Larkin v. Yelp! Inc.

EXHIBIT 2

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8	UNITED STAT	TES DISTRICT COURT
9	NORTHERN DIS	STRICT OF CALIFORNIA
10	JUSTIN LARKIN, ANTHONY	CASE NO. 11-CV-01503 EMC
11	TIJERINO, and AHMAD DEANES, on behalf of themselves and all others	
12	similarly situated,	[PROPOSED] NOTICE TO COLLECTIVE
13	Plaintiffs,	ACTION CLASS MEMBERS RE: PENDENCY OF A COLLECTIVE ACTION
14	v.	AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT
15	YELP! INC., Defendant.	[THE NATIONAL NOTICE]
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		NOTICE TO CLASS ACTION MEMBERS – Case No. 11-CV-01503 EMC

1	NOTICE OF PENDING O	COLLECTIVE ACTION, ASSOCIATED SETTLEMENT AND ARING PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY AS
2		R LEGAL RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED
3	IF YOU WERE EMPLOYEI	D BY YELP! INC. ("YELP") AS AN ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE NCORPORATING THE TITLES ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE,
4	ÀCCOUNT EXECUTIVE T	RAINEE, ASSOCIATE ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE TRAINEE, XECUTIVE, JUNIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE, SALES
5	ASSOCIATE, SALES REPR	ESENTATIVE, AND SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE) IN THE E THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA BETWEEN May 11, 2008 AND
6	DECEMBER 31, 2011 (THE	"NATIONAL CLASS"), THIS COLLECTIVE ACTION CT YOUR RIGHTS AND YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO
7	PARTICIPATE IN A SETTL	
8	ΟΙ ΕΛΩΈ ΦΕΛΟ ΤΗΙς ΝΟΤΙ	CE CAREFULLY. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT
9	OR YELP REGARDING TH	
10	THIS IS A COURT-APPRO LAWYER. YOU HAVE NO	VED NOTICE. THIS IS NOT A SOLICITATION FROM A T BEEN SUED.
11	THE FOLLOWING RECITA	TION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THE FINDINGS OF THE
12		BE UNDERSTOOD TO BE AN EXPRESSION OF THE MERITS OF ANY CLAIM OR DEFENSE RAISED BY THE
13	PARTIES.	
14	I.	INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY
15	This is to notify you c	of a lawsuit against Yelp! Inc. ("Yelp") and the proposed class action
16	settlement of that lawsuit. Th	ne lawsuit, entitled Larkin v. Yelp! Inc., Case No. 11-CV-01503
17	EMC, United States District	Court for the Northern District of California, concerns the
18	compensation of Account Ex-	ecutives (including all of the positions listed above). You have
19	received this Notice because	Yelp's records suggest that you may be one of the current or former
20	Account Executives employe	d by Yelp in the United States outside of the state of California
21	during the pertinent period.	This Notice provides instructions on the options available to you – in
22	particular, it will explain your options:	
23		
24	You Can Submit An Opt In and Claim Form and	To claim your settlement payment, you must complete and submit the enclosed claim form by
25	Receive a Settlement Payment	[BY NOTICE RESPONSE DATE]. <u>Your</u> settlement share will be at least \$[MERGE
26	,	SETTLEMENT AMOUNT].
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		- 1 - NOTICE TO CLASS ACTION MEMBERS -
		Case No. 11-CV-01503 EMC

1 2 3	You Can Object to the terms of the Settlement	As discussed below, if you wish to object to any part of the Settlement, you may explain why you do not like the Settlement, provided you do so by [NOTICE RESPONSE DATE].
4	You Can Do Nothing and You Will Not Release Your Claims	If you do nothing, you will not receive any of the benefits of the settlement nor be bound by the judgment or release of claims.
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Please understand that this is not a notice of a lawsuit against you. You have not been sued.

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II. WHAT IS THIS LITIGATION ABOUT?

