1 2	ØŠ G€GÍÁROÞÁG SOÞŐÁÔ	ÖÖ Honorable Nelson K.H. Lee Hearing Date: January 24, 2025 Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m.	
3	ÙWÚÒÜQIÜ IÔUWÜVIÔŠÒÜS With Oral Argumen OËZIŠOÖ		
4	ÔŒÙÒÂŀKACHËSËSEÌGIËSAÛÒŒ		
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7	IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON		
8	IN AND FOR KING COUNTY		
9	MICHAEL MEHOLIC, individually and on		
10	behalf of all others similarly situated,	NO. 23-2-20824-2	
11	Plaintiff,	PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR AN AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES,	
12	V.	COSTS, AND SERVICE AWARD	
13	SEATTLE ARENA COMPANY,		
14	Defendant.		
15			
16	Plaintiff Michael Meholic ("Plaintiff") submits this Motion for an Award of Attorneys'		
17	Fees, Costs, and Service Award. Plaintiff will submit a Proposed Order Granting Plaintiff's		
	Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement, which will include within it a proposed		
18	order granting this motion.		
19	I. INTRODUCTION		
20	Following the exchange of informal discovery, the Parties (Plaintiff Michael Meholic an		
21	Defendant Seattle Arena Company, collectively referred to as "Parties") engaged in settlement		

Following the exchange of informal discovery, the Parties (Plaintiff Michael Meholic and Defendant Seattle Arena Company, collectively referred to as "Parties") engaged in settlement negotiations and reached a settlement in principle to resolve all of Plaintiff's and the proposed Class's claims against Defendant. The settlement is an outstanding result consisting of a non-reversionary common fund of \$162,917.16, the entire amount Defendant Seattle Arena Company ("hereinafter referred to as Defendant") collected in conjunction with the 3% fee described in the Complaint, as well as business practices commitments from Defendant.

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Class Counsel has zealously prosecuted Plaintiff's and Class Members' claims, achieving the Settlement Agreement only after extensive investigation, exchange of informal discovery, and negotiations. After settlement, Class Counsel has continued working to finalize settlement terms, the settlement agreement and associated exhibits, preliminary approval, administration of the class, and final approval.

As compensation for the significant benefit conferred on the Settlement Class, Class Counsel respectfully moves the Court for an award of attorneys' fees in the amount of \$57,500.00 and costs of \$990.66, which is to be paid by Defendant **separately** from the common fund. This request should be approved because it is modest in comparison to the great benefit negotiated for the Settlement Class and reasonable in light of the substantial risks presented in prosecuting this action, the quality and extent of work conducted, and stakes of the case. The Court's award of these attorneys' fees will have no effect on the benefits available to the Class.

Class Counsel also respectfully moves the Court for a service award of \$5,000 to the named Plaintiff for his work on behalf of the Class.

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## STATEMENT OF THE ISSUES AND RELIEF REQUESTED

Plaintiff respectfully requests the Court enter an order:

- (1) Granting Plaintiff's request for attorneys' fees in the amount of \$57,500.00;
  - (2) Granting Plaintiff's request for reimbursement of costs in the amount of \$990.66;
  - (3) Granting Plaintiff's request for a service award to the Class Representative in the amount of \$5,000; and

(4) Granting such other, further, or different relief as the Court deems just and proper.

## III. EVIDENCE RELIED UPON

This motion is based upon the Settlement Agreement ("S.A.") attached as Exhibit 1 to Plaintiffs' Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement, and the Declaration of Kaleigh N. Boyd in Support of Plaintiff's Motion for an Award of Attorneys'

Fees, Costs, and Service Award ("Boyd Fee Decl.") submitted with this Motion, as well as the pleadings and files herein.

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#### IV. STATEMENT OF FACTS

This action arose from the Defendant's practice of charging customers an undisclosed 3% service fee when they purchased certain concessions at certain events operated at Climate Pledge Arena in the Spring of 2023. Plaintiff's Complaint alleges that Defendant assessed the 3% fee without notifying customers, that Defendant did not include the 3% fee in the listed price of the items purchased, and that Defendant failed to notify customers that such fee would be added to the total amount paid. Defendant denies the allegations against it.

Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference Plaintiff's Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval filed on September 13, 2024. This Court granted preliminary approval of the class action settlement on September 17, 2024. Dkt. 33.

13 Class Counsel worked closely with EAG Gulf Coast, LLC ("EAG"), the Settlement 14 Administrator, to ensure the settlement proceeded according to plan. Boyd Fee Decl., ¶6. Class 15 Counsel reviewed and edited the information EAG posted on the settlement website. Id. Class 16 counsel responded to several Class Member inquiries and conferred with EAG and Defendant's 17 Counsel on issues that arose during the claims administration process. Id. Class Counsel 18 anticipates further involvement with EAG and Defendant's Counsel in the coming months to 19 ensure a full settlement for the Class. Id. The Class's response has been overwhelmingly positive. 20 As of January 2, 2025, EAG has received 3,093 net claims, claiming a total of \$367,295.23 dollars, representing 10,258 transactions. EAG Declaration, ¶ 15. This equates to a claims rate 22 of 6.7%. No Class Member has opted out or objected to the settlement. Id. at  $\P\P$  16, 17.

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## A. Application of the Percentage-Of-The Fund is Warranted

Where attorneys obtain a common fund settlement for the benefit of a class, Washington courts typically employ the "percentage of recovery approach" in calculating and awarding

**LEGAL AUTHORITY** 

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1 attorneys' fees. See Bowles v. Washington Dep't of Ret. Sys., 121 Wn.2d 52, 70-71 (rejecting 2 lodestar critique in a common fund case). While the lodestar method is generally preferred when 3 calculating statutory attorney fees, the percentage of recovery approach is used in calculating 4 fees under the common fund doctrine. Six (6) Mexican Workers v. Ariz. Citrus Growers, 904 F.2d 5 1301, 1311 (9th Cir. 1990); Blum v. Stenson, 465 U.S. 886, 900 n.16 (1984). Because this is a 6 common fund settlement, the "percentage of recovery" approach applies. Ariz. Citrus, 904 F.2d 7 at 1311. "Under the percentage of recovery approach . . . attorneys are compensated according 8 to the size of the benefit conferred, not the actual hours expended." Lyzanchuk v. Yakima Ranches 9 Owners Ass'n, Phase II, Inc., 73 Wn. App. 1, 9 (1994). "In common fund cases, the size of the 10 recovery constitutes a suitable measure of the attorneys' performance." Bowles, 121 Wn.2d at 11 72. Public policy supports this approach: "When attorney fees are available to prevailing class 12 action plaintiffs, plaintiffs will have less difficulty obtaining counsel and greater access to the 13 judicial system. Little good comes from a system where justice is available only to those who 14 can afford its price." Id. at 71.

Courts prefer a percentage-of-the-fund model over a lodestar-multiplier approach in cases where it is possible to ascertain the value of the settlement through a common fund. *See In re Bluetooth*, 654 F.3d, 935 942 (9th Cir. 2011) ("Because the benefit to the class is easily quantified in common-fund settlements, we have allowed courts to award attorneys a percentage of the common fund in lieu of the often more time-consuming task of calculating the lodestar."); *Vizcaino v. Microsoft Corp.*, 290 F.3d 1043, 1050 (9th Cir. 2002) ("[T]he primary basis of the fee award remains the percentage method.").

