1 2 3 4 5	Randy Renick (S.B.N. 179652) rrr@hadsellstormer.com Cornelia Dai (S.B.N. 207435) cdai@hadsellstormer.com HADSELL STORMER RENICK & DAI LLP 128 North Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 204 Pasadena, California 91103-3645 Telephone: (626) 585-9600 Facsimile: (626) 577-7079	
6 7 8 9 10	Richard G. McCracken (S.B.N. 62058) rmccracken@msh.law Sarah Grossman-Swenson (S.B.N. 259792) sgs@msh.law McCRACKEN, STEMERMAN & HOLSBERRY 475 14th Street, Suite 1200 Oakland, CA 94612 Telephone: (415) 597-7200 Facsimile: (415) 597-7201	Y, LLP
11	Attorneys for Plaintiffs & Plaintiff Class	
12		
13	SUPERIOR COURT OF TH	E STATE OF CALIFORNIA
14	FOR THE COUN	TY OF ORANGE
15		Case No. 30-2019-01116850-CU-OE-CXC
16 17 18	KATHLEEN GRACE, REGINA DELGADO, ALICIA GRIJALVA, JAVIER TERRAZAS, and all others similarly situated,	DECLARATION OF RICHARD M. PEARL IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND
19	Plaintiffs,	REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS
20	v.	Judge: Hon. William D. Claster Dept.: CX101
21	THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY WALT	Action Filed: December 6, 2019
22	THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY, WALT DISNEY PARKS AND RESORTS US, INC., SODEXO, INC., SODEXOMAGIC, LLC and	Hearing Date: September 12, 2025 Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m.
23	Does 1-100,	
24	Defendants.	
25		
26		
27		
28		
		JPPORT OF PLTFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS'
		DEXHS. / Case No. 30-2019-01116850-CU-OE-CXC

1	DECLARATION OF RICHARD M. PEARL
2	I, Richard M. Pearl, declare:
3	1. I am a member in good standing of the California State Bar. I am in private practice
4	as the principal of my own law firm, the Law Offices of Richard M. Pearl, in Berkeley, California.
5	I specialize in issues related to attorneys' fees, which includes service as an expert
6	witness/consultant regarding attorneys' fees, the representation of parties and attorneys in attorney
7	fee litigation and appeals, and service as a mediator and arbitrator in disputes concerning
8	attorneys' fees and related issues. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein, and if
9	called as a witness, I could and would competently testify thereto.
10	2. I make this declaration in my capacity as an expert witness on the reasonableness of
11	the hourly rates presented by Plaintiffs' Counsel – Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai, LLP
12	("HSR&D") and McCracken, Stemerman & Holsberry, LLP ("MSH") (collectively "Plaintiffs"
13	Counsel" or "Counsel) as part of the lodestar cross-check portion of the common fund
14	attorneys' fees they are requesting in Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Reimbursement of
15	Costs. I will receive financial compensation for the time I spent preparing this declaration that is
16	not dependent in any way on the outcome of Plaintiffs' motion.
17	MY BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE
18	3. My Resume, which sets forth my experience and qualifications as an attorneys'
19	fees expert, is attached hereto as Exhibit A . Briefly summarized, my background is as follows:
20	4. I am a 1969 graduate of Berkeley School of Law (then Boalt Hall), University of
21	California, Berkeley, California. I took the California Bar Examination in August 1969 and
22	learned that I had passed it in November of that year, but because I was working as an attorney in
23	Atlanta, Georgia for the Legal Aid Society of Atlanta ("LASA"), I was not formally admitted to
24	the California Bar until February 1970. (I also was admitted to the Georgia Bar in early 1970.) I
25	worked for LASA until the summer of 1971, then went to work in California's Central Valley for
26	California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. ("CRLA"), a statewide legal services program. From mid-
27	1971 until mid-1974, I was staff attorney, then the Directing Attorney of CRLA's four-attorney
28	office in McFarland, Kern County. From 1974 to 1977, I was the Directing Attorney of CRLA's
	1 DECLARATION OF RICHARD M. PEARL IN SUPPORT OF PLTFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS / Case No. 30-2019-01116850-CU-OE-CXC

Statewide "Backup Center" in San Francisco, a four-attorney program tasked with assisting other
 legal services programs with their impact litigation, as well as carrying their own caseload. From
 1977 to 1982, I was CRLA's Director of Litigation, supervising more than fifty attorneys as well
 as handling my own impact litigation caseload. In 1982-1983, I transitioned into private practice,
 first in a small Oakland law firm formed by myself and three other former CRLA attorneys, then
 as a sole practitioner.

5. Martindale Hubbell rates my law firm "AV," which it assigns to attorneys with "the
highest level of professional, peer-reviewed excellence." I also have been selected as a Northern
California "Super Lawyer" in Appellate Law for 2005–2008 and 2010–2025, a distinction
reserved for only 5% of Northern California attorneys.

Since 1982, the focus of my legal work has been in general civil litigation and
 appellate practice, with an emphasis on class actions and attorney fee issues. More recently my
 focus has been almost exclusively on matters involving attorney fee issues. I have lectured and
 written extensively on both court-awarded and attorney-client fee disputes. I have been a member
 of the California State Bar's Attorneys' Fees Task Force and have testified before the State Bar
 Board of Governors and the California Legislature on attorneys' fee issues.

17 7. I am the author of California Attorney Fee Awards (3d ed., Cal. CEB 2010) ("Cal. 18 Fee Awards") and its cumulative annual Supplements and Updates between 2011 and April 2025. 19 I also was the author of California Attorney Fee Awards (2d ed., Cal. CEB 1994), and its 1995 through 2008 annual Supplements. Several courts have referred to this treatise as "[t]he leading 20 21 California attorney fee treatise." Calvo Fisher & Jacob LLP v. Lujan, 234 Cal. App. 4th 608, 621 22 (2015); see also, e.g., Int'l Billing Servs., Inc. v. Emigh, 84 Cal. App. 4th 1175, 1193 (2000) ("the 23 leading treatise"); Stratton v. Beck, 30 Cal. App. 5th 901, 911 (2019) ("a leading treatise"); Orozco 24 v. WPV San Jose, LLC, 36 Cal. App. 5th 375, 409 (2019) ("a leading treatise on California 25 attorney's fees"). It also has been cited by the California Supreme Court and Court of Appeal on 26 many occasions. See Graham v. DaimlerChrysler Corp., 34 Cal. 4th 553, 576, 584 (2004); Lolley v. 27 Campbell, 28 Cal. 4th 367, 373 (2002); In re Conservatorship of Whitley, 50 Cal. 4th 1206, 1214-28 15, 1217 (2010); Sonoma Land Trust v. Thompson, 63 Cal. App. 5th 978, 986 (2021); Yost v.

DECLARATION OF RICHARD M. PEARL IN SUPPORT OF PLTFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS / Case No. 30-2019-01116850-CU-OE-CXC

Forestiere, 51 Cal. App. 5th 509, 530 n.8 (2020); Highland Springs Conference & Training Ctr. v. 1 2 City of Banning, 42 Cal. App. 5th 416, 428 n.11 (2019); Sweetwater Union High Sch. Dist. v. Julian 3 Union Elementary Sch. Dist., 36 Cal. App. 5th 970, 988 (2019); Hardie v. Nationstar Mortg. LLC, 32 Cal. App. 5th 714, 720 (2019); Syers Props III, Inc. v. Rankin, 226 Cal. App. 4th 691, 698, 700 4 5 (2014). California Superior Courts also cite the treatise with approval. See, e.g., Davis v. St. Jude Hosp., No. 30201200602596CUOECX, 2018 WL 7286170, at *4 (Orange Cty. Super. Ct. Aug. 31, 6 7 2018); Hartshorne v. Metlife, Inc., No. BC576608, 2017 WL 1836635, at *10 (Los Angeles Super. 8 Ct. May 2, 2017). Federal courts also have cited it. See In re Hurtado, Case No. 09-16160-A-13, 9 2015 WL 6941127 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 6, 2015); TruGreen Companies LLC v. Mower Brothers, Inc., 10 953 F. Supp. 2d 1223, 1236 nn.50, 51 (D. Utah 2013). I also authored the 1984 through 1993 annual Supplements to the predecessor treatise, CEB's California Attorney's Fees Award Practice, which 11 12 itself was based on a manual we produced at CRLA. In addition, I authored a federal manual on 13 attorneys' fees entitled "Attorneys' Fees: A Legal Services Practice Manual," published by the Legal 14 Services Corporation. I also co-authored the chapter on "Attorney Fees" in Volume 2 of CEB's 15 Wrongful Employment Termination Practice, (2d ed., 1997).

16 8. More than 98% of my practice is devoted to issues involving court-awarded 17 attorney fees. I have appeared as an attorney of record in over two hundred attorneys' fee 18 applications in state and federal courts, both trial and appellate, primarily representing other 19 attorneys. I have briefed and argued more than 40 appeals, at least 30 of which have involved 20 attorneys' fees issues. I have won five cases in the California Supreme Court involving court-21 awarded attorneys' fees: (1) Maria P. v. Riles, 43 Cal. 3d 1281 (1987), which upheld a Code 22 Civ. Proc. § 1021.5 fee award based on a preliminary injunction obtained against the State 23 Superintendent of Education, despite the fact that the case ultimately was dismissed under Code 24 Civ. Proc. § 583; (2) Delaney v. Baker, 20 Cal. 4th 23 (1999), which held that heightened 25 remedies, including attorneys' fees, are available in suits against nursing homes under California's Elder Abuse Act; (3) Ketchum v. Moses, 24 Cal. 4th 1122 (2001), which reaffirmed 26 27 that contingent risk multipliers are an essential consideration under California attorney fee law 28 (note that in Ketchum, I was primary appellate counsel in the Court of Appeal and "second

chair" in the California Supreme Court); (4) Flannery v. Prentice, 26 Cal. 4th 572 (2001), which 1 2 held that under California law, in the absence of an agreement to the contrary, statutory 3 attorneys' fees belong to the attorney whose services they are based upon; and (5) Graham v. DaimlerChrysler Corp., 34 Cal. 4th 553 (2004), which held, inter alia, that the "catalyst" theory 4 5 of fee recovery remained viable under California law and that lodestar multipliers could be 6 applied to fee motion work. In that case, I represented trial counsel in both the Court of Appeal 7 (twice) and California Supreme Court, as well as on remand in the trial court. I also represented 8 and argued on behalf of amicus curiae in Conservatorship of McQueen, 59 Cal. 4th 602 (2014), 9 which held that attorneys' fees incurred for appellate work were not "enforcement fees" subject to 10 California's Enforcement of Judgments law; I presented the argument relied upon by the Court. Along with Richard Rothschild of the Western Center on Law and Poverty, I also prepared and 11 12 filed an amicus curiae brief in Vasquez v. State of California, 45 Cal. 4th 243 (2009), which held 13 that pre-filing settlement demands were not required to obtain fees under Code of Civil Procedure 14 section 1021.5 in non-catalyst cases.

15 9. I also have handled numerous other appeals involving attorneys' fee issues, 16 including: Davis v. City & County of San Francisco, 976 F.2d 1536 (9th Cir. 1992); Mangold v. 17 CPUC, 67 F.3d 1470 (9th Cir. 1995); Velez v. Wynne 2007 U.S. App. LEXIS 2194 (9th Cir. 18 2007); Camacho v. Bridgeport Financial, Inc., 523 F.3d 973 (9th Cir. 2008); Orr v. Brame, 793 19 F.Appx. 485 (9th Cir. 2019); Center for Biological Diversity v. County of San Bernardino, 185 20 Cal.App.4th 866 (2010; Environmental Protection Information Center v. California Dept. of 21 Forestry & Fire Protection et al., 190 Cal.App.4th 217 (2010); Heron Bay Home Owners Association v. City of San Leandro, 19 Cal.App.5th 376 (2018); and Robles v. Emp. Dev. Dept., 22 23 38 Cal.App.5th 191 (2019). An expanded list of reported decisions in cases I have handled is set 24 out in pages 4–8 of my Resume (Exhibit A). 25 10. More frequently now, I testify as an expert witness on attorneys' fees. I estimate 26 that I have testified, by declaration or in person, in more than 250 cases. 27 11. Numerous reported state and federal court fee awards have favorably cited my

28 || testimony on attorneys' fee issues. For example, in Sonoma Land Trust v. Thompson, 63 Cal .App.

⁴

1	5th 978, 986 (202	1), the Court of Appeal expressly held that my expert declaration provided	
2	evidentiary suppo	rt for the trial court's fee determination. My declaration also was cited favorably	
3	by the Fifth Distri	ict of the Court of Appeal in Wood v. Los Angeles County Waterworks Dist. No.	
4	40 (Antelope Valley Groundwater Cases), 2021 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 5506 (2nd Dist., Div.		
5	2021), by the Sixth District in Kerkeles v. City of San Jose, 243 Cal .App. 4th 88, 96, 105 (2015),		
6	and by the First D	District in Gajanan v. City & County of San Francisco, No. A168328, 2025 WL	
7	1076796, at *3, *	17, 2025 Cal.App. Unpub. 2141 (Cal. Ct. App. Apr. 10, 2025). Other reported	
8	California state co	ourt decisions citing my opinion include:	
9	• Lą	ffitte v. Robert Half Int'l Inc., 231 Cal. App. 4th 860 (2014), aff'd 1 Cal.5th 480	
10	(20	016).	
11	• Ha	abitat and Watershed Caretakers v. City of Santa Cruz, 2015 Cal. App. Unpub.	
12	LE	EXIS 7156 (2015).	
13	• In	re Tobacco Cases I, 216 Cal. App. 4th 570 (2013).	
14	• He	eritage Pacific Financial, LLC v. Monroy, 215 Cal. App. 4th 972, 1009 (2013).	
15	• Wi	ilkinson v. South City Ford, 2010 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 8680 (2010).	
16	• Ch	ildren's Hospital & Medical Center v. Bonta, 97 Cal.App.4th 740 (2002).	
17	• Ch	urch of Scientology v. Wollersheim, 42 Cal. App. 4th 628 (1996).	
18	• Ka	ku v. City of Santa Clara, No. 17CV319862, 2019 WL 331053, at *3 (Santa	
19	Cla	ara Cty. Super. Ct. Jan. 22, 2019), aff'd 59 Cal.App.5th 385 (2020).	
20	• Da	<i>wis v. St. Jude Hosp.</i> No. 30201200602596CUOECX, 2018 WL 7286170, at *4	
21	(0	range Cty. Super. Ct. Aug. 31, 2018).	
22	• Ha	urtshorne v. Metlife, Inc. No. BC576608, 2017 WL 1836635, at *10 (Los	
23	Ar	ngeles Super. Ct. May 2, 2017).	
24	These are just rep	orted examples. Many other California trial courts have relied on my testimony	
25	in unreported fee	awards, including several Los Angeles area courts. See, e.g., Davis v. Redlands	
26	Unified High Sch	ool Dist., San Bernardino County Superior Ct. No. CICSB2103756, Order on	
27	Plaintiff's Attorney's Fee Motion filed November 6, 2024 (awarding Los Angeles area hourly		
28	rates); <i>Bronshteyr</i>	n v. California, Los Angeles County Superior Ct. No. 19SMCV00057, Order	
		5	
	11	OF RICHARD M. PEARL IN SUPPORT OF PLTFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S ID REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS / Case No. 30-2019-01116850-CU-OE-CXC	

Granting Plaintiff's Motion for Statutory Attorneys' Fees and Costs filed March 30, 2023;
 Stephens v. Inter-Con Sec. Sys. (Los Angeles Super. Ct. May 17, 2019), 2019 Cal.Super.LEXIS
 9551, at *23.