8 Plaintiffs Justin Larkin, Anthony Tijerino and Ahmad Deanes (collectively "Plaintiffs") 9 filed this class and collective action against Yelp. The lawsuit alleges, among other things, that 10 Yelp violated certain state and federal employment laws, including the federal Fair Labor 11 Standards Act ("FLSA"), the California Labor Code, the California Industrial Welfare 12 Commission Wage Orders, and the California Business and Professions Code, in connection with 13 the compensation of Account Executives, (including, without limitation, positions with the titles 14 Account Executive, Account Executive Trainee, Associate Account Executive Trainee, 15 Associate Account Executive, Junior Account Executive, Sales Associate, Sales Representative, 16 and Senior Account Executive). 17 The lawsuit alleges that Yelp misclassified Account Executives as "exempt" employees, 18 *i.e.*, employees who under state and federal laws are exempt from overtime wage requirements, 19 meal and rest period requirements, and other California and federal employment law 20 requirements. The lawsuit also alleges that Yelp failed to comply with various other California 21 employment laws and regulations relating to recordkeeping, wage deductions, and the timing of 22 wage payments. The lawsuit is collectively brought on behalf of all current and former Account 23 Executives employed by Yelp in the United States of America (including without limitation the 24 District of Columbia) in locations other than California at any point between May 11, 2008 and 25 December 31, 2011, and all people in this group are referred to as the "National Class."

Yelp has reviewed the claims in this lawsuit in detail, has denied any wrongdoing or
liability in this matter. Yelp is committed to compensating its employees lawfully. Although

Yelp believes that it has ample legal and factual grounds for defending and defeating the claims at hand, it has chosen to work with Plaintiffs and their counsel to resolve this matter in order to avoid the further expense and burden of litigation pursuant to the procedure set forth in this Notice.

Yelp will not retaliate against any class members for exercising or not exercising the rights described in this Notice, the aforementioned lawsuit, and/or settlement, and does not encourage or discourage any specific type of response. Whether and how you respond to this notice will have no effect on your employment at Yelp.

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III.

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A. Summary of Settlement

DESCRIPTION OF THE SETTLEMENT

On behalf of both a National and a California class, Plaintiffs Larkin and Tijerino have reached a voluntary settlement agreement with Yelp. The total maximum amount of the consolidated settlement is \$1,250,000, with approximately one-third of that amount allocated to the resolution of the claims of the National Settlement Class.

Through this settlement, neither Yelp nor its employees have admitted any liability or
wrongdoing. A full copy of the settlement agreement, which is entitled the Stipulation Re:
Settlement of Class and Collective Actions, as well as other public documents filed with regard
to this matter can be inspected in the Office of the Court Clerk (see below). This settlement has
been preliminary approved by the Court.

Only those individuals who opt-in by submitting a qualifying National Opt In and Claim Form will remain Members of the National Class and will be eligible to participate in this settlement and receive payment under this agreement, and only those individuals who submit qualifying claim forms will receive payment. If you do not complete and timely submit the National Opt In and Claim Form, you will not be included in the National Class. If you do not opt in to the settlement, you will neither be eligible to receive any payment pursuant to this settlement, nor be bound by the judgment and associated waiver or release of related claims.

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B. What Will I get Under the Settlement If I file a Claim?

Under the settlement, each National Class Member who submits an Opt In and Claim Form will receive a minimum amount per each qualifying week worked between May 11, 2008 and December 31, 2011. Currently, your estimated settlement payment is at least \$[MERGE] because we estimate that you worked [MERGE] qualifying weeks during the period between May 11, 2008 and December 31, 2011 in a state other than California, i.e., you worked that many weeks in one of the covered positions during this time frame.