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# B. Class Counsel's Request for Fees is Reasonable Under a Percentage-Of-The Fund Analysis

Washington contingency fee percentages in individual cases are usually in the range of 33 to 40 percent. *See Forbes v. Am. Bldg. Maint. Co. W.*, 170 Wn.2d 157, 161–66 (2010) (discussing contingency fee percentages between 33 1/3 percent and 44 percent). In determining

PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR AN AWARD OF ATTORNEY'S FEES, COSTS, AND SERVICE AWARD

the percentage-of-fund fee award, Courts may consider the following factors: (1) whether counsel 2 achieved exceptional results for the class; (2) whether the case was risky for class counsel; (3) 3 whether the case was handled on a contingency basis; (4) the market rate for the particular field 4 of law; and (5) the burdens class counsel experienced while litigating the case. In re Online DVD-5 Rental Antitrust Litig., 779 F.3d 934, 954–55 (9th Cir. 2015); see also Bowers v. Transamerica 6 Title Ins. Co., 100 Wn.2d 581, 597, 675 P.2d 193 (1983) (noting that an award is adjusted to 7 reflect factors such as contingency of the case and the quality of the work performed).

Here, Class Counsel's request for \$57,500 in attorneys' fees-which, though not being paid from the common fund, represents 35.29% of the common fund—is fair and reasonable under the circumstances of this case. Washington courts, including those in King County, have regularly granted fees requests at or exceeding 30 percent of the common fund. See Bowers, 100 Wn.2d at 601-02.

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#### **Class Counsel Obtained Exceptional Results** 1.

Monetary Relief: Class Counsel obtained a \$162,917.16 non-reversionary common fund - the "Settlement Fund." This fund will be used to fund will be used to fund the Settlement Payments and Settlement Checks. S.A. ¶ 42.

Equitable Relief: Class Counsel has also achieved substantial non-monetary business practice commitments for the Class. For a period of five years following the execution of a formal settlement agreement, Defendant agrees to implement and maintain clear and conspicuous fee disclosures, in accordance with applicable law ("Business Practice Commitments." Id. ¶ 42. Actual costs for the implementation and maintenance of the Business Practice Commitments will not be paid from the settlement proceeds. Id.

23 In determining the amount of attorneys' fees to award, a court should examine "the degree 24 of success obtained." Hensley v. Eckerhart, 461 U.S. 424, 436 (1983); In re Omnivision Techs. 25 Inc, 559 F. Supp. 2d 1036, 1046 (N.D. Cal. 2007) ("The overall result and benefit to the class 26 from the litigation is the most critical factor in granting a fee award."); Federal Judicial Center,

PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR AN AWARD OF ATTORNEY'S FEES, COSTS, AND SERVICE AWARD

*Manual for Complex Litigation*, § 27.71, p.336 (4th ed. 2004) ("MCL") (the "fundamental focus is on the result actually achieved for class members"). Defendant has represented that the Collected Fee Amount was approximately \$162,917.16, which is the amount to be funded into the Settlement Fund by Defendant. Therefore, 100% of the Collected Fee Amount is to be returned through the Settlement if approved by the Court, a significant achievement for the Class. *Bodnar v. Bank of Am., N.A.*, No. 14-3224, 2016 WL 4582084, at \*4 (E.D. Pa. Aug. 4, 2016) (praising as "outstanding" and "a significant achievement," a cash fund providing between 13 and 48 percent of the maximum damages in an overdraft fee class action).

The settlement reflects the high quality of work by the skilled and experienced Class Counsel throughout litigation, including the significant amount of work, effort, and expense Class Counsel has undertaken. The skill demonstrated by Class Counsel in thoroughly investigating and analyzing Plaintiff's claims and Defendant's liability, developing the Complaint, and negotiating and settling the action early further supports the fees requested. *See Vizcaino*, 290 F.3d at 1050 n.5 (determining class counsel's consumer class action expertise allowed for a result that "would have been unlikely if entrusted to counsel of lesser experience or capability" given the "substantive and procedural complexities" and the "contentious nature" of the settlement). Class Counsel's requested fee is also commensurate with their experience, which they were able to leverage to procure the settlement.

