November 20, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., in Courtroom 7 of the Court, located at 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102, before the Honorable Maxine M. Chesney, to determine whether the Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court will also be asked to approve Plaintiff's request for the Class Representative Payments and Plaintiff's counsel's request for the Class Counsel Attorneys' Fees and Costs Payment. The hearing may be postponed without further notice to the Class. It is not necessary for you to appear at this hearing. You may appear at the hearing if you wish but if you wish to object to the Settlement in person, you must have given notice of your objections against the Settlement under the procedures set forth in § 8.

1. OTHER INFORMATION

§ 11.a. No Cost to You. The Settlement does not require you to pay money out of pocket. However, you are responsible for all taxes owed on your paid Settlement Shares.

§ 11.b. <u>Tax Advice Caveat.</u> Any perceived tax advice in this Notice was not intended or written to be used, and it cannot be used by any recipient, for the purpose of avoiding any tax penalties that may be imposed on any person. This Notice imposes no limitation on the disclosure of the tax treatment or tax structure of any transaction. Plaintiff's counsel cannot give you tax advice.

§ 11.c. This Notice Provides Only a Summary. This Notice provides only a summary of the basic terms of the Settlement. For the precise terms and conditions of the Settlement, you are referred to the detailed Joint Stipulation of Class Settlement and Class Settlement Agreement and Release, which is on file with the Clerk of the Court. The pleadings and other records in this litigation, including the Settlement, may be examined at any time during regular business hours with the Clerk of Court, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102, or online on through the "PACER," system, as Resources known Public Court Electronic Access to http://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov. You also may contact Plaintiffs' counsel at the numbers listed below. Please do not telephone the court or CGLIC's counsel for information regarding this Settlement or the claim process.

1	§ 11.d. Questions. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the Claims
2	Administrator at 888-654-1269. You can also check the website for this Class Action:
3	http://cglic.simpluris.net/. If you would like to speak with an attorney, please contact Class Counsel
4	(the attorneys who represent the Class):
5	PRICAL PROTEIN
6	ERIC M. EPSTEIN Eric M. Epstein, APC
7	Tel: 310-552-5366 E-mail: EMEpstein@aol.com
8	
9	WALTER HAINES United Employees Law Group, PC
10	Tel: 877-696-8378
11	MARK R. THIERMAN
12	Thierman Law Firm Tel: 775-284-1500
13	E-mail: laborlawyer@pacbell.net
14	12. COURT APPROVAL
15	Although the Court has reviewed the proposed Settlement, no decision has been, or
16	will be, reached by the Court until the Final Approval Hearing on November 20, 2009. This Notice
17	does not indicate that the Court has approved the Settlement.
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