C. Is My Settlement Payment Taxed?

A portion of any payment made to you under the settlement will be subject to required 10 wage withholdings and deductions, and as a result, the amount you receive will be less than the 11 gross amount listed above. Yelp will report thirty-three percent (33%) of this payment to 12 relevant government entities as a wage payment, and will report the remaining sixty-seven 13 percent (67%) as a non-wage payment. Yelp reserves the right to make any required 14 withholdings or deductions as required by applicable law, and National Class Members should 15 be advised that Yelp will report any payments made pursuant to this agreement to the Internal 16 Revenue Service and other relevant government entities (if any) as required by law. 17 Each National Class Member will be solely responsible for reporting any payment received 18 pursuant to this settlement and for paying any taxes associated with the same. Neither the Class 19 Representatives, Class Counsel, nor Yelp makes any representations concerning the tax 20 consequences of this settlement or your participation in it. If you have any questions about the 21 tax consequences of the payments you may receive under the settlement, you should consult your 22 tax advisor.

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D. What if I think I worked More Workweeks?

If you believe the number of qualifying work weeks listed above in Section III.B is inaccurate, please contact the Settlement Administrator or Class Counsel immediately and provide them with any supporting documentation in support of your view. Remember, however, that the only weeks that qualify are weeks in which you worked in one of the covered positions

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The settlement additionally provides that deductions from the Maximum Settlement

F. What Deductions Will Be Made From the Settlement Amount?

Amount will be made for (1) reimbursement of settlement administration expenses not to exceed \$25,000; (2) enhancement payments of \$5,000 to each of the three Plaintiffs for a total of \$15,000; (3) payment of \$7,500 to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency. These estimated payments are all subject to the approval of the Court.

IV. THE PEOPLE RECEIVING THIS NOTICE

settlement payout to class members.

20 The Class Representatives have brought this action as a class and collective action. In 21 class and collective actions, one or more persons bring claims on behalf of themselves and others 22 who purportedly are in similar situations or have similar claims. In other words, the Class 23 Representatives are seeking to represent those who are purportedly similarly situated and thus 24 may also have similar or related claims. In order to ensure that all National Class Members are 25 given an adequate opportunity to protect their rights, this Notice is being mailed to the last known 26 addresses of all National Class Members, and address verification measures have been taken. 27

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maximum settlement amount that Yelp could pay, or \$312,500. This request will be subject to

review and approval by the Court. Yelp has agreed not to oppose this request. Class Counsel

will also seek reimbursement of up to \$10,000 in out-of-pocket expenses incurred in this case,

constitute full payment for all legal fees of Class Counsel in the action, including any work they

do in the future in connection with the Settlement. In the event any amount of the requested fees

which will also be subject the Court's approval. Any amounts approved by the Court will

or costs are not approved by the Court, the unawarded amount will revert to the maximum

Class Counsel will request that the Court award them attorneys' fees up to 25% of the

E. How Much Will Class Counsel Be Paid in Attorneys' Fees?

V.

THE RIGHTS AND OPTIONS OF NATIONAL CLASS MEMBERS

2	You have received this Notice because Yelp's records suggest that you are currently a
3	member of the conditionally certified National Class. Specifically, these records suggest that you
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5	were employed by Yelp as an Account Executive in the United States in a state outside of
6	California during the pertinent period. Current members of the National Class have several
7	options:
8	• You may opt-in to participate in the settlement. To obtain a Settlement payment, you must complete and submit the enclosed Opt In and Claim Form as detailed below no later than, 2012 (see below for more details).
9 10 11	• You may do nothing, which means you are not opting in to the settlement. By doing nothing, you will not become a part of the National Settlement Class and thereby exclude yourself from this action. You will not release your claims against Yelp or be bound by the judgment.
12	• You may object to the Settlement by submitting your written objections to Class
13 14	Counsel as described below no later than, 2012. If you object to the Settlement, and the Court overrules your objection, you will only participate in the Settlement if you have also opted-in to the settlement by completing and submitting the enclosed Claim Form (see below for more details).
15	A. How Do I Make Corrections to Name or Address?
16	If you wish to change the name or address listed on the envelope in which this Notice was
17	sent, please complete Form B attached hereto and submit it before the deadline specified on the
18	form.
19	B. How Do I submit a Claim Form? How Do I Participate in the Settlement?
20	National Class Members, including you, may participate as Members of the National
21	Settlement Class in the settlement by submitting a claim for payment. YOU MUST SUBMIT
22	AN OPT IN AND CLAIM FORM TO BE PAID. National Class Members who choose this
23	option and become members of the National Settlement Class will be represented by the Class
24	Representatives and Class Counsel. The law firms acting as Class Counsel in this matter are the
25	following:
26	PETER RUKIN
27	RUKIN HYLAND DORIA & TINDALL LLP 100 Pine Street, Suite 2150 San Francisco, CA 94111
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	- 6 - NOTICE TO CLASS ACTION MEMBERS – Case No. 11-CV-01503 EMC

