

1
2
3
4 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
5 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
6

7 JOSEPH AMEY, et al.,
8 Plaintiffs,

9 v.

10 CINEMARK USA INC, et al.,
11 Defendants.

Case No. [13-cv-05669-WHO](#)

**ORDER GRANTING FINAL
APPROVAL AND AWARD OF
ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS**

Dkt. Nos. 208, 209, 211

12 On September 4, 2019, the parties' motion for final approval of their Joint Stipulation of
13 Class Action Settlement and Release of Claims and Joint Stipulation re Uncashed Checks
14 (collectively, the "Settlement Agreement"). There were no objections submitted to the Settlement
15 Agreement, and no one other than counsel for the parties appeared at the hearing.

16 In accordance with the Preliminary Approval Order, Class Members have been given
17 adequate notice of the terms of the Settlement Agreement and their right to participate in, object
18 to, or opt-out of the settlement. In addition, pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005
19 ("CAFA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1715, the United States Attorney General, the California Attorney
20 General, and the attorney generals of any and all other states where Class Members resided at the
21 time notice was issued have been given notice of the settlement of this action.

22 Having considered the Settlement Agreement (the terms of which are expressly
23 incorporated in full by this reference and made a part of this Order), the supporting papers filed by
24 the parties, the application for final approval of the settlement, the application for an award of
25 Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and reimbursement of costs, the application for incentive award
26 for the Class Representative, the request for reimbursement of the costs of the Settlement
27 Administrator, the proposed PAGA allocation, and the evidence and argument received by the
28 Court at the Final Approval Hearing on September 4, 2019, I GRANT final approval of the

1 settlement, and ORDER as follows:

2 1. The Class covered by this Order is defined as:
3 All current and former non-exempt employees of Cinemark’s
4 California theaters who worked as an usher or concession
5 worker from December 3, 2011 until July 31, 2014, or in any
6 other non-exempt position from July 25, 2012 until July 31,
7 2014, and who were paid overtime compensation during at least
8 one pay period.

9 2. Pursuant to the Preliminary Approval Order, a Notice of Class Action Settlement
10 was sent to each Class Member by first-class mail. The Notice informed Class Members of the
11 terms of the settlement, their right to object to or opt-out of the settlement to pursue their own
12 remedies, and their right to appear in person or by counsel at the Final Approval Hearing to be
13 heard regarding approval of the settlement. Adequate periods of time were provided by each of
14 these procedures. No Class Members filed written objections to the settlement as part of this
15 notice process or stated his or her intent to appear at the Final Approval Hearing. Three class
16 members opted-out. Declaration of Mary Butler [Dkt. No. 211-2] ¶ 14.

17 3. The Court finds and determines that this notice procedure afforded adequate
18 protections to Class Members and provides the basis for the Court to make an informed decision
19 regarding approval of the settlement based on the responses of Class Members. The Court finds
20 and determines that the Notice provided in this case was the best notice practicable, which
21 satisfied the requirements of law and due process.

22 4. The Court further finds and determines that the terms of the settlement are fair,
23 reasonable, and adequate to the Class and to each Class Member and that the Class Members who
24 have not opted out shall be bound by the Settlement Agreement, that the settlement is ordered
25 finally approved, and that all terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement should be and
26 hereby are ordered to be consummated.

27 5. In its Preliminary Approval Order, the Court previously found, and now reaffirms,
28 that the allocation of settlement proceeds to the claim brought pursuant to the California Labor
Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Cal. Lab. Code § 2698, *et seq.* (“PAGA”) as set
forth in the Settlement Agreement is fair and reasonable to the State of California.

1 6. The Court finds that Defendants have fully complied with CAFA’s notice
2 requirements.

3 7. The Court finds and determines that the payments to be made to the Class Members
4 as provided for in the Settlement Agreement are fair and reasonable. The Court hereby grants
5 final approval to and orders the payment of those amounts be made to the Class Members out of
6 the Two Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$2,900,000.00) Class Settlement
7 Amount in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

8 8. The Court hereby grants and approves the application presented by Settlement
9 Class Counsel for an award of attorneys’ fees in the amount of \$966,667, to be paid in accordance
10 with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

11 9. The Court hereby grants and approves the application presented by Class Counsel
12 for an award of costs in the amount of \$39,562.34, to be paid in accordance with the terms of the
13 Settlement Agreement.