4	12. Many federal courts also have referenced my expert testimony favorably. For
5	example, in Human Rights Defense Center v. County of Napa, 20-cv-01296-JCS, Doc. 50
6	(March 28, 2021), the court stated that it had "place[d] significant weight on the opinion of
7	Mr. Pearl that the rates charged by all of the timekeepers listed above are reasonable and in line
8	with the rates charged by law firms that engage in federal civil litigation in the San Francisco Bay
9	Area. Mr. Pearl has extensive experience in the area of attorney billing rates in this district and has
10	been widely relied upon by both federal and state courts in Northern California [] in determining
11	reasonable billing rates." Id. at 18–19. That same view of my testimony was subsequently repeated
12	and applied in Wit v. United Behavioral Health, 578 F.Supp.3d 1060, 1079 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 5,
13	2022), vacated and remanded upon reversal of the merits, 2023 U.S. App. LEXIS 33343 (9th
14	Cir. 2023), and Andrews v. Equinox Holdings, Inc., 570 F. Supp. 3d 803, 807 (N.D. Cal. 2021)
15	(quoting the above language from Human Rights Defense Center and concluding: "This Court
16	similarly finds Pearl's opinions well supported and persuasive."). The following additional federal
17	decisions also have referenced my testimony favorably:
18 19	• <i>Prison Legal News v. Ryan</i> , No. 19-17449, 2023 WL 9190364, at *1-2 (9th Cir. Mar. 21, 2023);
20	• Antoninetti v. Chipotle Mexican Grill, Inc., No. 08-55867 (9th Cir. 2012), Order filed Dec. 26, 2012, at 6;
21	• <i>Prison Legal News v. Schwarzenegger</i> , 608 F.3d 446, 455 (9th Cir. 2010) (the expert declaration referred to is mine);
22 23	• <i>Roe v. SFBSC Mgmt., LLC</i> , 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 215122 (N. D. Cal. Nov. 29, 2022);
24	• <i>Kinder v. Woodbolt Distribution, LLC</i> , No. 3:18-CV-2713-DMS-AGS, 2021 WL 1226444, *4 (S.D. Cal. Apr. 1, 2021);
25 26	• Independent Living Center of S. Cal. v. Kent, 2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 13019 (C.D. Cal. 2020);
27	• <i>Ridgeway v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.</i> , 269 F. Supp. 3d 975 (N.D. Cal. 2017), <i>aff'd</i> 269 F.3d 1066 (9th Cir. 2020);
28	• Beaver v. Tarsadia Hotels, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 160214 (S.D. Cal. 2017);
	6 DECLARATION OF RICHARD M. PEARL IN SUPPORT OF PLTFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S
	FEES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS / Case No. 30-2019-01116850-CU-OE-CXC

1	•	Notter v. City of Pleasant Hill, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 197404, 2017 WL 5972698 (N.D. Cal. 2017);
2	•	Villalpondo v. Exel Direct, Inc., 2016 WL 1598663 (N.D. Cal. 2016);
3	•	State Compensation Insurance Fund v. Khan et al., Case No. SACV 12-01072-
4		CJC(JCGx) (C.D. Cal.), Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part the Zaks Defendants' Motion for Attorneys' Fees, filed July 6, 2016 (Dkt. No. 408);
5 6	•	<i>In re Cathode Ray Tube Antitrust Litig.</i> , Master File No. 3:07-cv-5944 JST, MDL No. 1917 (N.D. Cal. 2016) 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 24951 (Report And Recommendation Of Special Master Re Motions (1) To Approve Indirect
7		Purchaser Plaintiffs' Settlements With the Phillips, Panasonic, Hitachi, Toshiba, Samsung SDI, Technicolor, And Technologies Displays Americas Defendants, and
8		(2) For Award Of Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement Of Litigation Expenses, And
9		Incentive Awards To Plaintiffs' Representative), Dkt. 4351, dated January 28, 2016, <i>adopted in relevant part</i> , 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 88665;
10	•	Gutierrez v. Wells Fargo Bank, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 67298 (N.D. Cal. 2015);
11 12	•	Holman v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc., 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 173698 (N.D. Cal. 2014);
13	•	<i>In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litig.</i> , No. M 07-1827 SI, MDL No. 1827 (N.D. Cal.), Report and Recommendation of Special Master Re Motions for
14		Attorneys' Fees And Other Amounts By Indirect-Purchaser Plaintiffs' Plaintiffs
14		And State Attorneys General, Dkt. 7127, filed Nov. 9, 2012, <i>adopted in relevant part</i> , 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 49885 (N.D. Cal. 2013);
16	•	Walsh v. Kindred Healthcare, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 176319 (N.D. Cal. 2013);
17 18	•	<i>A.D. v. California Highway Patrol</i> , 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 110743, at *4 (N.D. Cal. 2009), <i>rev'd on other grounds</i> , 712 F.3d 446 (9th Cir. 2013), <i>reaffirmed and additional fees awarded on remand</i> , 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 169275 (N.D. Cal. 2013);
19	•	Hajro v. United States Citizenship & Immigration Service, 900 F. Supp. 2d 1034, 1054 (N.D. Cal 2012);
20	•	Rosenfeld v. United States Dep't of Justice, 904 F. Supp. 2d 988, 1002 (N.D. Cal.
21		2012);
22	•	<i>Stonebrae, L.P. v. Toll Bros., Inc.</i> , 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 39832, at *9 (N.D. Cal. 2011) (thorough discussion), <i>aff'd</i> 2013 U.S. App. LEXIS 6369 (9th Cir. 2013);
23	•	Armstrong v. Brown, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 87428 (N.D. Cal. 2011);
24	•	Lira v. Cate, 2010 WL 727979 (N.D. Cal. 2010);
25	•	Californians for Disability Rights, Inc. v. California Dep't of Transportation, 2010
26		U.S. Dist. LEXIS 141030 (N.D. Cal. 2010);
27	•	<i>Nat'l Federation of the Blind v. Target Corp.</i> , 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 67139 (N.D. Cal. 2009);
28	•	Prison Legal News v. Schwarzenegger, 561 F. Supp. 2d 1095 (N.D. Cal. 2008) (an
	DECLARAT	7 'ION OF RICHARD M. PEARL IN SUPPORT OF PLTFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S
	FEES	S AND REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS / Case No. 30-2019-01116850-CU-OE-CXC

1		earlier motion);
2 3	•	<i>Bancroft v. Trizechahn Corp.</i> , No. CV 02-2373 SVW (FMOx), Order Granting Plaintiffs Reasonable Attorneys' Fees and Costs In the Amount of \$168,886.76, Dkt. 278 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 14, 2006);
4	•	<i>Willoughby v. DT Credit Corp.</i> , No. CV 05-05907 MMM (CWx), Order Awarding Attorneys' Fees After Remand, Dkt. 65 (C.D. Cal. July 17, 2006);
5 6	•	<i>Oberfelder v. City of Petaluma</i> , 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 8635 (N.D. Cal. 2002), <i>aff'd</i> 2003 U.S. App. LEXIS 11371 (9th Cir. 2003).
7	13.	I have also been retained by various governmental entities, including the California
8	Attorney Gen	eral's office to consult with them and serve as their expert regarding the State's
9	affirmative at	torneys' fee claims. See, e.g., In re Tobacco Cases I, 216 Cal.App.4th 570, 584
10	(2013); Dep. 6	of Fair Employ. and Hous. v. Law Sch. Admission Council, Inc., No. 12-cv-08130,
11	2018 WL 579	1869 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 5, 2018).
12	14.	My opinion also has been cited repeatedly in unreported trial court decisions,
13	including by t	his Court. See, e.g. Campbell v. Barnes, Orange County Superior Court No. 30-
14	2020-011411	17-CU-WM-CXC, Order Granting Petitioners' Motion for an Award of Attorneys'
15	Fees, filed Jar	nuary 20, 2022 (summarized below).
16		A SUMMARY OF MY OPINION
17	15.	In my opinion, Counsel's hourly rates are well within the range of hourly rates that
18	the Los Angel	les/Orange County legal marketplace would compensate them for similar services
19	accomplishing	g similar results. To form my opinions in this case, I have familiarized myself
20	generally with	the history of the litigation, the nature of the legal work it required, the results
21	achieved, and	the attorneys' fees that Counsel request. To this end, I reviewed the draft fees
22	motion; the su	pporting declarations of Randy Renick and Sarah Grossman-Swenson, Plaintiffs
23	Preliminary A	pproval papers, Plaintiffs' appellate briefs, and the Court of Appeal's published
24	decision. I ha	we also consulted with Plaintiffs' attorneys about this motion and the underlying
25	facts and proc	edural history of the case. Further, I familiarized myself with the experience,
26	credentials, an	nd qualifications of the attorneys involved.
27		
28		
		8 ION OF RICHARD M. PEARL IN SUPPORT OF PLTFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S
	I DECEARAT	ION OF MOTION PULLEAND IN SUITONT OF LETTIS MOTION FOR ATTONNET S

FEES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS / Case No. 30-2019-01116850-CU-OE-CXC

1

COUNSEL'S HOURLY RATES ARE REASONABLE

2

16. It is my understanding that Plaintiffs' lodestar cross-check here is based on the

3 || following 2025 hourly rates:

Timekeeper	Position	Law School Class	2025 Rate
	Hadsell Stormer	Renick & Dai, LLP	
Randy Renick, Partner	Partner	1995	\$1,150.00
Cornelia Dai, Partner	Partner	1999	\$1,050.00
Sarah Cayer	Associate	2020	\$650.00
Andrea Loera	Associate	2021	\$600.0
Maria Stroud	Paralegal		\$375.0
Max Rosenfeld	Clerk		\$250.0
	McCracken, Stem	erman & Holsberry	
Richard G. McCracken	Partner/ Senior Counsel	1975	\$1,575.00
Sarah Grossman- Swenson	Partner	2008	\$975.0
Ivy Yan	Associate	2020	\$650.0
Emily Jo Coady	Associate	2022	\$625.0
Jacob Binder	Summer Clerk	2023	\$275.0
Isabelle Holt	Summer Clerk	2023	\$275.0
Sumona Gupta	Summer Clerk	2025	\$275.0
Gwyneth Byrne	Summer Clerk	2024	\$275.0
17. Under	r California law, Counsel's h	ourly rates are reasonable i	f they are within the
range of reasonable 1	rates charged by and judicial	y awarded to comparable a	ttorneys for
comparable work. Se	e Children's Hosp. & Med.	Ctr. v. Bonta, 97 Cal.App.4	th 740, 783 (2002). ¹
Here, it is my opinio	n that the 2025^2 hourly rates	Counsel request are well w	vithin the range of the

25

9

^{27 &}lt;sup>2</sup> Plaintiffs' Counsel are appropriately seeking their fees based on their 2025 rates. Fee awards are almost always determined based on current rates, *i.e.*, the attorney's rate at the time a motion for fees is made, rather than the historical rate at the time the work was performed. This is a common

non-contingent market rates charged by similarly qualified Los Angeles/Orange County area
 attorneys who regularly engage in civil litigation of comparable complexity.³ The following
 factors support my opinion:

Factor One: My Experience and Expertise. Initially, my opinion is based on my 4 18. 5 long experience and expertise regarding attorneys' fees, both as an advocate and as a recognized 6 fee expert. See, e.g., Wit v. United Behav. Health, supra, 578 F. Supp. 3d at 1079 ("the Court 7 places significant weight on Pearl's opinion"); Human Rights Defense Center v. County of Napa, 8 supra, 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 59778, *32, 2021 WL 1176640 ("Mr. Pearl has extensive 9 experience in the area of attorney billing rates in this district and has been widely relied upon by 10 both federal and state courts") Through my writing and practice, I have become familiar with the 11 non-contingent market rates charged by attorneys in California and elsewhere. This familiarity has 12 been obtained in several ways: (a) by handling attorneys' fee litigation; (b) by discussing fees with 13 other attorneys; (c) by obtaining declarations regarding prevailing market rates in cases in which I 14

21

rate."

^{and accepted practice to compensate attorneys for the delay in being paid,} *See, e.g., Graham v. DaimlerChrysler Corp*, 34 Cal. 4th 553 (2004); *Robles v. Employment Dev. Dept.*, 38 Cal. App.
5th 191, 205 (2019); Pearl, Cal. Fee Awards (3d ed., Mar. 2025 Update) § 9.113, p. 9-134.