Although Plaintiff believes that he would succeed in litigation and be able to recover damages on behalf of the Class, Plaintiff and Class Counsel recognize the large range of potential litigation outcomes. Among such risks include the scope of class certification, whether various theories of damages would be accepted, including treble damages, whether causes of action survived to trial, and whether the case would be litigated to a favorable outcome. Based on the substantial litigation risks, the settlement, which presents total immediate financial relief to the Class, is an exceptional result.

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PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR AN AWARD OF ATTORNEY'S FEES, COSTS, AND SERVICE AWARD

TOUSLEY BRAIN STEPHENS PLLC 1200 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1700 Seattle, Washington 98101 TEL. 206.682.5600 • FAX 206.682.2992 1 2

### 2. The Risk Involved With Litigation Supports the Fee Request

As a matter of "express public policy," Washington courts strongly favor and encourage 3 settlements. City of Seattle v. Blume, 134 Wn.2d 243, 258 (1997); see also Pickett v. Holland 4 Am. Line-Westours, Inc., 145 Wn.2d 178, 190 (2001) ("[V]oluntary conciliation and settlement 5 are the preferred means of dispute resolution." (citation omitted)). This is particularly true in 6 class actions and other complex matters where the inherent costs, delays, and risks of continued 7 litigation might otherwise overwhelm any potential benefit the class could hope to obtain. See In 8 re Hyundai & Kia Fuel Econ. Litig., 926 F.3d 539, 555-56 (9th Cir. 2019) (en banc); Allen v. 9 Bedolla, 787 F.3d 1218, 1223 (9th Cir. 2015).<sup>1</sup> The risk that further litigation might result in 10 Plaintiffs not recovering at all, particularly a case involving complicated legal issues, is a 11 significant factor in the award of fees." Omnivision, 559 F. Supp. 2d at 1046; see also Vizcaino, 12 290 F.3d at 1048 (risk of dismissal or loss on class certification is relevant to evaluation of a 13 requested fee). Here, Plaintiff's claims included those for violation of the Washington Consumer 14 Protection Act (RCW 19.86) and unjust enrichment, including a request for statutory treble 15 damages, which are given at the Court's discretion and are not guaranteed even if successful at 16 trial.

Another significant risk faced by Plaintiff is the risk of maintaining class action status through trial. The class has not yet been certified, and Defendant will certainly oppose certification if the case proceeds. Thus, Plaintiffs "necessarily risk losing class action status." *Grimm v. Am. Eagle Airlines, Inc.*, 2014 WL 12746376, at \*10 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 24, 2014). This over-arching risk simply puts a point on what is true in all class actions: class certification through trial is never a settled issue and is always a risk for the Plaintiffs and their Counsel. Consequently, the requested fee award appropriately compensates for the risk undertaken by Class Counsel here.

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 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> When the language of a Washington rule and its federal counterpart are the same, Washington courts look to decisions interpreting the federal rule for guidance. *Gillett v. Conner*, 132 Wn. App. 818, 823 (2006)
 (citing *Am. Disc. Corp. v. Saratoga W., Inc.*, 81 Wash.2d 34, 37–38 (1972)).

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#### 3. Class Counsel Faced Substantial Risk of Non-Payment

The requested fee is further justified by the financial risks undertaken by Class Counsel in representing the Class on a contingency basis. *See Vizcaino*, 290 F.3d at 1050. "Most important, 'the contingency adjustment is designed solely to compensate for the possibility . . . that the litigation would be unsuccessful and that no fee would be obtained." *Bowers*, 675 P.2d at 204 (quotation omitted). Such adjustments are "based on the notion that attorneys generally will not take high risk contingency cases, for which they risk no recovery at all for their services, unless they can receive a premium for taking that risk." *Chuong Van Pham v. Seattle City Light*, 159 Wn.2d 527, 541 (2007). The public interest is served by rewarding attorneys who assume representation on a contingent basis with an enhanced fee to compensate them for the risk they might be paid nothing at all for their work. *In re Wash. Pub. Power Supply Sys. Sec. Litig.*, 19 F.3d 1291, 1299 (9th Cir. 1994).