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1	ROSA VIGIL-GALLENBERG GALLENBERG PC	
2	9701 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1000 Beverly Hills, CA 90212	
3	Tel: (310) 295-1654	
4	IAN MCLOUGHLIN	
5	TOM URMY SHAPIRO HABER & URMY LLP	
6	53 State Street, 13th Floor Boston, MA 02109	
7	Alternatively, National Class Members who opt in to the National Settlement Class may	
8	participate in this action at their own expense and may retain their own attorneys. National Class	
9	Members who choose this option will be responsible for any attorney fees or costs incurred as a	
10	result of this election.	
11	If you choose to become a member of the National Settlement Class and properly and	
12	timely submitting a claim form, you will receive payment pursuant to the settlement agreement.	
13	In other words, only National Settlement Class Members that properly and timely submit claim	
14	forms can receive payment.	
15		
16	National Class Members who wish to submit a claim should review and then fully	
17	complete, execute, and mail the form entitled "National Opt In and Settlement Claim Certification	
18	Form" attached to this Notice as Form A by no later than [Notice Response Deadline]. The	
10	submission deadline is final, and claim forms that are not postmarked on or before that date will	
	not be honored.	
20	National Class Members who opt in to the National Settlement Class may also object to	
21	the terms or nature of the settlement at or prior to the hearing on the settlement using the	
22	procedure set forth below.	
23	C. How Do I Not Participate in The Settlement?	
24	National Class Members may elect to not participate in the National Settlement Class and	
25	thus exclude themselves from this action and the associated settlement and judgment. National	
26	Class Members who do not opt in to this action will not receive any money from this	
27	settlement and would remain free, subject to the statute of limitations and applicable statutory,	
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	- 7 - NOTICE TO CLASS ACTION MEMBERS – Case No. 11-CV-01503 EMC	

VI. RELEASE OF CLAIMS

All Members of the National Class who opt in to the settlement shall be subject to the judgment connected with this action and associated settlement. This means they shall be deemed to have forever released and discharged Yelp and all its past and present affiliates, directors, officers, employees, partners, members, principals, agents, insurers, co-insurers, re-insurers, shareholders, attorneys, and personal or legal Representatives from any demands, rights, liabilities, and causes of action of every nature and description whatsoever, including without limitation statutory, constitutional, contractual or common law claims, whether known or unknown, whether or not concealed or hidden, whether arising under federal or state law, against Yelp, its affiliates, employees, agents, or any of them, including without limitation claims for wages, damages, unpaid costs, penalties, liquidated damages, punitive damages, interest, attorney fees, litigation costs, restitution, or equitable relief, that accrued through December 31, 2011 as a 26 result of the National Class Member's employment as an Account Executive in any state other 27 than California for Yelp, based on the following categories of claims or allegations: (a) any and

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common law or other restrictions, to bring otherwise viable claims against Yelp for unpaid wages and remedies relating to record-keeping and timing of wage payment requirements.