¹⁷
¹⁸ In assessing the hourly rates for Plaintiffs' Pasadena and Oakland-based attorneys, I have looked to the rates charged in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County area, not just Orange County, because the Orange County legal marketplace is generally considered to be part of one "Los Angeles/Orange County" or "Southern California" market. Accordingly, I refer to the relevant

²⁰ market here as the Los Angeles/Orange County market. As the Court of Appeal recently recognized, trial courts are not restricted to the rates charged in the forum county; instead, the "forum" rule is very flexible:

^{While courts tend to default to the rates in the location in which the case was litigated to determine reasonableness (citation), the law does not} *require* this approach. (*Ibid.*) This is because the court's determination of the relevant legal "'market rate' ... lie[s] within [its] broad discretion." (Citation) In setting a reasonable rate, the court may consider various factors beyond the applicable legal community, such as the attorney's skill and experience, the nature of the work performed, the relevant area of expertise, and the attorney's customary billing rates. (Citation). As a result, the trial court is not legally confined to the four corners of the county where the case is tried to determine a reasonable

²⁷ Hoglund v. Sierra Nevada Miners-Memorial Hosp., 102 Cal.App.5th 56, 82 (2024) (italics the Court's; bold added; internal citations omitted).

represent attorneys seeking fees; and (d) by reviewing attorneys' fees applications and awards in 1 2 other cases, as well as surveys and articles on attorneys' fees in the legal newspapers and treatises. 3 As I explained above, I have testified before trial courts and arbitrators on numerous occasions, and have submitted expert testimony by declaration on hundreds of occasions. Each of those 4 5 efforts require me to be aware of the hourly rates being charged in the relevant community, especially those charged in the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas. Indeed, as shown above (¶¶ 6 7 11-14), my expert opinions on hourly rates have been cited repeatedly by Los Angeles and Orange 8 County area courts, including this Court.

9 19. Factor Two: Counsel's Stellar Credentials, Experience, and Performance. My 10 opinion is also based on my assessment of Plaintiffs' Counsel's exceptional levels of skill, 11 experience, and reputations, all of which would justify their rates as well within the range of 12 reasonable rates charged by and judicially awarded comparable attorneys for comparably complex 13 civil litigation. I have reviewed Plaintiffs' Counsel's qualifications, backgrounds, experience, 14 work product, and the results they have achieved. These materials include, for example, the Declaration of Sarah Grossman-Swenson, Plaintiffs' lead counsel, which describes the 15 16 background and experience of the MSH attorneys whose work on this action is being claimed and 17 the reasonableness of their hourly rates, and the Declaration of Randy Renick, which attests to the 18 background and experience of HSR&D attorneys and paraprofessionals, their roles in the case, and 19 the reasonableness of their hourly rates.

20 20. I have worked previously with McCracken, Stemerman & Holsberry and am quite
21 familiar with the high quality of work they perform, as well the excellent and well-deserved
22 reputation for high-quality representation they enjoy.

23

24

21. I also am quite familiar with the work, reputation, and skills of the Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai firm. Indeed, it is one of the premier plaintiffs-side law firms in the state.

25 22. Based on the information I reviewed and my own experience, it is my opinion that
a high level of skill and experience was necessary to secure the judgment against Defendants that
Plaintiffs' counsel were able to achieve here. I also am quite impressed by the efficiency with
which such broad relief was obtained. In my experience, cases of this breadth and scope are

¹¹

ordinarily handled by a multitude of law firms with a concomitantly much larger number of billing
 attorneys and paraprofessionals. The need to obtain a reversal of the initial adverse judgment, in a
 published opinion no less, is further evidence of Counsel's skill, expertise, and commitment.

4 23. Factor Three: Counsel's Actual Billing Rates. It also is significant to me that the
5 rates upon which Plaintiffs' cross-check is based are the rates they actually bill to and are paid by
6 fee-paying clients. *See* Renick Decl. ¶ 30; Swenson Decl. ¶ 12. The courts agree that this is a
7 significant factor. *See Metavante Corp. v Emigrant Sav. Bank*, 619 F3d 748, 774 (7th Cir 2010);
8 *Carson v Billings Police Dep't*, 470 F.3d 889, 892 (9th Cir. 2006) ("that a lawyer charges a
9 particular hourly rate, and gets it, is evidence bearing on what the market rate is, because the
10 lawyer and his clients are part of the market").

24. Factor Four: Counsel's Prior Fee Awards. The courts have found Counsel's
rates reasonable many times over the past several years. *See* Renick Decl. ¶¶ 33-42; Swenson
Decl. ¶ 15. These prior awards are strong evidence that Counsel's current rates are reasonable. *See, e.g., United Steelworkers v. Phelps Dodge Corp.*, 896 F.2d 403, 407 (9th Cir. 1990) ("[R]ate
determinations in other cases, *particularly those setting a rate for the plaintiffs' attorney*, are
satisfactory evidence of the prevailing market rate." (emphasis added)); *Margolin v. Regional Planning Comm'n*, 134 Cal. App. 3d 999, 1005 (1982) (same).

18 25. Counsel's current 2025 rates reflect only very modest increases over those prior 19 determinations and are firmly justified by rate increases in the legal marketplace. In fact, listed billing rates, court awards, and published articles show that attorney rates continue to grow 20 21 rapidly. For example, the Wolters Kluwer Real Rate Reports data for Los Angeles 22 partner/litigators shows that the Third Quartile rates rose from \$1,159 in 2023 to \$1,268 in 2024, a 23 9% increase. See ¶¶ 33-35 (discussing Exhibit D (page 16) and Exhibit E (page 16)). 26. 24 The legal media also confirms these significant rate increases in the legal 25 marketplace. See, e.g., David Thomas & Mike Scarcella, More lawyers join the \$3,000-an-hour 26 club, as other firms close in, Reuters (Feb. 27, 2025), https://www.reuters.com/legal/legalindustry/ 27 \$3000-an-hour-lawyer-isnt-unicorn-anymore-2025-02-27/ (top partners at Quinn Emanuel 28 Urguhart & Sullivan and Susman Godfrey charging \$3,000 an hour, with several other firms

DECLARATION OF RICHARD M. PEARL IN SUPPORT OF PLTFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS / Case No. 30-2019-01116850-CU-OE-CXC

1 charging hourly rates above \$2,500); Matt Hamilton & David Zahniser, DWP secures law firm, at 2 up to \$1,975 an hour, to defend against Palisades fire lawsuits, LA Times (Feb. 14, 2025), 3 https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-02-14/law-firm-1975-an-hour-defend-against-4 palisades-fire-lawsuits (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power approved \$10-million contract 5 with Munger, Tolles & Olson to defend against lawsuits from residents of homes destroyed in 6 Palisades fire, with partners charging \$1,975 an hour). Debra Cassens Weiss, Some top partners in 7 BigLaw will bill nearly \$3,000 per hour next year, data says, ABA Journal (Sept. 26, 2024), 8 https://www.abajournal.com/news/article/some-top-partners-in-biglaw-will-bill-nearly-3000-an-9 hour-next-year-report-saysd (listing BigLaw 2024 rates for partners that range up to \$2,720 per hour 10 at California's Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati); Dan Roe, Top Big Law Partners Are Earning More Than \$2,400 Now, As Rates Continue to Climb, Law.com (Jan. 10, 2024), 11 12 https://www.law.com/americanlawyer/2024/01/10/top-restructuring-partners-are-earning-more-13 than-2400-per-hour-as-rates-continue-to-climb/?slreturn=20250329-35134 (listing numerous Big 14 Law firm rates, some approaching \$2,600 per hour). Similarly, Wells Fargo's Legal Specialty 15 Group reports that its 2023 year-end survey of 130 law firms' rates showed an 8.3% increase for 16 2023; its most recent survey showed average rate increases of 9.1% over the first six-months of 17 2024. See Debra Cassens Weiss, 'Very strong performance' reported for law firms in 2024, 18 27. In light of the increased skill, experience, and reputations Plaintiffs' Counsel have 19 achieved over the past several years, as well as significant rate increases in the legal marketplace 20 generally, it is my opinion that their current 2025 rates are reasonable. 21 28. Factor Five: Recent Hourly Rate Determinations by Los Angeles Area Courts. 22 My opinion also is based on the numerous hourly rate determinations made by Los Angeles Area 23 trial courts, as set out in **Exhibit B**, "Los Angeles Area Court-Approved Rates." **Exhibit B** is a list 24 that I have prepared and maintained which compiles attorney fee rates that courts recently have 25 found to be reasonable for Los Angeles Area attorneys and which demonstrate that Plaintiffs' 26 Counsel's rates here are well within the applicable range. These findings are entitled to significant 27 weight. See, e.g., United Steelworkers of Am. v. Phelps Dodge Corp., supra, 896 F.2d at 407 28 (courts may look to rates awarded to comparable attorneys as evidence of claiming attorneys' 13 DECLARATION OF RICHARD M. PEARL IN SUPPORT OF PLTFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S

ECLARATION OF RICHARD M. PEARL IN SUPPORT OF PLTFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS / Case No. 30-2019-01116850-CU-OE-CXC

1	rates). The following example	nples amply support my vie	ew:	
2	• In <i>Liu, et a</i>	ıl v. California Public Empl	oyees; Retirement	System et al, Los Angeles
3	Superior C	t. No. 19STCP04056, Rulin	ng on Petitioners' N	Iotion for Attorneys; Fees
4	filed April	30, 2025, a challenge to CA	ALPERS's classific	ation of lump-sum
5	payments f	for pension purposes, the co	ourt found that the f	ollowing hourly rates were
6	reasonable	(before applying a 1.5 lode	star multiplier), inc	eluding the 2024 rates
7	requested l	by the Hadsell Stormer Ren	ick & Dai firm:	
8		YEARS OF EXPERIENCE	RATES]
9		50	\$1,500	-
10		46	\$1,050	-
10		24	\$975	
11		23	\$875	
12		12	\$875	_
12		10	\$700	-
13		Non-Attorneys	#2 00	-
14		Paralegals	\$280	
15	• In Ecologi	cal Rights Foundation et al	v. Hot Line Constr	uction Inc., Case No.
16	5:20-cv-01	108-AB-kk (C.D. Cal. 2024	4), Order Granting	Plaintiffs' Motion for
17	Attorneys'	Fees and Costs filed July 1	9, 2024 (Doc. 276)	, the federal court found
18	the followi	ng 2023 hourly rates reason	nable for the plainti	ff's environmental action:
19		BAR ADMISSION]
20		YEAR 1986	RATES \$1,055	
21		<u>1998</u> 2000	<u>\$965</u> \$950	
22		2005 2012	\$910 \$825	
23		2012 2014 2017	\$755 \$660	
24		2023	\$455	-
25		Non-Attornevs Paralegals	\$265-\$350]
26	• In Hoffman	n v. City of Los Angeles, Lo	s Angeles Superior	Court No BC672326
27		nting Final Approval of Cla	0 1	
28				-
	rees, etc.,	filed December 20, 2023, a 14	class action challen	ige to the City's sewer
		HARD M. PEARL IN SUPPO		OTION FOR ATTORNEY'S
	FEES AND REIM	BURSEMENT OF COSTS /	Case No. 30-2019-01	116850-CU-OE-CXC
	1			

1		charges, the court approved class counsel's request for 33% common fund fee. As a
2		cross-check, it found that the following 2023 hourly rates were reasonable: \$1,125
3		for a 36-year attorney; \$900 per hour for a 19-year attorney; \$1,100 for a 34-year
4		attorney: and \$575 for an 8-year attorney. (The court also found that the resulting
5		2.74 lodestar multiplier was reasonable.)
6	•	In Valenzuela v. City of Anaheim, Case No. SACV 17-002278-CJC (DFMx) (C.D.
7		Cal. Feb. 2, 2023), Order Granting in Substantial Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney
8		Fees (Doc 462), a police misconduct action, the court found to be reasonable the
9		2023 hourly rates of \$1,075 for a 2005 law school graduate, \$850 for 2006 law
10		school graduate, and \$650 for a 2017 law school graduate:
11		LAW SCHOOL YEARRATES1984\$1,200
12		2005 \$1,075
13		2006 \$850 2007 \$850
14		2017 \$650
15	•	In the Southern California Gas Leak Cases, Los Angeles County Superior Ct. No.
16		BC601844, Jud. Council Coord. Proceeding No. 4861, Order Granting Class
17		Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Litigation Costs, and Service Awards filed
18		April 29, 2022, the Los Angeles County Superior Court found the 2022 hourly rates
19		reasonable for the firm Keller Rohrback, including, for example: \$1,045 per hour
20		for lawyers with 22-23 years of experience, \$795 for lawyers with 13 years of
21		experience, and \$650-700 for lawyers with 8 years of experience.
22	•	In Tran v. Golden State FC LLC, et al. (LASC Case No. BC699931), Fee Order
23		filed April 8, 2022, another individual employment action, the court found the
24		2022 hourly rates of \$1,300 per hour reasonable for plaintiff's 32-year attorney
25		and \$1,000 per hour reasonable for a 14-year attorney.
26	•	In Hope Med. Enterprises v. Fagron Compounding Serv. LLC, 2022 WL 4904774,
27		at *3 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 14, 2022), the court found in 2022 that "billing rates of \$895
28		to \$1,295 per hour for partners and counsel, and between \$565 and \$985 for
	DECLARAT	15 TION OF RICHARD M. PEARL IN SUPPORT OF PLTFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S
		S AND REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS / Case No. 30-2019-01116850-CU-OE-CXC

1	associ	ates is reasonable within the legal c	community of Los A	ngeles for attorneys of
2	simila	r skill and experience."		
3	• In Car	mpbell v. Barnes, Orange County S	uperior Court No. 30	0-2020-01141117-CU-
4	WM-0	CXC, Order Granting Petitioners' M	lotion for an Award	of Attorneys' Fees,
5	filed J	anuary 20, 2022, a case challenging	g inadequacies in the	e County jail's
6	respor	nse to the Covid epidemic in which	I also testified as the	e plaintiffs' fee expert,
7	-	ourt found the following hourly rate		1 1 7
8		LAW SCHOOL		1
9		GRADUATION YEAR	RATES	-
9		Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP	<u>Φ1 010</u>	-
10		2003	\$1,210	-
10		2013	\$850	-
11		2015	\$750	_
11		2016	\$700	
10		2017	\$650	
12		2018	\$550	
		ACLU		1
13			¢1 210	-
		<u>1988, 2000, and 2003</u>	\$1,210	-
14		2007	\$950	-
		2009	\$900	
15		2015	\$750	
10		2016	\$700	1
16				4
10		2017	\$650	
17				
1				
18	29. The ra	ites requested here by Plaintiffs' Co	ounsel are well withi	n the range of Los
19	Angeles/Orange Cou	nty area rates found reasonable in t	hese cases and other	rs set out in <u>Exhibit B</u> .
20	30. Facto	r Six: Hourly Rates Stated by Ca	lifornia Employme	nt Lawyers.
21	Counsel's hourly rate	es also are well within the range of	the stated non-contin	ngent hourly rates
22	charged by numerous	s California law firms that regularly	engage in complex	employment
23	litigation. The follow	ving examples illustrate this point:		
	• In 202	24, Bernard Alexander III of Alexar	der Morrison & Fal	or a 38-year attornoy
24		-		ii, a 38-year attorney,
	billed	his time at \$1,250 per hour.		
25	• In 202	5 Drian Hannamann a 21 5 years	ttornov dealared his	a hourly rate to he
26		25, Brian Hannemann, a 31.5-year a 0 per hour.	ttorney, declared ms	s nourry rate to be
-	т. е о о			
27		25, Chris H. Whelan, Inc. billed its	tounding 47-year att	orney at \$1,600 per
- '	hour.			
28	- 1 000	5 W James D-C. 1 111 1	the farm time of	a 20 5
-0	• In 202	25, V. James DeSimone Law billed	its founding partner	a 39.3-year attorney
		16		
	DECLARATION OF	FRICHARD M. PEARL IN SUPPOR	Г OF PLTFFS' MOTI	ON FOR ATTORNEY'S
		REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS / Cas		
	1			