13 Class Counsel has devoted substantial resources to the prosecution of this case with no 14 guarantee that they would be compensated for their time or reimbursement for their expenses. 15 Boyd Decl. ¶10. Despite the substantial risk of nonpayment, Class Counsel zealously represented 16 the interests of the Class. "Attorneys are entitled to a larger fee award when their compensation 17 is contingent in nature." In re Toyota Motor Corp. Unintended Acceleration Mktg., Sales Pracs. 18 & Prods. Liab. Litig., No. 8:10ML 02151 JVS (FMOX), 2013 WL 12327929, at \*32 (C.D. Cal. 19 July 24, 2013). "[W]hen counsel takes cases on a contingency fee basis, and litigation is 20 protracted, the risk of non-payment after years of litigation justifies a significant fee award." 21 Bellinghausen v. Tractor Supply Co., 306 F.R.D. 245, 261 (N.D. Cal. 2015). The potential of 22 receiving little or no recovery in the face of increasing risk weighs in favor of the requested fee. 23 See Ching v. Siemens Indus., No. 11-CV-04838-MEJ, 2014 WL 2926210, at \*8 (N.D. Cal. June 24 27, 2014) ("Courts have long recognized that the public interest is served by rewarding attorneys 25 who assume representation on a contingent basis with an enhanced fee to compensate them for 26 the risk that they might be paid nothing at all for their work.").

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### 4. Class Counsel Worked on a Contingency Fee Basis

The contingency fee agreement between Plaintiff's counsel and the named Plaintiff further supports the requested attorney fee award. Common fund fee awards function as "an equitable substitute for private fee agreements where a class benefits from an attorney's work." *Staton*, 327 F.3d at 968. Plaintiff's Counsel have a standard fee agreement with the named Plaintiff calling for 30–40 percent of the recovery to be paid as attorneys' fees, plus costs, in the event that this action settled or was taken to judgment on an individual basis. Boyd Fee Decl. ¶9. *See Vizcaino*, 290 F.3d at 1049–50 (what the named plaintiffs agreed to as percentage for fees may be relevant to common fund percentage).

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#### 5. Fees in Similar Actions

11 Courts may refer to awards made in other settlements of comparable size when 12 determining whether an award is reasonable. See Vizcaino, 290 F.3d at 1050 n.4. Washington 13 courts and courts in the Ninth Circuit routinely award percentage recoveries more than the 25 14 percent benchmark. See, e.g., Lyzanchuk, 73 Wn. App. at 9 (33 percent fee); In re Pac. Enters. 15 Secs. Litig., 47 F.3d 373, 379 (9th Cir. 1995) (same); Williams v. MGM-Pathe Comms. Co., 129 16 F.3d 1026, 1027 (9th Cir. 1997) (same); Syed v. M-I, L.L.C., 2017 WL 3190341, at \*8 (E.D. Cal. 17 July 27, 2017) (same); Bennett v. SimplexGrinnell LP, No. 11-cv-1854-JST, ECF No. 278, at 11 18 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 3, 2015) (awarding 38.8 percent of common fund). Class Counsel's fee request 19 is consistent with fees and costs awarded in similar cases and reasonable under the "percentage 20 of the fund" method, and, unlike the cases above, will not be paid from the common fund itself.

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### 6. The Burdens Faced by Class Counsel Support the Fee Request.

District courts are also instructed to consider the burdens class counsel experienced while litigating the case (e.g., cost, duration, and foregoing other work). Class Counsel advanced time and out-of-pocket costs, and they have foregone other work while litigating this case. *See, e.g.*, *In re Infospace, Inc. Secs. Litig.*, 330 F. Supp. 2d 1203, 1212 (W.D. Wash. 2004) ("[P]reclusion

of other employment by the attorney due to acceptance of the case" is a factor to consider when
determining an appropriate fee award). Courts recognize that the

public interest is served by rewarding attorneys who assume representation on a contingent basis with an enhanced fee to compensate them for the risk that they might be paid nothing at all for their work. *See, e.g., In re Wash. Pub. Power Supply Sys. Sec. Litig.*, 19 F.3d 1291, 1299 (9th Cir. 1994). ("Contingent fees that may far exceed the market value of the services if rendered on a noncontingent basis are . . . a legitimate way of assuring competent representation for plaintiffs who could not afford to pay on an hourly basis regardless whether they win or lose.")

