Lipton v. Mclean et al Doc. 39

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IRWIN J. LIPTON, Derivatively on Behalf of WORLD ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

A. ALEXANDER MCLEAN, III, JOHN L. CALMES, JR., KELLY M. MALSON, MARK C. ROLAND, JAMES R. GILREATH, CHARLES D. WAY, KEN R. BRAMLETT, JR., SCOTT J. VASSALLUZZO, and DARRELL E. WHITAKER,

Defendants,

-and-

WORLD ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION, a South Carolina corporation,

Nominal Defendant.

PAUL PARSHALL, Derivatively on Behalf of WORLD ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

A. ALEXANDER MCLEAN, III, JOHN L. CALMES, JR., KELLY M. MALSON, MARK C. ROLAND, JAMES R. GILREATH, CHARLES D. WAY, KEN R. BRAMLETT, JR., SCOTT J. VASSALLUZZO, and DARRELL E. WHITAKER,

Defendants,

-and-

WORLD ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION, a South Carolina corporation,

Nominal Defendant

Civil Action No. 6:15-cv-02796-MGL

Civil Action No. 6:15-cv-03779-MGL

ORDER CONSOLIDATING RELATED ACTIONS, APPOINTING CO-LEAD COUNSEL AND LIAISON COUNSEL, AND REVISING CASE SCHEDULE

Upon consideration of the *Unopposed Motion to Consolidate Related Actions, Appoint* Co-Lead Counsel and Liaison Counsel, and to Revise Case Schedule (the "Unopposed Motion"), it is HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

- 1. The cases of Lipton v. Mclean et al., 6:15-cv-02796-MGL, and Parshall v. Mclean et al., 6:15-cv-03779-MGL (the "Related Derivative Actions"), are hereby deemed related and consolidated for all purposes, including pre-trial proceedings and trial, into one consolidated action (the "Consolidated Derivative Action").
- 2. Every pleading filed in the Consolidated Derivative Action, or in any separate action included herein, shall bear the following caption:

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA **GREENVILLE DIVISION**

IN RE WORLD ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION DERIVATIVE	Lead Case No. 6:15-cv-02796-MGL
LITIGATION	(Derivative Action)
This Document Relates To:	
ALL ACTIONS.	

- 3. The files of the Consolidated Derivative Action shall be maintained in one file under Lead Case No. 6:15-cv-02796-MGL.
- 4. The following counsel are hereby appointed as Co-Lead Counsel for Plaintiffs for the conduct of the Consolidated Derivative Action:

JOHNSON & WEAVER, LLP

Frank J. Johnson frankj@johnsonandweaver.com 600 West Broadway, Suite 1540 San Diego, California 92101 Telephone: 619-230-0063

Facsimile: 619-255-1856

JOHNSON & WEAVER, LLP

Michael I. Fistel, Jr. (admitted pro hac vice) michaelf@johnsonandweaver.com 40 Powder Springs Street
Marietta, GA 30064

Telephone: 770-200-3104 Facsimile: 770-200-3101

THE WEISER LAW FIRM, P.C.

Robert B. Weiser
Brett D. Stecker
James M. Ficaro
rw@weiserlawfirm.com
bds@weiserlawfirm.com
jmf@weiserlawfirm.com
22 Cassatt Avenue
First Floor
Berwyn, PA 19312

Telephone: 610-225-2677 Facsimile: 610-408-8062

5. The following counsel is hereby appointed as Liaison Counsel for Plaintiffs for the conduct of the Consolidated Derivative Action:

HOPKINS LAW FIRM, LLC

William E. Hopkins Federal I.D. No. 6075 bill@hopkinsfirm.com P.O. Box 1885 Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Telephone: 843-314-4202 Facsimile: 843-314-9365

- 6. Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel shall have sole authority to speak for Plaintiffs in matters regarding pre-trial procedure, trial and settlement negotiations and shall make all work assignments in such manner as to facilitate the orderly and efficient prosecution of this litigation and to avoid duplicative or unproductive effort.
- 7. Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel will be responsible for coordinating all activities and appearances on behalf of Plaintiffs and for the dissemination of notices and orders of this Court.

No motion, request for discovery, or other pre-trial or trial proceedings shall be initiated or filed by any Plaintiffs except through Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel.

- 8. Defendants' counsel shall be entitled to rely upon all agreements made with Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel, or any other duly authorized representative of Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel, and such agreements will be binding on Plaintiffs.
- 9. This Order shall apply to each case arising out of the same or substantially the same transactions or events as the Consolidated Derivative Action, which is subsequently filed in, removed to, or transferred to this Court. Nothing herein shall be construed as a waiver of any party's right to object to the consolidation of any subsequently-filed or transferred related action.
- 10. When a case which properly belongs as part of *In re World Acceptance Corporation Derivative Litigation*, Lead Case No. 6:15-cv-02796-MGL, is hereafter filed in this Court or transferred here from another court, counsel for the parties in this action shall call to the attention of the Clerk of the Court the filing or transfer of any case that might properly be consolidated as part of *In re World Acceptance Corporation Derivative Litigation*, Lead Case No. 6:15-cv-02796-MGL, and counsel for the parties in this action shall assist in assuring that counsel in subsequent actions receive notice of this Order.
- 11. Defendants have acknowledged service of the summons and complaints in the Related Derivative Actions. Aside from defenses and objections related to the absence of a summons or of service, Defendants expressly reserved all defenses and objections to the complaints filed in the Related Derivative Actions and any complaints filed in the Consolidated Derivative Action. Defendants need not answer, move or otherwise respond to either of the complaints currently filed in the Related Derivative Actions or any subsequently-filed or

transferred complaint which is consolidated as part of In re World Acceptance Corporation

Derivative Litigation, Lead Case No. 6:15-cv-02796-MGL.

12. On or before October 23, 2015, Plaintiffs shall either file with the Court a

consolidated complaint or designate an operative complaint in the Consolidated Derivative

Action. Defendants shall respond to the consolidated or operative complaint on or before

December 11, 2015. Should any Defendant file a motion to dismiss the consolidated or

operative complaint, Plaintiffs shall have until January 25, 2016 to respond. If Plaintiffs file a

response, Defendants shall have until February 15, 2016 to file a reply. This schedule shall

supersede the schedule entered in Case No. 6:15-cv-02796-MGL on August 24, 2015 (Dkt.

No. 24).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

October 14, 2015

s/Mary Geiger Lewis

THE HONORABLE MARY G. LEWIS UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

4