1	at \$1,200 per hour.
2	• In 2025, Rager & Yoon billed its founding partner an 18.5-year attorney at \$1,050 per hour.
3	 In 2025, Larry Organ, a 20.5-year attorney, declared that his hourly rate to be \$1,100 per hour.
5	 In 2025, Nichols Law, PC, billed its founding partner a 20.5-year attorney at \$950 per hour.
6 7	 In 2023, Shegerian & Associates billed its 16, 20, and 32-year attorneys at \$1,300 per hour and its 14-year attorney at \$1,000 per hour.
8	• Also in 2023, the Genie Harrison law firm billed its 31-year attorney at \$1,050 per hour.
9	• In 2022, Hennig, Kramer, Ruiz and Singh billed its 28-year attorney at \$1,060 per
10	hour.
11	Likewise, the reasonableness of Plaintiffs' Counsel's rates is further confirmed by public
12	information concerning the rates charged by and paid to attorneys representing PG&E in its
13	Bankruptcy proceedings in July 2020 (<u>Exhibit C</u>). ⁴ <u>Exhibit C</u> shows that, in July 2020, PG&E's
14	attorneys billed a 19-year attorney at \$1,535 per hour, a 15-year attorney at \$1,220 per hour, and a
15	7-year attorney at \$1,095 per hour. Plaintiffs' Counsel's 2025 rates here are significantly lower.
16	31. Factor Seven: Credible Rate Surveys. Credible surveys of law firm rates show
16 17	31. Factor Seven: Credible Rate Surveys. Credible surveys of law firm rates show that Plaintiffs' Counsel's rates are well within the range of the local legal marketplace. I base this
17	
17	that Plaintiffs' Counsel's rates are well within the range of the local legal marketplace. I base this
17 18	that Plaintiffs' Counsel's rates are well within the range of the local legal marketplace. I base this opinion on relevant excerpts from the 2023 and 2024 annual Real Rate Reports ("RRR")
17 18 19	that Plaintiffs' Counsel's rates are well within the range of the local legal marketplace. I base this opinion on relevant excerpts from the 2023 and 2024 annual Real Rate Reports ("RRR") published by Wolters Kluwer, <u>Exhibits D–E</u> . The Real Rate Reports analyze legal invoices to ⁴ Although the instant proceedings were in Orange County Superior Court, the PG&E bankruptcy
17 18 19 20	that Plaintiffs' Counsel's rates are well within the range of the local legal marketplace. I base this opinion on relevant excerpts from the 2023 and 2024 annual Real Rate Reports ("RRR") published by Wolters Kluwer, <u>Exhibits D–E</u> . The Real Rate Reports analyze legal invoices to ⁴ Although the instant proceedings were in Orange County Superior Court, the PG&E bankruptcy rates are still highly relevant because federal bankruptcy rules require that firms attest that the rates they are requesting do not exceed their rates for other types of work. <i>See, e.g.</i> , Guidelines for
17 18 19 20 21	that Plaintiffs' Counsel's rates are well within the range of the local legal marketplace. I base this opinion on relevant excerpts from the 2023 and 2024 annual Real Rate Reports ("RRR") published by Wolters Kluwer, <u>Exhibits D–E</u> . The Real Rate Reports analyze legal invoices to ⁴ Although the instant proceedings were in Orange County Superior Court, the PG&E bankruptcy rates are still highly relevant because federal bankruptcy rules require that firms attest that the rates they are requesting do not exceed their rates for other types of work. <i>See, e.g.</i> , Guidelines for Compensation and Expense Reimbursement of Professionals and Plaintiff's Counselees for the Northern District of California, effective February 19, 2014, https://www.canb.uscourts.gov/
 17 18 19 20 21 22 	that Plaintiffs' Counsel's rates are well within the range of the local legal marketplace. I base this opinion on relevant excerpts from the 2023 and 2024 annual Real Rate Reports ("RRR") published by Wolters Kluwer, <u>Exhibits D–E</u> . The Real Rate Reports analyze legal invoices to ⁴ Although the instant proceedings were in Orange County Superior Court, the PG&E bankruptcy rates are still highly relevant because federal bankruptcy rules require that firms attest that the rates they are requesting do not exceed their rates for other types of work. <i>See, e.g.</i> , Guidelines for Compensation and Expense Reimbursement of Professionals and Plaintiff's Counselees for the Northern District of California, effective February 19, 2014, https://www.canb.uscourts.gov/procedure/guidelines-compensation-and-expense-reimbursement-professional-and-trustees at § 8 (requiring certification that, among other things, "the compensation and expense reimbursement
 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 	that Plaintiffs' Counsel's rates are well within the range of the local legal marketplace. I base this opinion on relevant excerpts from the 2023 and 2024 annual Real Rate Reports ("RRR") published by Wolters Kluwer, Exhibits D–E . The Real Rate Reports analyze legal invoices to ⁴ Although the instant proceedings were in Orange County Superior Court, the PG&E bankruptcy rates are still highly relevant because federal bankruptcy rules require that firms attest that the rates they are requesting do not exceed their rates for other types of work. <i>See, e.g.</i> , Guidelines for Compensation and Expense Reimbursement of Professionals and Plaintiff's Counselees for the Northern District of California, effective February 19, 2014, https://www.canb.uscourts.gov/ procedure/guidelines-compensation-and-expense-reimbursement-professional-and-trustees at § 8 (requiring certification that, among other things, "the compensation and expense reimbursement requested are billed at rates, in accordance with practices, no less favorable than those customarily employed by the applicant and generally accepted by the applicant's clients"); Guidelines for
 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 	that Plaintiffs' Counsel's rates are well within the range of the local legal marketplace. I base this opinion on relevant excerpts from the 2023 and 2024 annual Real Rate Reports ("RRR") published by Wolters Kluwer, Exhibits D–E . The Real Rate Reports analyze legal invoices to ⁴ Although the instant proceedings were in Orange County Superior Court, the PG&E bankruptcy rates are still highly relevant because federal bankruptcy rules require that firms attest that the rates they are requesting do not exceed their rates for other types of work. <i>See, e.g.</i> , Guidelines for Compensation and Expense Reimbursement of Professionals and Plaintiff's Counselees for the Northern District of California, effective February 19, 2014, https://www.canb.uscourts.gov/procedure/guidelines-compensation-and-expense-reimbursement-professional-and-trustees at § 8 (requiring certification that, among other things, "the compensation and expense reimbursement requested are billed at rates, in accordance with practices, no less favorable than those customarily employed by the applicant and generally accepted by the applicant's clients"); Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed Under United States Code by Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Cases, https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/
 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 	that Plaintiffs' Counsel's rates are well within the range of the local legal marketplace. I base this opinion on relevant excerpts from the 2023 and 2024 annual Real Rate Reports ("RRR") published by Wolters Kluwer, <u>Exhibits D–E</u> . The Real Rate Reports analyze legal invoices to ⁴ Although the instant proceedings were in Orange County Superior Court, the PG&E bankruptcy rates are still highly relevant because federal bankruptcy rules require that firms attest that the rates they are requesting do not exceed their rates for other types of work. <i>See, e.g.</i> , Guidelines for Compensation and Expense Reimbursement of Professionals and Plaintiff's Counselees for the Northern District of California, effective February 19, 2014, https://www.canb.uscourts.gov/ procedure/guidelines-compensation-and-expense-reimbursement-professional-and-trustees at § 8 (requiring certification that, among other things, "the compensation and expense reimbursement requested are billed at rates, in accordance with practices, no less favorable than those customarily employed by the applicant and generally accepted by the applicant's clients"); Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimburssement of Expenses Filed Under United States Code by Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Cases, https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/ files/ust/legacy/2012/11/02/AppendixB_Fee_Guidelines_Exhibits_Comments.pdf; 78 Fed. Reg. 36248, 36250 (June 17, 2013) ("The United States Trustee will ordinarily object to fees that are above the market rate for comparable services."), at https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-
 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 	that Plaintiffs' Counsel's rates are well within the range of the local legal marketplace. I base this opinion on relevant excerpts from the 2023 and 2024 annual Real Rate Reports ("RRR") published by Wolters Kluwer, Exhibits D–E . The Real Rate Reports analyze legal invoices to ⁴ Although the instant proceedings were in Orange County Superior Court, the PG&E bankruptcy rates are still highly relevant because federal bankruptcy rules require that firms attest that the rates they are requesting do not exceed their rates for other types of work. <i>See, e.g.</i> , Guidelines for Compensation and Expense Reimbursement of Professionals and Plaintiff's Counselees for the Northern District of California, effective February 19, 2014, https://www.canb.uscourts.gov/ procedure/guidelines-compensation-and-expense-reimbursement-professional-and-trustees at § 8 (requiring certification that, among other things, "the compensation and expense reimbursement requested are billed at rates, in accordance with practices, no less favorable than those customarily employed by the applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed Under United States Code by Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Cases, https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ust/legacy/2012/11/02/AppendixB_Fee_Guidelines_Exhibits_Comments.pdf; 78 Fed. Reg. 36250 (June 17, 2013) ("The United States Trustee will ordinarily object to fees that are above the market rate for comparable services."), at https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2013-06-17/pdf/2013-14323.pdf.
 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 	that Plaintiffs' Counsel's rates are well within the range of the local legal marketplace. I base this opinion on relevant excerpts from the 2023 and 2024 annual Real Rate Reports ("RRR") published by Wolters Kluwer, <u>Exhibits D–E</u> . The Real Rate Reports analyze legal invoices to ⁴ Although the instant proceedings were in Orange County Superior Court, the PG&E bankruptcy rates are still highly relevant because federal bankruptcy rules require that firms attest that the rates they are requesting do not exceed their rates for other types of work. <i>See, e.g.</i> , Guidelines for Compensation and Expense Reimbursement of Professionals and Plaintiff's Counselees for the Northern District of California, effective February 19, 2014, https://www.canb.uscourts.gov/ procedure/guidelines-compensation-and-expense-reimbursement-professional-and-trustees at § 8 (requiring certification that, among other things, "the compensation and expense reimbursement requested are billed at rates, in accordance with practices, no less favorable than those customarily employed by the applicant and generally accepted by the applicant's clients"); Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimburssement of Expenses Filed Under United States Code by Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Cases, https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/ files/ust/legacy/2012/11/02/AppendixB_Fee_Guidelines_Exhibits_Comments.pdf; 78 Fed. Reg. 36248, 36250 (June 17, 2013) ("The United States Trustee will ordinarily object to fees that are above the market rate for comparable services."), at https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-

determine the range of hourly rates actually charged in a particular locale. See Vogel v. MS Food 1 Servs., No. 16-cv-8433 DSF, 2018 WL 11027947, at *3 (C.D. Cal. Dec. 26, 2018) (Real Rate 2 3 Report "is based on actual legal billing, matter information, and paid and processed invoices from more than 90 companies - not just on posted or advertised rates."); RG Abrams Ins. v. Law 4 5 Offices of C.R. Abrams, 342 F.R.D. 461, 524 n.13 (C.D. Cal. 2022) (same).

6 32. The Real Rate Reports analyze legal invoices to determine the range of hourly rates 7 actually charged in a particular locale, which they classify by "First Quartile," "Median," and 8 "Third Quartile" rates. As such, they have been found to be a useful source for determining hourly 9 rates in the cases cited above and others. See, e.g., Monster Energy Co. v. Vital Pharms., Inc. (C.D. Cal. 2023) 2023 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 211875, at *69 (citing to Report's Third Quartile rates); 10 French v. City of Los Angeles, supra, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 111194, at *52 ("this Court has 11 12 found that the [2021] Real Rate Report provides a helpful reference point and consults it here," 13 citing Report's Third Quartile rates).

14 33. The 2024 and 2023 Real Rate Reports (Exhibits D and E respectively) squarely confirm that Counsel's rates here are well "within the range" of rates charged in the Los Angeles Area 15 16 legal marketplace. For example, page 16 of the 2024 Report (Exhibit D) analyzes the rates 17 charged by 350 Los Angeles Area "Litigation" partners. For this category, the Third Quartile Los Angeles Area hourly rate was \$1,268. Here, Counsel's skills, experience, and performance 18 19 certainly qualify them for rates in the Third Quartile range -i.e., rates that are lower than the rates 20 that 25% of Los Angeles area litigators charge. See, e.g., Monster Energy Co. v. Vital Pharms., Inc., supra, 2023 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 211875, at *69 (citing to Report's Third Quartile rates); French 21 22 v. City of Los Angeles, supra, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 111194, at *52 (same).

23

34. Exhibit D also analyzes the rates charged for 385 "Litigation" associates. For this 24 category, the Third Quartile rate was \$946 per hour, approximately 50% higher than the rates 25 Plaintiffs' Counsel are billing here for their associates.

26 35. Likewise, page 16 of the 2023 Report (Exhibit E) analyzes the 2023 rates charged 27 by 302 Los Angeles Area "Litigation" partners. For this category, the Third Quartile Los Angeles 28 Area hourly rate was \$1,159. Similarly, pages 30 and 31 list the Third Quartile rate charged by

¹⁸

154 Los Angeles area partners with fewer than 21 years and 284 partners with 21 or more years,
 respectively. The Third Quartile rate for these categories were \$1,102 and \$1,188 per hour
 respectively. Given Counsel's stellar performance here, along with their exceptional expertise, the
 exceptional results obtained in this novel case, and two years of increases in the legal market
 generally, it is clear that Counsel's rates would rank well above even the Third Quartile rates in
 this legal marketplace.