Class Counsel litigated this case on a purely contingent basis. To date, Class Counsel has received no compensation for their work on this case, and they have worked over 130 hours and advanced \$990.66 in costs. Boyd Fee Decl. ¶¶15, 19. This substantial outlay of time and resources on a purely contingent basis favors approval of the requested fee.

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#### C. A Lodestar Cross-Check Confirms the Requested Fee

14 The Ninth Circuit has encouraged courts to conduct a lodestar crosscheck when 15 assessing the reasonableness of a percentage fee award. See In re Bluetooth, 654 F.3d at 944 16 ("[W]e have also encouraged courts to guard against an unreasonable result by crosschecking 17 their calculations against a second method" of determining fees). The first step in the lodestar 18 method is to multiply the number of hours counsel expended on the litigation by a reasonable 19 hourly rate. Hanlon v. Chrysler Corp., 150 F.3d 1011, 1029 (9th Cir. 1998). At that point, "the 20 resulting figure may be adjusted upward or downward to account for several factors including 21 the quality of the representation, the benefit obtained for the class, the complexity and novelty 22 of the issues presented, and the risk of nonpayment." Id. (citing Kerr v. Screen Extras Guild, 23 Inc., 526 F.2d 67, 70 (9th Cir. 1975)); see also In re Bluetooth, 654 F.3d at 942. The lodestar-24 multiplier method confirms the propriety of the requested fee here, with the fee award Class 25 Counsel will be receiving a negative multiplier on lodestar amount.

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### 1. Class Counsel's Lodestar is Reasonable

Through December 30, 2024, Class Counsel devoted more than 130 hours to the investigation, litigation, and resolution of this complex case, thereby incurring \$73,575.00 in lodestar.<sup>2</sup> Boyd Fee Decl., ¶15. Class Counsel conducted an investigation into the facts and law regarding Litigation, exchanged informal discovery, drafted the complaint, engaged in settlement negotiations, and assisted in the claims administration for the Class. *Id.* Class Counsel prosecuted the claims effectively, and throughout the litigation and negotiation process, Class Counsel faced defense counsel from one of the nation's largest law firms. *See DeStefano v. Zynga, Inc.*, 2016 WL 537946, at \*17 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 11, 2016) ("The quality of opposing counsel is also relevant to the quality and skill that class counsel provided.").

11 Plaintiff's Counsel has requested hourly rates ranging from \$600 to \$1125.00, for 12 partners, to \$350-\$500, for associates and staff, respectively. See Boyd Fee Decl. ¶15. Class 13 Counsel determined the hourly rates based on factors such as the skill and sophistication 14 required for the legal services provided, customary rates in relevant markets, and the 15 experience and reputation of both attorneys and staff. Id. ¶14. This approach ensures that the 16 rates are aligned with industry standards and accurately reflect the firm's expertise. Class 17 Counsel's hourly rates are reasonable in light of their significant experience and the complex 18 nature of this litigation. Id. ¶14. Tousley Brain Stephens, a nationally recognized firm 19 specializing in complex litigation and product liability, sets its rates to reflect its 20 extensive experience and reputation. Id.

Class Counsel's hourly rates are reasonable and have been approved by Courts in this State and throughout the country. In assessing the reasonableness of an attorney's hourly rate, courts consider whether the claimed rate is "in line with those prevailing in the community for similar services by lawyers of reasonably comparable skill, experience and reputation." *Blum v.* 

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Class Counsel will spend additional hours seeing this case through its final resolution, including overseeing the claims administration process and preparing for and attending the final approval hearing.

