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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE  
INSURANCE COMPANY and STATE  
FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY  
COMPANY,

Plaintiffs,

v.

PETER J. HANSON, P.C. d/b/a HANSON  
CHIROPRACTIC and PETER J. HANSON,

Defendants.

Case No. C16-1085RSL

ORDER AWARDING FEES

This matter initially came before the Court on plaintiffs’ motion to compel better answers to plaintiffs’ requests for admission. Dkt. # 29. Pursuant to this Court’s order awarding fees and costs incurred in filing that motion under Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(a)(5)(A), Dkt. # 37, plaintiffs submitted declarations setting forth the expenses incurred in making their motion to compel, Dkt. ## 39, 40, 41. Because those declarations failed to demonstrate the reasonableness of the fees sought, the Court ordered plaintiffs to file an amended statement of reasonable expenses that more specifically detailed the work performed on the motion to compel. Dkt. # 43. Having reviewed plaintiffs’ amended submissions, Dkt. ## 44, 45, 46, and the remainder of the record, the Court finds as follows.

As before, plaintiffs seek attorney’s fees in the amount of \$21,067.65, comprising \$3,378 for local counsel (3.2 hours at a rate of \$375 per hour, plus 8.8 hours at a rate of \$247.50 per

1 hour), Dkt. # 45, and \$17,689.65 for plaintiffs' out-of-state counsel (31.1 hours at a rate of \$240  
2 per hour; 15.6 hours at a rate of \$340 per hour; 13.4 hours at a rate of \$355.50 per hour; and 0.9  
3 hours at a rate of \$175.50 per hour), Dkt. # 46.

4 The fee applicant bears the burden of demonstrating the reasonableness of the fees  
5 requested. In their amended declarations, plaintiffs' counsel have appropriately detailed the  
6 tasks they performed during the hours listed for two general projects: "Preparation and Filing of  
7 Motion to Compel" and "Preparation and Filing of Reply in Support of Motion to Compel." See  
8 Dkt. ## 45-1, 45-2, 46-1, 46-2.

9 The Court acknowledges that litigating this discovery motion was complicated by the  
10 number of objections to the requests for admission raised by defendants. The Court also finds  
11 that counsel's hourly rates are reasonable. Still, the Court concludes that the fees requested  
12 represent an excessive number of hours spent on this discovery motion and reply.

13 After making appropriate reductions, the Court finds that plaintiffs are entitled to  
14 reimbursement of fees in the amount of \$10,530.60, representing \$1,689 for plaintiffs' local  
15 counsel (1.6 hours at a rate of \$375 per hour, plus 4.4 hours at a rate of \$247.50 per hour) plus  
16 \$8,841.60 for plaintiffs' out-of-state counsel (15.5 hours at a rate of \$240 per hour; 7.8 hours at a  
17 rate of \$340 per hour; 6.7 hours at a rate of \$355.50 per hour; and 0.5 hours at a rate of \$175.50  
18 per hour). Defendants shall pay this amount to plaintiffs within twenty-one days of the date of  
19 this order.

20  
21 SO ORDERED this 3rd day of April, 2017.

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24 Robert S. Lasnik  
25 United States District Judge  
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