36. As demonstrated by these surveys, Plaintiffs' Counsel's considerable reputation,
experience, expertise, and skills, as demonstrated by this matter, as well as the significant
increases in attorney rates over the past several years, their requested 2025 rates here are well
within the range of rates charged in the Los Angeles legal marketplace.

37. Counsel's paralegal (\$375) and clerks (\$250-\$275) hourly rates are also within the
range of reasonable rates charged by and judicially awarded to similarly experienced paralegals in
the above-mentioned sources. In *Ecological Rights Foundation et al v. Hot Line Construction Inc.*, *supra*, for example, the court found the requested 2023 paralegal rate of \$350 to be reasonable.
Similarly, I am aware that in 2023, the prominent class action firm Lieff Cabraser billed law clerks
at \$295 to \$425 per hour while Boies Schiller & Flexner LLP charged \$350 - \$500.

17

CONCLUSION

38. The foregoing facts fully support my opinion that Plaintiffs' Counsel's hourly rates
for their work in this litigation are readily in line with the range of rates charged by and awarded
to comparably qualified attorneys and paraprofessionals for comparable services in the Los
Angeles area legal community.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
foregoing is true and correct. This declaration is executed at Berkeley, California this 17th day of
July, 2025.

24	July, 2025.
25	$\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}$
26	Bulun Bearl
27	Richard M. Pearl
28	
	19
	DECLARATION OF RICHARD M. PEARL IN SUPPORT OF PLTFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S
	FEES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS / Case No. 30 2010 01116850 CU OF CYC

EXHIBIT A

RESUME OF RICHARD M. PEARL

RICHARD M. PEARL LAW OFFICES OF RICHARD M. PEARL 1816 Fifth Street Berkeley, CA 94710

(510) 649-0810 (510) 548-3143 (facsimile) rpearl@interx.net (e-mail)

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley, B.A., Economics (June 1966) Berkeley School of Law (formerly Boalt Hall), Berkeley, J.D. (June 1969)

BAR MEMBERSHIP

Member, State Bar of California (admitted February 1970)

Member, State Bar of Georgia (admitted June 1970) (inactive)

Admitted to practice before all California State Courts; the United States Supreme Court; the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and Ninth Circuits; the United States District Courts for the Northern, Central, Eastern, and Southern Districts of California, for the District of Arizona, and for the Northern District of Georgia; and the Georgia Civil and Superior Courts and Court of Appeals.

EMPLOYMENT

LAW OFFICES OF RICHARD M. PEARL (April 1987 to Present): Civil litigation practice (AV rating), with emphasis on court-awarded attorney fees, class actions, and appellate practice. Selected Northern California "Super Lawyer" in Appellate Law for 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

QUALIFIED APPELLATE MEDIATOR, APPELLATE MEDIATION PROGRAM, California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District (October 2000 to 2013) (program terminated).

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, HASTINGS COLLEGE OF THE LAW (January 1988 to 2014): Taught *Public Interest Law Practice*, a 2-unit course that focused on the history, strategies, and issues involved in the practice of public interest law.

PEARL, McNEILL & GILLESPIE, Partner (May 1982 to March 1987): General civil litigation practice, as described above.

CALIFORNIA RURAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE, INC. (July 1971 to September 1983) (part-time May 1982 to September 1983):

Director of Litigation (July 1977 to July 1982) Responsibilities: Oversaw and supervised litigation of more than 50 attorneys in CRLA's 15 field offices; administered and supervised staff of 4-6 Regional Counsel; promulgated litigation policies and procedures for program; participated in complex civil litigation.

Regional Counsel (July 1982 to September 1983 part-time) Responsibilities: Served as co-counsel to CRLA field attorneys on complex projects; provided technical assistance and training to CRLA field offices; oversaw CRLA attorney's fee cases; served as counsel on major litigation.

Directing Attorney, Cooperative Legal Services Center (February 1974 to July 1977) (Staff Attorney February 1974 to October 1975) Responsibilities: Served as co-counsel on major litigation with legal services attorneys in small legal services offices throughout California; supervised and administered staff of four senior legal services attorneys and support staff.

Directing Attorney, CRLA McFarland Office (July 1971 to February 1974) (Staff Attorney July 1971 to February 1972) Responsibilities: Provided legal representation to low income persons and groups in Kern, King, and Tulare Counties; supervised all litigation and administered staff of ten.

HASTINGS COLLEGE OF THE LAW, Instructor, Legal Writing and Research Program (August 1974 to June 1978) Responsibilities: Instructed 20 to 25 first year students in legal writing and research.

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD, Staff Attorney, General Counsel's Office (November 1975 to January 1976, while on leave from CRLA) Responsibilities: Prosecuted unfair labor practice charges before Administrative Law Judges and the A.L.R.B. and represented the A.L.R.B. in state court proceedings.

ATLANTA LEGAL AID SOCIETY, Staff Attorney (October 1969 to June 1971) Responsibilities: Represented low-income persons and groups as part of 36-lawyer legal services program located in Atlanta, Georgia.

PUBLICATIONS

Pearl, *California Attorney Fee Awards, Third Edition* (Cal. Cont. Ed. Bar 2010) and February 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and March 2024 Supplements

Pearl, *California Attorney Fee Awards, Second Edition* (Cal. Cont. Ed. Bar 1994), and 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 Supplements

Best Practices for Litigating a Civil Code Section 1717 Motion for Attorney Fees, with the Hon. Elizabeth R. Feffer (Ret.), California Litigation (The Journal of the Litigation Section of the California Lawyers Association, Vol. 35, No. 1, 2022)

Graham v. DaimlerChrysler Corp. and Tipton-Whittingham v. City of Los Angeles, Civil Litigation Reporter (Cal. Cont. Ed. Bar Feb. 2005)

Current Issues in Attorneys' Fee Litigation, California Labor and Employment Law Quarterly (September 2002 and November 2002)

Flannery v. Prentice: Shifting Attitudes Toward Fee Agreements and Fee-Shifting Statutes, Civil Litigation Reporter (Cal. Cont. Ed. Bar Nov. 2001)

A Practical Introduction to Attorney's Fees, Environmental Law News (Summer 1995)

Wrongful Employment Termination Practice, Second Edition (Cal. Cont. Ed. Bar 1997) (co-authored chapter on "Attorney Fees")

California Attorney's Fees Award Practice (Cal. Cont. Ed. Bar 1982) (edited), and 1984 through 1993 Supplements

Program materials on attorney fees for numerous trainings, including for California Continuing Education of the Bar, the California Employment Lawyers Association, the California Lawyers Association, the California Department of Fair Housing and Employment, the Environmental Law, Labor Law, and Appellate Sections of the California State Bar, the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers, and many others.

Settlors Beware/The Dangers of Negotiating Statutory Fee Cases (September 1985) Los Angeles Lawyer

Program Materials on Remedies Training (Class Actions), sponsored by Legal Services Section, California State Bar, San Francisco (May 1983)

Attorneys' Fees: A Legal Services Practice Manual (Legal Services Corporation 1981)

PUBLIC SERVICE

Member, Attorneys' Fee Task Force, California State Bar

Member, Board of Directors, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

Former Member, Border of Directors, Meals on Wheels of San Francisco (former)

RECOGNITION

"AV" Rating -- Martindale Hubbell

Northern California "Super Lawyer" in Appellate Law: 2005 – 2008; 2010 -2025.

REPRESENTATIVE CASES

ACLU of N. Cal. v. DEA (N.D. Cal. 2012) 2012 U.S.Dist.LEXIS 190389

Alcoser v. Thomas (2011) 2011 Cal.App.Unpub.LEXIS 1180

Arias v. Raimondo (2018) 2018 U.S.App.LEXIS 7484

Boren v. California Department of Employment (1976) 59 Cal.App.3d 250

Cabrera v. Martin (9th Cir. 1992) 973 F.2d 735

Camacho v. Bridgeport Financial, Inc. (9th Cir. 2008) 523 F.3d 973

Campos v. E.D.D. (1982) 132 Cal.App.3d 961

Center for Biological Diversity v. County of San Bernardino (2010) 185 Cal.App.4th 866

Children & Families Commission of Fresno v. Brown (2014) 228 Cal.App.4th 45

Committee to Defend Reproductive Rights v. A Free Pregnancy Center (1991) 229 Cal.App.3d 633

David C. v. Leavitt (D. Utah 1995) 900 F.Supp. 1547

Delaney v. Baker (1999) 10 Cal.4th 23

- Dixon v. City of Oakland (2014) 2014 U.S.Dist.LEXIS 169688
- Employment Development Dept. v. Superior Court (Boren) (1981) 30 Cal.3d 256
- Environmental Protection Info. Ctr. v Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (2010) 190 Cal.App.4th 217
- *Environmental Protection Information Center, Inc. v. Pacific Lumber Co.* (N.D. Cal. 2002) 229 F. Supp.2d 993, *aff'd* (9th Cir. 2004) 103 Fed. Appx. 627
- Flannery v Prentice (2001) 26 Cal. 4th 572
- Graham v. DaimlerChrysler Corp. (2004) 34 Cal. 4th 553
- Guerrero v. Cal. Dept. of Corrections etc. (2016) 2016 U.S.Dist.LEXIS 78796, aff'd in relevant part, (9th Cir. 2017) 701 Fed.Appx. 613
- Heron Bay Home Owners Assn. v. City of San Leandro (2018) 19 Cal.App.5th 376
- Horsford v. Board of Trustees of Univ. of Calif. (2005) 132 Cal.App.4th 359
- *Ketchum v. Moses* (2001) 24 Cal.4th 1122
- Kievlan v. Dahlberg Electronics (1978) 78 Cal.App.3d 951, cert. denied (1979) 440 U.S. 951

Lealao v. Beneficial California, Inc. (2000) 82 Cal.App.4th 19

Lewis v. California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board (1976) 56 Cal.App.3d 729

- Local 3-98 etc. v. Donovan (N.D. Cal. 1984) 580 F.Supp. 714, aff'd (9th Cir. 1986) 792 F.2d 762
- Mangold v. California Public Utilities Commission (9th Cir. 1995) 67 F.3d 1470
- Maria P. v. Riles (1987) 43 Cal.3d 1281
- Martinez v. Dunlop (N.D. Cal. 1976) 411 F.Supp. 5, aff'd (9th Cir. 1977) 573 F.2d 555
- McQueen, Conservatorship of (2014) 59 Cal.4th 602 (argued for *amici curiae*)
- McSomebodies v. Burlingame Elementary School Dist. (9th Cir. 1990) 897 F.2d 974

McSomebodies v. San Mateo City School Dist. (9th Cir. 1990) 897 F.2d 975

- Molina v. Lexmark International (2013) 2013 Cal.App. Unpub. LEXIS 6684
- Moore v. Bank of America (9th Cir. 2007) 2007 U.S. App. LEXIS 19597
- Moore v. Bank of America (S.D. Cal. 2008) 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 904
- Mora v. Chem-Tronics, Inc. (S.D. Cal. 1999) 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 10752, 5 Wage & Hour Cas. 2d (BNA) 1122
- Nadaf-Rahrov v. Nieman Marcus Group (2014) 2014 Cal.App. Unpub. LEXIS 6975

Orr v. Brame

(9th Cir. 2018) 727 Fed.Appx. 265, 2018 U.S.App.LEXIS 6094

Orr v. Brame

(9th Cir. 2019) 793 Fed.Appx. 485

Pena v. Superior Court of Kern County (1975) 50 Cal.App.3d 694

Ponce v. Tulare County Housing Authority (E.D. Cal 1975) 389 F.Supp. 635

Ramirez v. Runyon (N.D. Cal. 1999) 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 20544

Ridgeway v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., 269 F. Supp. 3d 975 (N.D. Cal. 2017), *aff'd on merits (fees not appealed)* 269 F.3d 1066 (9th Cir. 2020)

Robles v. Employment Dev. Dept. (2019) 38 Cal.App.5th 191

Rubio v. Superior Court (1979) 24 Cal.3d 93 (amicus)

Ruelas v. Harper (2015) 2015 Cal.App. Unpub.LEXIS 7922

Sokolow v. County of San Mateo (1989) 213 Cal. App. 3d. 231

S.P. Growers v. Rodriguez (1976) 17 Cal.3d 719 (amicus)

Swan v. Tesconi (2015) 2015 Cal.App. Unpub. LEXIS 3891

Tongol v. Usery

(9th Cir. 1979) 601 F.2d 1091, *on remand* (N.D. Cal. 1983) 575 F.Supp. 409, *revs'd* (9th Cir. 1985) 762 F.2d 727

Tripp v. Swoap

(1976) 17 Cal.3d 671 (amicus)

United States (Davis) v. City and County of San Francisco (N.D. Cal. 1990) 748 F.Supp. 1416, aff'd in part and revs'd in part sub nom Davis v. City and County of San Francisco (9th Cir. 1992) 976 F.2d 1536, modified on rehearing (9th Cir. 1993) 984 F.2d 345

United States v. City of San Diego (S.D.Cal. 1998) 18 F.Supp.2d 1090

Vasquez v. State of California (2008) 45 Cal.4th 243 (amicus)

Velez v. Wynne

(9th Cir. 2007) 2007 U.S. App. LEXIS 2194

FEBRUARY 2025

EXHIBIT B

Exhibit B

Rates Approved by Los Angeles Area Courts

2025 Rates

In *Liu, et al v. California Public Employees; Retirement System et al,* Los Angeles Superior Ct. No. 19STCP04056, Ruling on Petitioners' Motion for Attorneys Fees, filed April 30, 2025, a challenge to CALPERS's classification of lump-sum payments for pension purposes, Department 12 SSC of the Los Angeles County Superior Court found that the following hourly rates were reasonable (before applying a 1.5 lodestar multiplier):

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE	RATES
50	\$1,500
46	\$1,050
24	\$975
23	\$875
12	\$875
10	\$700
Non-Attorneys	
Paralegals	\$280

2024 Rates

 In Ecological Rights Foundation et al v. Hot Line Construction Inc. (C.D.Cal. 2024) Case No. 5:20-cv-01108-AB-kk, Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs filed July 19, 2024 (Doc. 276), the court found the following 2023 hourly rates reasonable for the plaintiff's environmental action:

BAR ADMISSION	RATES
YEAR	
1986	\$1,055
1998	\$965
2000	\$950
2005	\$910
2012	\$825
2014	\$755
2017	\$660
2023	\$455
Non-Attorneys	
Paralegals	\$265-\$350

 In *Faye v. Los Angeles Unified School Dist.*, Los Angeles Superior Court No. 21STCV22368, Fee Order filed July 9, 2024, an individual fair employment case, the court found that \$950 per hour was a reasonable hourly rate for the plaintiff's 32-year attorney. See Decl. of Laura Horton, ¶ 22.