14 10. The Court hereby grants and approves the application presented by the Class
15 Representative for an enhancement payment in the amount of \$10,000 for Plaintiff Brown, to be
16 paid in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.¹

17 11. The Court hereby grants and approves the application for payment of costs of
18 administration of the Settlement in the amount of \$32,749 for the fees and expenses of Simpluris,
19 Inc., the settlement administrator approved by the Court (the “Settlement Administrator”).

20 12. Within twenty-one (21) days after the distribution of the settlement funds and
21 payment of attorneys’ fees, the parties should file a Post-Distribution Accounting and written
22 certification of such completion from the Settlement Administrator with the Court.

23 13. Upon the Effective Date of the Settlement (as defined in paragraph I.K of the
24 Settlement Agreement), all Class Members who did not submit a valid Request For Exclusion
25 Form release Defendants and each of their respective past, present and future owners,
26 stockholders, all present and former parents, related or affiliated companies, subsidiaries, officers,
27

28 _____
¹ The administrative motion to seal Dkt. No. 208 is GRANTED.

1 directors, shareholders, employees, principals, heirs, representatives, accountants, agents,
2 attorneys, representatives, auditors, consultants, insurers and re-insurers, and their respective
3 predecessors or successors in interest and each of their company-sponsored employee benefit
4 plans of any nature (including, without limitation, profit-sharing plans, pension plans, 401(k)
5 plans, and severance plans) and all of their respective officers, directors, employees,
6 administrators, fiduciaries, trustees and agents, and any other individual or entity which could be
7 jointly liable with Defendants (the “Released Parties”) from the “Settled Claims,” as defined
8 below, during the Settlement Class Period, which is defined in the Settlement Agreement as
9 December 3, 2011 to the date the Court preliminarily approved the Settlement.

10 14. The “Settled Claims” are defined as: All claims, demands, rights, liabilities, and
11 causes of action of every nature and description whatsoever, whether known or unknown, whether
12 in tort, contract, statute, rule, ordinance, order, regulation, or otherwise, whether for economic
13 damages, non-economic damages, restitution, civil or statutory penalties, wages, liquidated
14 damages, interest or attorneys’ fees or costs, arising from the same set of operative facts alleged in
15 Complaints litigated in this case (*i.e.*, the Second Amended Complaint filed by Plaintiff Brown
16 and the Complaint filed by Joseph Amey (collectively the “Operative Complaints”)), for direct and
17 derivative wage statement violations (including claims for failure to keep accurate records and
18 failure to provide accurate wage statements), and PAGA penalties associated with such alleged
19 wage statement violations (the “PAGA Claims”). The Settled Claims specifically include any and
20 all claims to recover civil penalties, statutory penalties, or damages under Labor Code § 226 or
21 Labor Code § 226.3 and the PAGA for any alleged violation of Labor Code § 226, and any claims
22 under Business and Professions Code § 17200 and all applicable Industrial Wage Commission
23 Wage Orders related to direct or derivative wage statement claims as alleged in the Operative
24 Complaints. The Settled Claims are those that accrued during the Settlement Class Period.

25 15. Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, all Class Members (except for those who
26 timely submitted Request for Exclusion Forms) are permanently barred from prosecuting the
27 Released Parties for any Settled Claims.

28

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

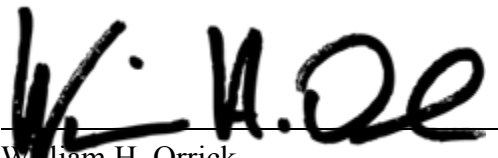
16. The parties are hereby ordered to comply with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

17. Without affecting the finality of this Final Order in any way, this Court retains jurisdiction of all matters relating to the interpretation, administration, implementation, effectuation and enforcement of this Order and the Settlement Agreement.

18. This action and the Settled Claims are hereby ordered dismissed with prejudice, each side to bear its own costs and attorneys' fees except as provided by the Settlement Agreement.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: September 6, 2019



William H. Orrick
United States District Judge