If you do not like any terms of the Settlement or Class Counsel's request for attorneys'

D. How Do I Object to The Settlement?

fees and costs, you can submit a written objection. Your objection must be in writing and include your full name, address, telephone number, signature and a statement that you object to the Settlement in Larkin v. Yelp! Inc., C.A. No. 11-01503 EMC and the reason(s) for your objection. The objection should be mailed to Peter Rukin at Rukin Hyland Doria & Tindall LLP, 100 Pine Street, Suite 2150, San Francisco, CA 94111, and postmarked no later than [Objection] **Deadline**].

Even if you object, you also may complete and submit the enclosed Claim Form. If you object but do not submit the Claim Form and the Court overrules your objection, then you would not receive a Settlement payment.

all claims for (i) failure to pay wages for work performed in excess of eight hours in a day or forty hours in a week, regular; and/or (ii) failure to pay regular or overtime wages, failure to pay minimum wages, failure to comply with payroll or wage record-keeping or itemization requirements; (b) any and all claims alleging statutory violations arising from the same categories of allegations set forth above in (a), including without limitation claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), the Portal to Portal Act, and pertinent state laws; (c) any and all claims for penalties or liquidated damages or other available remedies arising from the categories of allegations set forth above in (a) and (b; and (d) any and all claims for interest, costs, or attorney fees arising from the categories of allegations set forth above in (a) and (b) and (e) to the extent not covered by the above, any and all claims pled in the Litigation.

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VII. HEARING ON SETTLEMENT

12 Following a hearing on or about [INSERT DATE], pursuant to the procedures for the 13 approval of class actions and Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the procedures 14 for collective actions under the FLSA, the Court granted preliminary approval for the settlement 15 of this matter as a class and collective action and scheduled a hearing on final approval for 16 **[INSERT DATE]**. This hearing will take place before the Honorable Edward M. Chen in 17 Courtroom 5 of the United States District Courthouse for the Northern District of California, 450 18 Golden Gate Avenue, 17th Floor, San Francisco, California 94102. Members of the National 19 Class can express their views on the settlement at or before this hearing but you are not required 20 to do so, nor are you required to attend this hearing to exercise any of your rights. National Class 21 Members can exercise either their right to obtain payment or choose not to opt in; again, no 22 appearance at the hearing is required. 23

At this hearing, Class Counsel will present any timely written objections to the Court. Late written objections will not be valid.

Again, attendance at this hearing is completely optional; attendance at the hearing is <u>not</u> required to participate in the settlement or to opt out of the lawsuit.

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- VIII. EXAMINATION OF PAPERS FILED IN THIS ACTION
 - NOTICE TO CLASS ACTION MEMBERS Case No. 11-CV-01503 EMC

1 2	This Notice does not fully describe the action. Members of the public, including but not
3	limited to those whose rights may be affected by this action, may inspect the files (including the
4	full settlement agreement) through the Court Clerk at the following address: Office of the Clerk,
5	United States District Court for the Northern District of California, 450 Golden Gate Avenue,
6	17th Floor, San Francisco, California 94102.
7	At this website [WEBSITE ADDRESS], you can obtain copies of the following
8	documents: (a) the operative complaint in the Litigation; (b) the operative answer in the
	litigation; (c) the complete settlement agreement; (d) the motion for preliminary approval; (e)
9	Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of Settlement and Award of Attorneys' Fees when it is
10	filed; and (f) the order granting preliminary approval and setting the Settlement Hearing.
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12	
13	PLEASE DO NOT CALL OR WRITE THE COURT OR YELP WITH QUESTIONS
14	REGARDING THIS ACTION.
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	- 10 - NOTICE TO CLASS ACTION MEMBERS – Case No. 11-CV-01503 EMC

1	FORM A
2	FOR
3	NOTICE TO COLLECTIVE ACTION CLASS MEMBERS RE: PENDENCY OF A
4	COLLECTIVE ACTION AND NOTICE
5	OF HEARING ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT
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	- 11 - NOTICE TO CLASS ACTION MEMBERS - Case No. 11-CV-01503 EM0