2023 Rates

• In *3500 Sepulveda v. RREEF Am. REIT II Corp. BBB* (C.D. Cal. 2023) 2023 U.S.Dist.LEXIS 124872, at *16, a real property dispute, the court, while citing several recent Central District fee awards with rates above \$1,000 per hour, found the following rates reasonable:

Level	Rates
Partner	\$746-\$950

Counsel	\$789-860
Associates	\$222-\$771
Professional staff	\$180-\$375

In *Valenzuela v. City of Anaheim* (C.D. Cal. Feb. 2, 2023) Case No. SACV 17-002278-CJC (DFMx), Order Granting in Substantial Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney Fees (Doc 462), a police misconduct action, the court found the following hourly rates reasonable:

Law School Year	Rates
1984	\$1,200
2005	\$1,075
2006	\$850
2007	\$850
2017	\$650

2022 Rates

In Bronshteyn v. State of California, Los Angeles County Superior Ct.
No. 19SMCV00057, Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion for Statutory Attorneys' Fees and Costs filed March 30, 2023, an individual FEHA

action brought by two Bay Area law firms (Levy, Vinick, Burrell & Hyams LLP and Law Offices of Wendy Musell, the court found the

Firm	Role	Law School Grad. Year	Rate
Levy, Vinick, Burrell & Hyams LLP			
	Co-Lead at trial	1989	\$1,100
	Attorney	1982	\$1,000
	Attorney	1987	\$1,000
	Attorney	1995	\$1,000
	Law Student	NA	\$300
	Paralegal/Legal Assistant	NA	\$225
Law Offices of Wend	y Musell		
	Overall Lead and Co-Lead at trial	1999	\$1,000
	Senior Associate	2000	\$850
	Associate	2021	\$425
	Law Clerks	NA	\$350
	Paralegal	NA	\$225

following 2022 hourly rates reasonable (before applying a 1.75 lodestar multiplier for work up to and through the verdict):

 In the Southern California Gas Leak Cases, Los Angeles County Superior Ct. No. BC601844, Jud. Council Coord. Proceeding No. 4861, Order Granting Class Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Litigation Costs, and Service Awards filed April 29, 2022, the Los Angeles County Superior Court found the following hourly rates reasonable:

BARON & BUDD		
2022 Rates:	Years of Experience	Rates
	40	
		\$975
	26	
		\$975
	13	\$675
	12	\$625
	5	\$525
	Staff Attorney	\$395
	Paralegal (10 year)	\$250

KELLER ROHRBACK			
2022 Rates:	Years of Experience	Rates	
	40	\$1,200	
	35	\$1,100	
	27	\$1,100	
	22-23	\$1,045	
	18	\$1,010	
	35	\$975	
	36, 30	\$850	
	14	\$815	
	13	\$795	
	27	\$755	
	11	\$725	
	8	\$650-\$700	
		\$550	
	17	\$485	
	9	\$475	
	7	\$455	
	10	\$400-\$415	

HAUSFIELD LLP

Names

Rates

Years Practicing

Richard Lewis	\$1050.00	Partner	35
Bonny Sweeney	\$1050.00	Partner	33
Steven Rotman	\$1050.00	Of Counsel	42
Arthur Bailey, Jr	\$960.00	Partner	14
Michael Schumacher	\$600.00	Of Counsel	12
Colleen Ryf	\$610.00	Senior Counsel	11
Amanda Lee	\$610.00	Associate	7
Jeanette Bayoumi	\$590.00	Associate	6
Stephanie Cho	\$550.00	Associate	5
Michaela Spero	\$420.00	Associate	4
Lijun Zhang	\$260.00	Summer Assoc.	

LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & BERNSTEIN LLP

	Rates	Years
Names (Role)		Practicin
		g
Elizabeth Cabraser (Partner)	\$1,150.00	44
Donald Arbitblit (Partner)	\$1,000.00	36
Steven Fineman (Partner)	\$1,025.00	33
Robert Nelson (Partner)	\$1,025.00	35
Wendy Fleishman (Partner)	\$975.00	45
Daniel Chiplock (Partner)	\$850.00	21
Wilson Dunlavey (Partner)	\$510.00	7
Rachel Geman (Partner)	\$850.00	24
Lexi Hazam (Partner)	\$800.00	19
Sarah London (Partner)	\$645.00	13
Phong-Chau Nguyen (Partner)	\$625.00	10
Valerie Comenencia Ortiz (Associate)	\$395.00	4
Amelia Haselkorn (Associate)	\$370.00	1
Jacob Polin (Associate)	\$485.00	6

Abby Wolf (Associate)	\$445.00	6
Tiseme Zegeye (Associate)	\$535.00	4
William Hewitt (Attorney)	\$415.00	41
Jay Mckibben (Attorney)	\$415.00	30
LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN &		
BERNSTEIN LLP		
	Rates	Years
Names (Role)		Practicin
		g
Robert Lieff (Of Counsel)	\$1,150.00	56
Facundo Bouzat (Law Clerk)	\$345.00	
Hope Brinn (Law Clerk)	\$370.00	
Miriam Marks (Law Clerk)	\$370.00	
Prathyum Ramesh (Law Clerk)	\$370.00	
Aisha Saad (Law Clerk)	\$395.00	
Corrie Anderson (Paralegal/Clerk)		
	\$405.00	
Eileen Beltran (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$375.00	
Nikki Belushko Barrows (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$360.00	
Alexandra Brilliant (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$405.00	
Todd Carnam (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$405.00	
Christian Chan (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$365.00	
Florencia Cudos (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$405.00	
Nina Gliozzo (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$335.00	
Spencer Griffith (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$405.00	
Kimberly Harding (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$350.00	
Jennifer Kawamura (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$405.00	
Cora La (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$345.00	
Maxwell Lucas (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$360.00	
Samantha Mudd (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$395.00	
Christopher Munoz (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$395.00	
Nethra Raman (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$ 395.00	
Jennifer Rudnick (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$405.00	
Dustin Smith (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$330.00	
Marie Tashima (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$385.00	
Brian Troxel (Paralegal/Clerk)	\$405.00	

Richard Anthony (Litigation Support/Research)	\$420.00	
Nikki Belushko Barrows (Litigation	\$405.00	
Support/Research) Anthony Grant (Litigation	\$420.00	
Support/Research) Jessica Meltser (Litigation	\$345.00	
LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & BERNSTEIN LLP		
Names (Role)	Rates	Years Practicin g
		—
Support/Research) Renee Mukherji (Litigation Support/Research)	\$420.00	8

BOUCHER LLP			
Names Of Professionals	Bar Admission Date	Approx. Years In Practice	Rates
Name Partner			
Raymond P.	CA 1984	37	\$1,100.0
Boucher		Years	0
Partners			
Shehnaz M.	CA 2002	19	\$750.00
Bhujwala		Years	
Maria L. Weitz	CA 2009	12	\$750.00
		Years	
<u>Senior Associates /</u> <u>Attorneys</u>			
Milin Chun*	CA 2009; MD	14	\$625.00*
	2007	Years	

Cathy Kim	CA 2009	12 Years	\$625.00
Associates / Attorneys			
Lauren Burton*	CA 2015	6 Years	\$395.00*
Alexander Gamez	CA 2016	5 Years	\$395.00
Michael Gorelik	CA 2021; AZ 2018	Three Years	\$395.00
Priscilla Szeto*	CA 2015	Six Years	\$395.00*
Mallory Whitelaw	CA 2017	Four Years	\$395.00
<u>Paralegals / Legal</u> <u>Assistants</u>			
Christine Cramer*	N/A	N/A	\$185.00*
Sharon Gordillo*	N/A	N/A	\$185.00*
Sandra Haro	N/A	N/A	\$185.00
Avery Kunstler*	N/A	N/A	\$185.00*
Tiffany McKinney*	N/A	N/A	\$185.00*
Natalie Nelson*	N/A	N/A	\$185.00*
Tricia Yue	N/A	N/A	\$185.00
Maria Zarate*	N/A	N/A	\$185.00*

* Denotes former attorney / staff member and prior billable rate.

THE KICK LAW FIRM APC			
Names (Role)	Curre nt	Years Practici	
	Rates	ng	
Taras Kick (Partner)	\$900		33

Robert Dart (Associate)	\$650	13
Shane Greenberg (Associate)	\$650	22
Jesse Ransom (Associate)	\$650	23
Matthew Davis (Associate)	\$650	12

- In *Tran v. Golden State FC LLC, et al.* (LASC Case No. BC699931), Fee Order filed April 8, 2022, another individual employment action, the court found hourly rates of \$1,300 per hour reasonable for plaintiff's 32-year attorney and \$1,000 per hour reasonable for a 14year attorney.
- In Hope Med. Enterprises v. Fagron Compounding Serv. LLC (C.D. Cal. Mar. 14, 2022, 20222 WL 4904774, at *3, the court found that "billing rates of \$895 to \$1,295 per hour for partners and counsel, and between \$565 and \$985 for associates is reasonable within the legal community of Los Angeles for attorneys of similar skill and experience".
- In *Campbell v. Barnes,* Orange County Superior Court No. 30-202001141117-CU-WM-CXC, Order Granting Petitioners' Motion for an Award of Attorneys' Fees, filed January 20, 2022, a case challenging inadequacies in the County jail's response to the Covid epidemic, the court found the following hourly rates reasonable:

LAW SCHOOL	RATES
GRADUATION	
YEAR	
Munger, Tolles &	
Olson LLP	
2003	\$1,210
2013	\$850
2015	\$750
2016	\$700

2017	\$650
2018	\$550
Non-Attorneys	
Automated Litig.	
Analyst	
Litigation Analyst	\$250
Paralegals	\$250
ACLU	
1988, 2000, and 2003	\$1,210
2007	\$950
2009	\$900
2015	\$750
2016	\$700
2017	\$650
Non-Attorney	
Senior Investigator	\$250
Schonbrun, Seplow,	
Harris, Hoffman,	
And Zeldes LLP	
1976	\$1,000
2016	\$450
2016	\$600
2019	\$440
1975	\$1,025
1976	\$930
1979	\$995
2015	\$570

• In *Alvarez, et al. v. XPO Logistics Cartage, LLC et al.*, United States District Court, Central District of California, No. 2:18-cv-03736RGK-E, Order re: Motions for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Incentive Awards, filed February 8, 2022, a wage and hour class action, the court found the following 2021 hourly rates reasonable as part of its lodestar cross-check:

YEARS OF	RATES
EXPERIENCE	

Sayas Law Firm	
35	\$900
17 (Sr. Associate)	\$695
Paralegals	\$2 25-\$350
Bush Gottlieb	
1980	\$975
1989	\$900
1994	\$850
2012	\$575
2014	\$525
2016	\$475
2018	\$425
2020	\$375
Law Clerks	\$225
Paralegals	\$225

• In *The Kennedy Commission v. City of Huntington Beach*, Los Angeles County Superior Court No. 30-2015-00801675, Ruling on Submitted Matter filed July 8, 2021, a writ of mandate action challenging a land use amendment adopted by the City of Huntington Beach, the court found the following hourly rates reasonable (prior to application of a 1.4 lodestar multiplier):

Years of	
Experience	Rates
38	\$910
40	\$900
26	\$815
23	\$750
16	\$710
14	\$680
10	\$565

7	\$500
6	\$475
5	\$450
2	\$365

In an earlier ruling in the same case, the court found the following hourly rates reasonable for the Plaintiffs' private *pro bono* law firm (prior to application of a 1.4 multiplier)¹:

2016 Rates:	Bar Admission	Rates
	2001	\$900
	2001	\$700
	2014	\$450
	D	
2015 Rates:	Bar Admission	Rates
	2001	\$875
	2014	\$400

- In *Rea v. Blue Shield*, Los Angeles County Superior Court No. BC468900, Fee Order filed November 13, 2020, a class action challenging Blue Shield's practices regarding mental health claims, in which the court found that \$900 per hour was reasonable for plaintiffs' three lead attorneys, with 35, 37, and 44 years of experience. It also applied a 1.5 multiplier.
- In *Caldera v. State of California*, San Bernardino County Superior Court No. DS1000177, Ruling on Plaintiff's Motion for Attorney's

¹ The initial *Kennedy Commission* fee award was remanded in conjunction with the reversal of the merits. 2017 Cal.App.Unpub.Lexis 7488 (2017).

Fees filed October 23, 2020, an individual Fair Employment and Housing Act case, the court found that \$825 per hour was a reasonable hourly rate in the Los Angeles legal marketplace for 26year attorney's appellate work (before applying a 1.65 lodestar multiplier).

In Independent Living Center of S. Cal. v. Kent, 2020
 U.S.Dist.LEXIS 13019 (C.D. Cal. 2020), an action seeking to enjoin the challenging the State's right to alter reimbursement rates for Medi-Cal providers, the court found the following hourly rates reasonable (before applying a

2019 Rates:	Law School Graduation	Rates
	Year	
	1975	\$1,025
	1976	\$965
	1979	\$1,025
	2007	\$815
	2011	\$800
	2015	\$640
	2016	\$600
	2019	\$440
2018 Rates:	Law School Graduation	Rates
	Year	
	1975	\$1,025
	1976	\$930
	1979	\$995
	2015	\$570

1.5 lodestar multiplier):

• In *Lavinsky v. City of Los Angeles*, Los Angeles County Superior Court No. BC542245, Fee Award filed October 9, 2019, a class action challenge to a municipal tax, the court found the following hourly rates reasonable (before applying a 3.8 lodestar multiplier for contingent risk, etc.):

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE	RATE
25	\$850
29	\$800
17	\$695
9	\$475
5-7	\$450
1	\$295
Paralegal	\$125

• In *Hadsell v. City of Baldwin Park,* Los Angeles County Superior Court No. BC 548 602, Notice of Ruling on Plaintiff's Motion for Attorneys' Fees filed June 25, 2019, the court found the following hourly rates reasonable (before applying a 1.5 multiplier):

CAL BAR ADMISSION DATE	RATE
1987	\$1,100
1990	\$1,100
2008	\$800
2008	\$650
2012	\$550
2016	\$500

In Pinter-Brown v. UCLA, Los Angeles Superior Court No.