*Stenson*, 465 U.S. 886, 895–96 n.11 (1984). Class Counsel here are experienced, highly regarded members of the bar, who brought to this case extensive experience in consumer class actions.

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#### **Class Counsel is Incurring a Negative Multiplier**

The fee requested by Class Counsel is less than Class Counsel's lodestar, reflecting a negative multiplier. In *Vizcaino*, the Ninth Circuit noted that multipliers have ranged from 0.6 to 19.6, and upheld an award with a 3.65 multiplier. 290 F.3d at 1050–55; *accord In re Infospace*, 330 F. Supp. 2d at 1216 (approving multiplier of 3.5); *Craft v. Cnty. of San Bernardino*, 624 F. Supp. 2d 1113, 1123 (C.D. Cal. 2008) (approving multiplier of 5.2). Considering Class Counsel is accepting a negative multiplier with its fee award, despite the lengthy efforts it undertook to provide an exceptional result for the Class, supports approval of Class Counsel's fee request.

#### **D.** The Costs Sought are Reasonable

Under well-settled law, Class Counsel is entitled to reimbursement of the expenses reasonably incurred investigating and prosecuting this matter. *Mills v. Electric Auto-Lite Co.*, 396 U.S. 375, 391-92 (1970). "Reasonable costs and expenses incurred by an attorney who creates or preserves a common fund are reimbursed proportionately by those class members who benefit [from] the settlement." *In re Media Vision Tech. Sec. Litig.*, 913 F. Supp. 1362, 1366 (N.D. Cal. 1996). To date, Class Counsel has incurred \$990.66 in unreimbursed litigation costs, covering expenses such as reproductions, filing fees, messenger and service fees, and computer research. Boyd Fee Decl. ¶19. These costs were essential for resolving the litigation and were paid out of pocket by Class Counsel for the benefit of the class members, without any assurance of reimbursement. *Id.* 

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#### E. The Service Award Requested is Reasonable

Service awards "are intended to compensate class representatives for work done on behalf of the class, to make up for financial or reputational risk undertaken in bringing the action, and, sometimes, to recognize their willingness to act as a private attorney general." *Peterson v. Kitsap Cnty. Fed. Credit Union*, 171 Wn. App. 404, 430, 287 P.3d 27 (2012) (citation omitted); *see also* 

Hartless v. Clorox Co., 273 F.R.D. 630, 646–47 (S.D. Cal. 2011) ("Incentive awards are fairly typical in class actions."), *aff'd*, 473 F. App'x 716 (9th Cir. 2012). The settlement is not contingent on the Court's granting of the service award. S.A. ¶ 78.

The requested service award of \$5,000 is modest under the circumstances and well in line with awards approved by state and federal courts in Washington and elsewhere. *See, e.g., In re Online DVD-Rental Antitrust Litig.*, 779 F.3d at 934, 947–48 (approving service payments to plaintiffs in the amount of \$5,000 each); *Pelletz v. Weyerhaeuser Co.*, 592 F. Supp. 2d 1322, 1329–30 & n.9 (W.D. Wash. 2009) (approving \$7,500 service awards and collecting decisions approving awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$40,000). Here the Settlement Class Representative Mr. Meholic performed important work on the case, including gathering facts and documents, assisting Class Counsel with allegations in Complaint, keeping abreast of the litigation, executing the settlement agreement on behalf of the Class, and maintaining communication with Class Counsel throughout the litigation. Boyd Fee Decl. ¶¶7–8. The requested service award of \$5,000 is reasonable.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

Class Counsel respectfully requests that this Court grant their motion and award the requested attorneys' fees and costs, reimbursement of expenses, and Plaintiff's service award in full.

I certify that this memorandum contains 4,183 words, in compliance with the Local Civil Rules.

DATED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2025.

