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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

## FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

## OAKLAND DIVISION

In Re WAL-MART STORES, INC. WAGE AND HOUR LITIGATION

No. 06-02069 SBA

## ORDER OVERRULING WIDJAJA OBJECTION

This Document Relates To:

Case Nos.

C 06 02069 SBA (Smith) and C 06 05411 SBA (Ballard)

This class action matter involves two cases consolidated by agreement of the parties.

The first, Smith et al. v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., was filed in the District Court for the Northern

District of California on March 20, 2006. The second case, <u>Ballard et al. v. Wal-Mart Stores</u>,

<u>Inc.</u>, was filed in the Central District on May 17, 2006. Both actions sought similar recovery

related to Defendant Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.'s failure to pay various types of earned wages upon termination of employment. Each sought penalties under California Labor Code § 203, as well

as other remedies.

On May 11, 2010, the parties filed a Joint Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement, which the Court granted on July 21, 2010. Dkt. 397. The Preliminary Approval Order set the fairness hearing for September 28, 2010, which was later continued to November 9, 2010, and ordered the parties to disseminate notice to the Class. The Court also set forth a September 7, 2010 deadline for the filing of objections. Dkt. 401.

On October 22, 2010, after the expiration of the objection period, Budi Widjaja filed the instant "Objection to Class Action Settlement and Notice to Opt Out." Dkt. 423. As the Court indicated at the November 9, 2010 fairness hearing, the Court overrules the Widjaja objection.

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As an initial matter, Widjaja's objection, filed on October 22, 2010, is untimely and need not be considered. Turning to the merits, Widjaja objects on the basis that he was not provided timely notice of his rights and deadline to opt out of the settlement. Furthermore, he asserts he was not provided any notice of the terms of the settlement, but only provided with a card stating that he was entitled to settlement funds if he signed. However, Widjaja indicates that he has already served the class administrator with his notice to opt out of the settlement. A copy of his October 7, 2010 opt out notice, served before his instant October 22, 2010 objection, is attached as Exhibit 2 to Plaintiffs' response to this objection. Dkt. 424, Ex. 2. In that notice, Widjaja specifically states that "I understand that I would not be eligible to receive any benefits of the settlement or to object to the settlement ...." Id. (emphasis added). Indeed, the Notice of Class Action Settlement ("Class Notice") states "[i]f you do exclude yourself from the Plaintiff Class, you will be giving up ... the right to object to the Settlement." Class Notice at ¶ 10. Therefore, Widjaja does not have standing to object to the settlement in view of his opt out notice, and his objection is OVERRULED.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: November 12, 2010

SAUNDRA BROWN ARMSTRONG United States District Judge