•

BC624838, Fee Order filed August 3, 2018, the court found the following 2018 hourly rates reasonable:

CAL BAR ADMISSION DATE	RATE
1990	\$1,100
2008	\$675
2012	\$500
2016	\$400
2015	\$350
2016	\$325
2017	\$300

• In *Wishtoyo Foundation et al v. United Water Conservation Dist.*, 2019 U.S.Dist.LEXIS 39927 (C.D. Cal. 2019), an environmental action under the federal Endangered Species Act, the court found the following hourly rates reasonable:

Bar Admittance or	
Law School	
Graduation	2018 Rates
1986	\$840
	\$780
	\$735
	\$720
	\$670
	\$600
	\$425
	\$680

Paralegals	\$200-250

• In *Monster, LLC, et al., v. Beats Electronics, LLC et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC595235 (2017), Order Granting Defendant and Cross-Complainant Beats Electronics, LLC's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs, filed June 27, 2018, a commercial dispute, the court found the following hourly rates reasonable for Beats' attorneys' work on the successful jury trial that determined the amount of reasonable attorneys' fees Monster would be required to pay as damages:

	Bar Admittance or Law School	
Boies, Schiller & Flexner	Graduation	2016/2017 Rates
Partners:	1986	\$960/\$1,049
	2006	\$920/\$972
	2000	\$880
	2001	\$880
	2002	\$830
	1999	\$830
	2004	\$740 (2015); \$760 (2016)
	2006	\$680
	2007	\$650/\$714
	2009	\$600/\$800
Associates:	2004	\$680
	2009	\$610
	2013	\$460/\$533
	2013	\$490
	2010	\$630
	2011	\$480/\$602
	2014-2015	\$420
Non-Attorneys		\$190-284
Timekeepers:		

<u>Gibson Dunn &</u> <u>Crutcher</u>	Bar Admittance or Law School	2017 Rates
	Graduation	
	1987	\$852 (through
		Aug. 2017)
		\$956 (from
		Sept. 2017)
	2008	\$592 (through
		Aug. 2017)
		\$696 (from
		Sept. 2017)
	2013	\$404 (through
		Aug. 2017)
		\$600 (from
		Sept. 2017)
	2015	\$520
	2016	\$472
	1997	\$960
	2006	\$736
	1987	\$944
Non-Attorneys Timekeepers:		\$216-\$335

Imekeepers:
 In Nozzi v. Housing Authority, 2018 U.S.Dist.LEXIS 26049 (C.D. Cal. 2018), tenant class action, the court approved the following hourly rates as reasonable:

Kaye McLane Bednarski	Bar Admittance or Law School	
& Litt	Graduation	2017 Rates
	1969	\$1,150
	1992	\$750
	1993	\$765
	2008	\$730
	Sr. Paralegal	\$335
	Jr. Paralegal	\$150
	Law Clerk	\$200

• In *Monster, LLC, et al., v. Beats Electronics, LLC et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC595235 (2017), the same commercial dispute listed above, the court found the following 2017 rates to be reasonable for Beats's codefendants who had obtained relief by summary judgment (see Order Granting Motions for Attorneys' Fees, filed October 12, 2017, p. 2):

•	Bar Admittance or	
	Law School	2016 Rates (unless
	Graduation	otherwise noted)
Partners:	1966	\$1,000 (2015); 1,245
		(2016)
	1977	\$1,110 (2015)
	1981	\$910
	1985	\$995
	1992	\$875-885
	1995	\$910
	2002	\$750
Of Counsel:	1976	\$705
Associates:	2009	\$615 (2015); \$660 (2016)
Non-Attorneys		\$380-90
Timekeepers:		

• In The Kennedy Commission v. City of Huntington Beach, Los

Angeles County Superior Court No. 30-2015-00801675, Order Granting

Petitioners' Motion for Attorneys' Fees Pursuant to California Code of Civil

Procedure § 1021.5, filed July 13, 2016, a writ of mandate action challenging a land use amendment adopted by the City of Huntington Beach, the court found the following hourly rates reasonable for the Plaintiffs' private *pro bono* law firm (prior to application of a 1.4 multiplier)²:

2016 Rates:	Bar Admission	Rates
	2001	\$900

² The *Kennedy Commission* fee award was remanded in conjunction with the reversal of the merits. 2017 Cal.App.Unpub.Lexis 7488 (2017).

	2014	\$450
2015 Rates:	Bar Admission	Rates
	2001	\$875
	2014	\$400

• In *Willits et al v. City of Los Angeles*, No. CV 10-5782 CCBM (RZx) (C.D. Cal.), Order Granting Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs, filed August 25, 2016 (Dkt. No. 418), a class action lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles by persons with mobility disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 challenging the inaccessibility of the City's sidewalks, the court found the following 2015 hourly rates reasonable:

Law School	Rates
1976	\$1,115.60
1977 (associate)	700
1981	795
1987	680-775
1993	750
1999	644-695

2001	625
2003	550
2006	525 —
2007	450
2008	473

2009	450
2010	350-400
2011	300-385
2012	300
2013	300-325
Paralegals and Law	110-250
Case Assistants	220-230
Docket Clerk	230

• In *State Compensation Insurance Fund v. Khan et al,* Case No. SACV 12-01072-CJC(JCGx) (C.D. Cal.), Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part the Zaks Defendants' Motion for Attorneys' Fees, filed July 6, 2016 (Dkt. No. 408), a multi-defendant RICO action, the court found the following hourly rates reasonable:

Years of Experience	Rates
22	\$890
20	\$840
5	\$670
4	\$560
Paralegals	\$325-340
Case Assistants	\$220-230
Docket Clerk	\$230

• In *ScripsAmerica, Inc. Ironridge Global LLC et al,* Case No. CV 1403962-SJO (AGRx) (C.D. Cal.), Order Granting Defendant Ironridge GlobalLLC, John Kirkland, Brendan O'Neill's Motion for Attorney's Fees, filed January 12, 2016 (Dkt. No. 50), a contract dispute, the court found the following 2015 hourly rates reasonable:

Years of Experience	Rates
37	\$950
11	\$700
4	\$450
Paralegals	\$200-350

• In *Perfect 10, Inc. v. Giganews, Inc.,* 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 54063 (C.D. Cal. 2015), filed March 24, 2015, *affirmed* 847 F.3d 657 (9th Cir. 2017), a copyright infringement action, the court found the following 2015 hourly rates reasonable:

Years of Experience	2015 Rate
29	\$825-930
18	\$750
17	\$705-750
12	\$610-640
11	\$660-690
10	670
9	660-690

9	660-690
8	470-525
7	640
5	375-560

4	350-410
3	505
2	450
1	360-370
Paralegals	240-345
Discovery Support	245-290

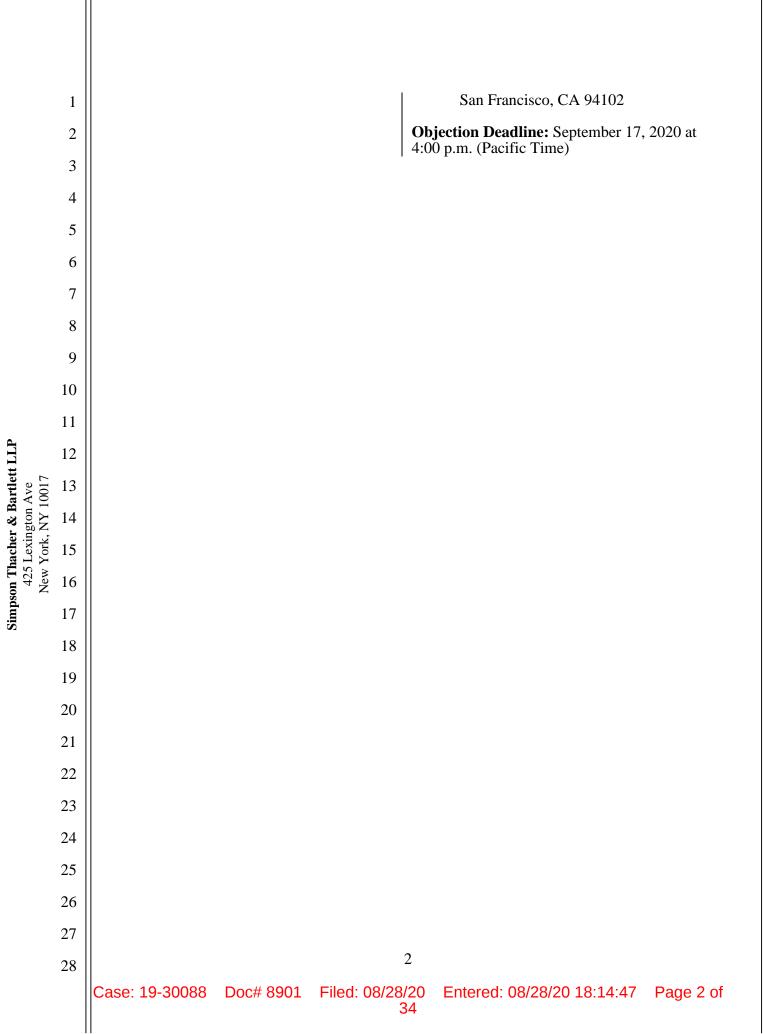
In Rodriguez v. County of Los Angeles, 96 F.Supp.3d 990 (C.D. Cal.

2014), Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees, filed December 29, 2014, *affirmed* 891 F.3d 779 (9th Cir. May 30, 2018), a civil rights action on behalf of five county jail prisoners, the district court found the following hourly rates reasonable, plus a 2.0 lodestar multiplier for merits work performed on the plaintiffs' California cause of action; the entire award was affirmed on appeal:

Years of Experience	Rate
45	\$975
28	700-775
26	775
10	600
6	500
Senior Paralegal	295
Other Paralegals	175-235
Law Clerk	250

EXHIBIT C

1	Jonathan C. Sanders (No. #228785) SIMPSON THACHER & PARTLETT LLR		
2	SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT LLP 2475 Hanover Street		
3	Palo Alto, CA 94304 Telephone: (650) 251-5000		
4	Facsimile: (650) 252-5002		
5	Nicholas Goldin		
6	Kathrine A. McLendon Jamie J. Fell SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT LLP		
7	425 Lexington Avenue New York, NY 10017		
8	Telephone: (212) 455-2000 Facsimile: (212) 455-2502		
9	Counsel for the Board of Each of PG&E Corpor	ration	
10	and Pacific Gas and Electric Company and for Certain Current and Former Independent Directors		
11	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT		
12	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION		
13	SAN FRANCI	SCO DIVISION	
14		Bankruptcy Case	
15	In re:	No. 19-30088 (DM)	
16	PG&E CORPORATION,	Chapter 11	
17	- and –	(Lead Case)	
18	PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC	(Jointly Administered)	
19	COMPANY,	SUMMARY SHEET TO FOURTH INTERIM AND FINAL APPLICATION OF	
20	Debtors.	SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT LLP FOR ALLOWANCE AND PAYMENT OF	
21	□ Affects PG&E Corporation	COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES	
22	☐ Affects Pacific Gas and Electric Company ☑ Affects both Debtors	FOR THE FOURTH INTERIM PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH JULY 1,	
23		2020 AND THE FINAL PERIOD FROM JANUARY 29, 2019 THROUGH JULY 1,	
24	* All papers shall be filed in the Lead Case No. 19-30088 (DM).	2020	
25		Hearing Date to be Set	
26 27		Place: United States Bankruptcy Court Courtroom 17, 16th Floor	
28			
28	Case: 19-30088	/20 Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 1 of 34	



	1	General Information		
	2	Name of Applicant	Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP	
	3	Name of Client	Board of Each of PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Certain Current and Former Independent Directors	
	4	Petition Date	January 29, 2019	
	5	Retention Date	May 10, 2019 <i>nunc pro tunc</i> to January 29, 2019	
	6	Summary of Fees and Expenses Sought in the F	Fourth Interim Application	
	7			
	8	Time Period Covered by Application	January 1, 2020 – July 1, 2020	
	9	Amount of Compensation Sought as Actual, Reasonable and Necessary	\$4,856,392.50	
	10 11	Amount of Compensation Sought Pursuant to Section 327(e)	\$2,108,488.00	
	11	Amount of Compensation Sought Pursuant to Section 363	\$2,747,904.50	
	13	Amount of Expense Reimbursement Sought as Actual, Reasonable and Necessary Pursuant to Section 327(e)	\$5,535.63	
New York, NY 10017	14 15	Amount of Expense Reimbursement Sought as Actual, Reasonable and Necessary Pursuant to Section 363	\$37,156.64	
Ne	16 17	Total Fees and Expenses in Fourth Interim Application Paid But Not Yet Allowed		
	18	Total Compensation Paid But Not Yet Allowed	\$1,845,634.80	
	19	Total Expenses Paid But Not Yet Allowed	\$21,490.38	
	20	Summan of Pates and Polated Information for Fourth Interim Application		
	21	Number of Timekeepers in Fourth Interim Application	37 (29 attorneys, 8 paraprofessionals)	
	22	Hours Billed by Timekeepers in Fourth Interim Compensation Period	3,944.00	
	23	Blended Rate for Attorneys	\$1,251.74	
	24	Blended Rate for all Professionals	\$1,231.34	
	25			
	26	This is a(n) X Interim Final Applicati	on	
	27			
	28	3		
		Case: 19-30088 Doc# 8901 Filed: 08/28/20 34		

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP 425 Lexington Ave New York, NY 10017