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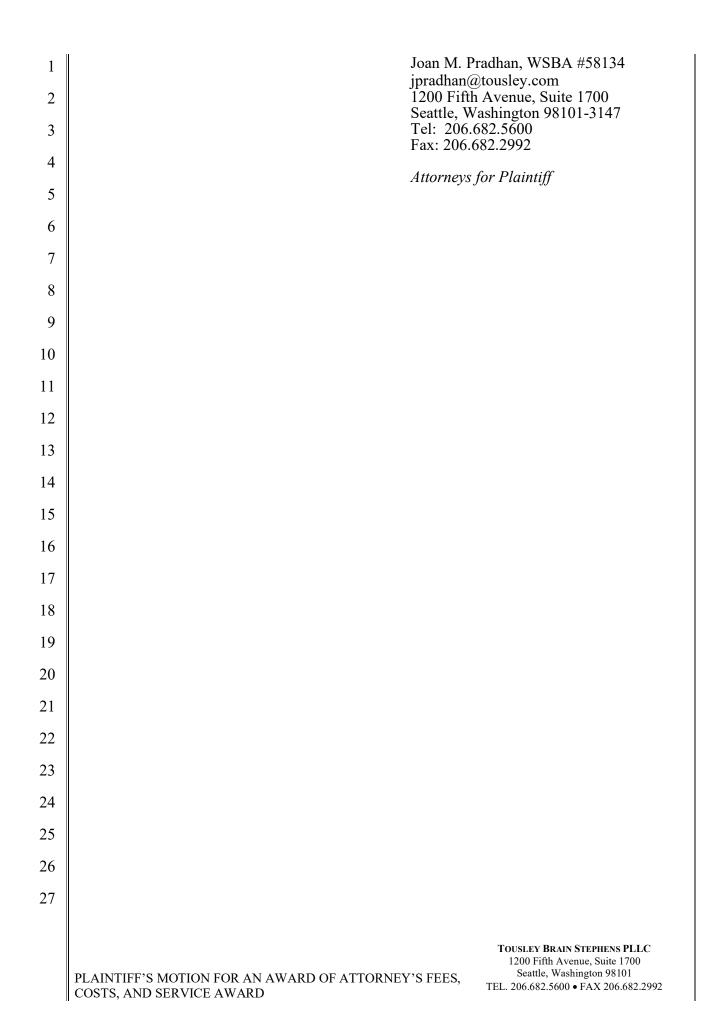
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#### TOUSLEY BRAIN STEPHENS PLLC

By: <u>s/Kaleigh N. Boyd</u> Kim D. Stephens, P.S., WSBA #11984 kstephens@tousley.com Kaleigh N. Boyd, WSBA #52684 kboyd@tousley.com



1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE		
2	I, Linsey M. Teppner, declare and say that I am a citizen of the United States and resident		
3	of the state of Washington, over the age of 18 years, not a party to the above-entitled action, and		
4	am competent to be a witness herein. My business address and telephone number are 1200 Fifth		
5	Avenue, Suite 1700, Seattle, Washington 98101, telephone 206.682.5600.		
6	On January 3, 2025, I caused to be served the foregoing document on the individual		
7	named below via the methods indicated:		
8	Perkins Coie LLP		
9	Meeghan Dooley, WSBA #61735	□ U.S. Mail, Postage Prepaid □ Legal Messager	
10	1201 Third Ave., Suite 4900	□ Fax	
11	Seattle, WA 98101 mdooley@perkinscoie.com	King County E-Service/Email	
12	dperez@perkinscoie.com		
13	Attorneys for Defendant Seattle Arena Company,		
14	LLC		
15			
16	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington and the		
17	United States that the foregoing is true and correct.		
18	Executed this 3 <sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2025, at Seattle, Washington.		
19	. 0		
20	Tura		
21	Linsey M. Teppner, Legal Assistant		
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		<b>TOUSLEY BRAIN STEPHENS PLLC</b> 1200 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1700	
	PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR AN AWARD OF ATTORNEY'S FE COSTS, AND SERVICE AWARD	EES, Seattle, Washington 98101 TEL. 206.682.5600 • FAX 206.682.2992	