1	National Opt In and Settlement Claim Certification Form
2	Pursuant to Section VII of the Notice, I hereby wish to opt in to this action
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4	pursuant to the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, and I hereby answer the following questions
5	(designed to determine my eligibility for a settlement payment):
6	I confirm that I was employed by Yelp in the United States of America at a
7	location outside of California at some point between May 11, 2008 and December 31, 2011 as an
8	Account Executive (which includes positions with the titles Account Executive, Account
9	Executive Trainee, Associate Account Executive Trainee, Associate Account Executive, Junior
10	Account Executive, Sales Associate, Sales Representative, and Senior Account Executive).
10	I understand that by submitting this claim certification form, I am making a claim
	for a settlement payment to be paid by Yelp in connection with contested litigation in which the
12	plaintiffs are alleging among other things that they and others, including me, earned and are
13	entitled to such compensation because we allegedly worked overtime but did not receive premium
14	pay for it. By submitting this form, I acknowledge that I am consenting to opt in and opting into
15	this action and settlement pursuant to the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and 29 U.S.C. §
16	216(b) and that I understand that by doing so, I will be subject to the judgment and be precluded
17	from pursuing all of the claims, known or unknown, described in the Notice. Checking the first
18	box above will preclude you from monetary recovery here.
19	Submission of this claim form will have no effect on my employment. Yelp has
20	agreed, and pertinent law requires, that Yelp not take any adverse action against you because you
21	file (or do not file) a claim.
22	I hereby declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of
23	America that the foregoing is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
24	<u>Name of Class Member</u> (print):
25	Address:
26	
27	City, State and Zip Code:
28	PLEASE CHECK THIS BOX IF THIS IS A NEW ADDRESS
	- 12 - NOTICE TO CLASS ACTION MEMBERS – Case No. 11-CV-01503 EMC

1	Date:
2	Signature:
3	
4	For verification purposes, please state the month and year you began working at
5	Yelp: <u>Month</u> Year
6	PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM VIA UNITED STATES MAIL TO:
7	Simpluris, Inc.
8	Re: Larkin Matter
9	ADDRESS
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11	THIS FORM MUST BE POSTMARKED BY <u>[NOTICE RESPONSE DEADLINE]</u> TO BE
12	VALID AND EFFECTIVE.
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	- 13 - NOTICE TO CLASS ACTION MEMBERS – Case No. 11-CV-01503 EMC

1	FORM B
2	FOR
3	NOTICE TO COLLECTIVE ACTION CLASS MEMBERS RE: PENDENCY OF A
4	COLLECTIVE ACTION AND NOTICE
5	OF HEARING ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT
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	- 14 - NOTICE TO CLASS ACTION MEMBERS – Case No. 11-CV-01503 EMC

1	Change of Name and/or Address Information
2	Pursuant to Section VI of the Notice to Collective Action Class Members, I wish
3	to change my name and/or mailing address information to the following:
4	Name:
5	Street and Apt. No., if any:
6	City, State and Zip Code:
7	For purposes of verification only, I began working at Yelp in
8	,
9	(Month) (Year)
10	I understand that all future correspondence in this action, including but not
11	necessarily limited to important notices or payments to which I am entitled (if any), will be sent
12	to the address listed above and not to the address previously used. I hereby request and consent to
13	the use of the address listed above for these purposes.
14	DATED:, 200 Submitted By:
15	
16	Print Name
17	
18	Signature
19 20	
20	Date
21	PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM VIA UNITED STATES MAIL TO:
22 23	Simpluris, Inc.
	Re: Larkin Matter
24 25	ADDRESS
25 26	THIS FORM MUST BE POSTMARKED BY [NOTICE RESPONSE DEADLINE],
26 27	TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS
27 28	
20	- 15 - NOTICE TO CLASS ACTION MEMBERS – Case No. 11-CV-01503 EMC
	Case 10, 11-C V-01505 ENIC