1	Summary of Fees and Expenses Sought in the Final Application				
2	Time Period Covered by Application	January 29, 2019 – July 1, 2020			
3	Amount of Compensation Sought as Actual, Reasonable and Necessary	\$12,071,175.50			
4	Amount of Compensation Sought Pursuant to Section 327(e)	\$5,066,244.50			
5	Amount of Compensation Sought Pursuant to Section 363	\$7,004,931.00			
6	Amount of Expense Reimbursement Sought as Actual, Reasonable and Necessary Pursuant to Section 327(e)	\$45,680.93			
7	Amount of Expense Reimbursement Sought as Actual, Reasonable and Necessary Pursuant to Section 363	\$117,225.79			
8	Total Fees and Expenses in Final Application Paid But	Not Yet Allowed			
9	Total Compensation Paid But Not Yet Allowed (<i>i.e.</i> , compensation paid for Fourth Interim Compensation Period)	\$1,845,634.80			
10 11	Total Expenses Paid But Not Yet Allowed (<i>i.e.</i> , costs paid for Fourth Interim Compensation Period)	\$21,490.38			
12	Total Fees and Expenses Allowed Under First, Second and Third Interim Applications				
13	Total Compensation Allowed on Interim Basis (<i>i.e.</i> , compensation allowed under First-Third Interim Applications)	\$7,214,783.00 ¹			
14 15	Total Expenses Allowed on Interim Basis (<i>i.e.</i> , costs allowed under First-Third Interim Applications)	\$120,214.45 ²			
	Summary of Rates and Related Information				
16	Number of Timekeepers in Final Application	67 (47 attorneys and 20 paraprofessionals)			
17	Hours Billed by Timekeepers for Total Compensation Period	10,568.40			
18	Blended Rate for Attorneys	\$1,188.47			
19	Blended Rate for all Professionals	\$1,166.80			
20	This is a(n) Interim Final Application				
21					
22					
23	¹ This amount reflects the reduction of \$260,000 pursuant to the compr Examiner regarding the First Interim Application and the Second and T				
24	² Simpson Thacher was paid an additional \$22,000 in expenses that we				
25 26	Thacher agreed, pursuant to its compromise with the Fee Examiner, to Second and Third Interim Applications by \$22,000 (\$2,000 under the F Second and Third Interim Applications). This \$22,000 reduction has total outstanding amount requested to be paid pursuant to this Fourth In	reduce the expenses requested under the First, irst Interim Application and \$20,000 under the been accounted for by subtracting it from the			
26					

28

27

Doc# 8901

4

Filed: 08/28/20 Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 4 of 34

2 3	Date Filed	Total Compe Expenses Incur Period Cove		red for Period Requested for Compensation		Total Amount Paid to Date		Amounts Unpaid and Outstanding ³	
4		Covered	Fees	Expenses	80% of Undisputed Fees	Expenses (@ 100%)	Fees	Expenses	
5 6	First Interim (7/23/19)	01/29/19 – 04/30/19	\$1,931,632.00	\$16,579.35	\$1,545,305.60	\$16,579.35	\$1,851,632.00	\$14,579.35	N/A
7	Second Interim (11/15/19)	05/1/19 – 08/31/19	\$2,837,908.50	\$51,945.60	\$2,243,331.60	\$51,945.60	\$2,243,331.60	\$51,945.60	\$494,576.90
8 9	Third Interim (3/16/20)	09/1/19 – 12/31/19	\$2,705,242.50	\$73,689.50	\$1,770,766.00	\$73,689.50	\$1,770,766.00	\$73,689.50	\$834,476.50
10 11	Fourth Interim	01/1/20 – 07/1/20	\$4,856,392.50	\$42,692.27	\$3,885,114.00	\$42,692.27	\$1,845,634.80	\$21,490.38	\$3,031,959.59
12	Total		\$12,331,175.50	\$184,906.72	\$9,444,517.20	\$184,906.72	\$7,711,364.40	\$161,704.83	\$4,361,012.99

SUMMARY OF FOURTH INTERIM AND FINAL APPLICATION

³ The amounts unpaid and outstanding include: (1) \$494,576.90 outstanding under the Second Interim Application, which (x) includes \$33,744 in fees objected to by PERA (defined below) and \$560,832.90 as the Holdback Amount, (y) reflects Simpson Thacher's compromise with the Fee Examiner to reduce fees by \$90,000 and expenses by \$10,000, and (z) was approved in full by this Court on an interim basis; (2) \$834,476.50 outstanding under the Third Interim Application, which (x) includes \$491,785 objected to by PERA and \$442,691.50 as the Holdback Amount, (y) reflects Simpson Thacher's compromise with the Fee Examiner to reduce fees by \$90,000 and expenses by \$10,000, and (z) was approved in full by this Court on an interim basis; (3) \$3,031,959.59 outstanding under the Fourth Interim Application, which includes \$971,278.50 as the Holdback Amount, \$2,039,479.20 in currently unpaid fees under the Thirteenth-Sixteenth Monthly Fee Statements and \$21,201.89 in currently unpaid expenses under the Thirteenth-Sixteenth Monthly Fee Statements.

The Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico ("PERA") objected to fees (collectively, the "Objection Amount") in Simpson Thacher's Fourth through Seventh Monthly Fee Statements, which are contained 19 within the Second and Third Interim Applications. PERA did not continue to object beyond the Seventh Monthly Fee Statement and did not pursue its prior objections in connection with Simpson Thacher's request for approval of the 20Second and Third Interim Applications. Pursuant to the Docket Text Order dated August 3, 2020, Simpson Thacher's Second and Third Interim Applications, as amended by Simpson Thacher's compromise with the Fee Examiner, were 21 allowed on an interim basis, which such allowance will be formally ordered in the Order Granting Second Interim Application of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP for Allowance and Payment of Compensation and Reimbursement of 22 Expenses for the Period May 1, 2019 Through August 31, 2019 [Dkt. __] (the "Second Interim Approval Order") and the Order Granting Third Interim Application of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP for Allowance and Payment of 23 Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period September 1, 2019 Through December 31, 2019 [Dkt. _] (the "Third Interim Approval Order") to be entered by this Court. 24

Simpson Thacher expects that it will be paid (1) the remaining allowed amounts under the Second and Third Interim Applications pursuant to the Second and Third Interim Approval Orders (totaling \$1,329.053.40) and (2) the remaining 80% of the fees and 100% of the expenses requested under the Fourth Interim Application (totaling \$2,060,681.09 not inclusive of the \$971,278.50 Holdback Amount) prior to the hearing on this Fourth Interim and Final Application.

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP New York, NY 10017 425 Lexington Ave

17 18

13

14

15

16

1

28

27

34

Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 5 of

SUMMARY OF COMPENSATION FOR **JANUARY 29, 2019 THROUGH JULY 1, 2020**

The attorneys and professionals who rendered professional services in these Chapter 11

Cases during the Total Compensation Period are:

5	NAME OF PARTNERS AND COUNSEL	DEPARTMENT	<u>YEAR</u> ADMITTED	HOURLY RATE	TOTAL HOURS BILLED	TOTAL COMPENSATION
6	Blake, Stephen	Litigation	2008	\$1,325	141.70	\$187,752.50
7	Brentani, William B.	Corporate	1990	\$1,535	5.10	\$7,828.50
	Coll-Very, Alexis	Litigation	1997	\$1,480	0.30	\$444.00
8	Curnin, Paul C.	Litigation	1988	\$1,640	723.90	\$1,187,196.00
9	Frahn, Harrison J.	Litigation	1997	\$1,535	0.50	\$767.50
	Frankel, Andrew T.	Litigation	1990	\$1,535	26.80	\$41,138.00
10	Goldin, Nicholas	Litigation	2000	\$1,480	853.90	\$1,263,772.00
11	Goldin, Nicholas	Litigation	2000	\$740	17.70	\$13,098.00
	Grogan, Gregory T.	ECEB	2001	\$1,535	151.20	\$232,092.00
12	Kelley, Karen H.	Corporate	2003	\$1,425	12.70	\$18,097.50
13	Kreissman, James G.	Litigation	1989	\$1,640	3.50	\$5,740.00
13	Lesser, Lori E.	Litigation	1994	\$1,535	0.30	\$460.50
14	Ponce, Mario A.	Corporate	1989	\$1,640	1,284.20	\$2,106,088.00
15	Purcell, Andrew B.	Tax	2009	\$1,325	2.40	\$3,180.00
13	Purushotham, Ravi	Corporate	2010	\$1,325	489.60	\$648,720.00
16	Qusba, Sandy	Corporate	1994	\$1,535	839.00	\$1,287,865.00
17	Steinhardt, Brian M.	Corporate	1999	\$1,640	4.50	\$7,380.00
17	Torkin, Michael H.	Corporate	1999	\$1,535	233.90	\$359,036.50
18	Webb, Daniel N.	Corporate	2002	\$1,480	0.80	\$1,184.00
	Alcabes, Elisa	Litigation	1989	\$1,220	313.40	\$382,348.00
19	DeLott, Steven R.	Corporate	1988	\$1,220	18.40	\$22,448.00
20	Koslowe, Jamin R.	ECEB	1996	\$1,220	2.50	\$3,050.00
	McLendon, Kathrine	Corporate	1985	\$1,220	301.10	\$367,342.00
21	Nadborny, Jennifer L.	Corporate	2005	\$1,220	0.70	\$854.00
22	Brunner, Janice G.	Corporate	2001	\$1,190	4.00	\$4,760.00
	Kofsky, Andrew M.	ECEB	2000	\$1,190	11.90	\$14,161.00
23	Rapp, James I.	Corporate	1999	\$1,190	0.20	\$238.00
24	Ricciardi, Sara A.	Litigation	2003	\$1,190	639.70	\$761,243.00
²	Wiseman, Stephen M.	Corporate	1986	\$1,190	33.60	\$39,984.00
25	Total Partners and Counsel:				6,117.50	\$8,968,268.00
26	Country (1	1	 		

1 2

3

4

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP New York, NY 10017 425 Lexington Ave

Doc# 8901

Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 6 of

34

Filed: 08/28/20

1						
2	<u>NAME OF</u> <u>PROFESSIONAL</u> ASSOCIATES	DEPARTMENT	<u>YEAR</u> ADMITTED	HOURLY RATE	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>HOURS</u> BILLED	<u>TOTAL</u> COMPENSATION
3	Calderon, Justin	Litigation	2018	\$700	157.20	\$110,040.00
4	Campbell, Eamonn W.	Litigation	2016	\$915	217.40	\$198,921.00
4	Duran, Raul G.	Litigation	2018	\$590	78.30	\$46,197.00
5	Duran, Raul G.	Litigation	2018	\$295	0.50	\$147.50
C .	Egenes, Erica M.	Corporate	2018	\$840	324.60	\$272,664.00
6	Fell, Jamie	Corporate	2015	\$995	306.90	\$305,365.50
7	Hay, Jasmine N.	Tax	2016	\$915	3.80	\$3,477.00
/	Hinckson, Shanice D.	Litigation	2019	\$590	13.40	\$7,906.00
8	Isaacman, Jennifer	Litigation	2019	\$590	561.30	\$331,167.00
	Kinsel, Kourtney J.	Litigation	2018	\$590	519.80	\$306,682.00
9	Levine, Jeff P.	Corporate	2016	\$915	180.70	\$165,340.50
10	Lundqvist, Jacob	Litigation	2019	\$590	195.50	\$115,345.00
10	Mahboubi, Aria	Corporate	2018	\$700	4.30	\$3,010.00
11	Phillips, Jacob M.	ECEB	2017	\$840	149.60	\$125,664.00
	Phillips, Jacob M. ⁴	ECEB	2017	\$700	16.00	11,200.00
12	Sparks Bradley, Rachel	Litigation	2013	\$1,095	497.50	\$544,762.50
10	Sussman, Rebecca A.	Litigation	2017	\$840	578.60	\$486,024.00
13	Sussman, Rebecca A.	Litigation	2017	\$420	3.00	\$1,260.00
14	Vallejo, Melissa A.	Litigation	2019	\$590	297.80	\$175,702.00
11	Yeagley, Alexander	Corporate	2018	\$700	58.50	\$40,950.00
15	Total Associates:				4,164.70	\$3,251,825.00
10		1				
16 17	<u>NAME OF</u> <u>PROFESSIONAL STAFF</u> <u>ATTORNEYS</u>	DEPARTMENT	<u>YEAR</u> ADMITTED	HOURLY RATE	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>HOURS</u> <u>BILLED</u>	TOTAL COMPENSATION
10	Penfold, John	Litigation		\$375	19.10	\$7,162.50
18	Rossi, Adrian D.	Litigation		\$375	38.40	\$14,400.00
19	Total Staff Attorneys:				57.50	\$21,562.50
		1				
20 21	<u>NAME OF</u> <u>PARAPROFESSIONAL</u>	DEPARTMENT	<u>YEAR</u> <u>ADMITTED</u>	HOURLY RATE	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>HOURS</u> BILLED	TOTAL COMPENSATION
21	DeVellis, Mary	Resource Center		\$265	1.00	\$265.00
23	Franklin, Janie Marie	Paralegal – Litigation		\$455	44.10	\$20,065.50
24	Fuller, Devin	Resource Center		\$265	0.70	\$185.50
25						

⁴ *Jacob M. Phillips was mistakenly billed at the hourly rate of \$700 for the month of February rather than his typical hourly rate of \$840.

Filed: 08/28/20 34

26 27

Doc# 8901

Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 7 of

Gampper, Krista	Paralegal		\$265	0.50	\$132.50
Gedrich, Evan	Resource		\$265	1.50	\$397.50
	Center				
Henderson, Dougl	-		\$375	2.50	\$937.50
	Litigation				
Jacovatos, Nichola			\$265	1.00	\$265.00
17 . 1 . 1 . 11	Center		¢ 400	22.60	¢0.440.00
Kortright, Magalli	Ū.		\$400	23.60	\$9,440.00
Loopico Decement	Litigation		\$ 400	56.50	¢22.600.00
Laspisa, Rosemari	e Paralegal – Litigation		\$400	56.50	\$22,600.00
Magsino, Luke	Resource		\$265	1.00	\$265.00
Wagsino, Luke	Center		Ψ205	1.00	φ205.00
Mierski, Nathan	Resource		\$265	2.60	\$689.00
iviterski, i vatilali	Center		Ψ 2 03	2.00	\$007.00
O'Connor, Elizabe			\$265	10.60	\$2,809.00
,	Litigation				. ,
Scott, Eric Dean	Resource		\$265	4.30	\$1,139.50
	Center				
Terricone, Cyrena	Paralegal -		\$400	7.50	\$3,000.00
	Litigation				
Welman, Timothy			\$265	12.30	\$3,259.50
	Center				
Azoulai, Moshe	Knowledge		\$455	7.40	\$3,367.00
	Management		¢ 4 2 0	0.00	¢270.00
Carney, Michael	Knowledge		\$420	0.90	\$378.00
Kovoor, Thomas C	ManagementG.Knowledge		\$420	44.30	\$18,606.00
Kovooi, Thomas C	Management		\$ 4 20	44.30	\$18,000.00
Rovner, Grace	Paralegal -		\$265	5.90	\$1,563.50
Rovier, Grace	Corporate		Ψ205	5.90	φ1,505.50
Tripodi, Lou	Library		\$310	0.50	\$155.00
Total	<u>y</u>				
Paraprofessionals	5:			228.70	\$89,520.00
PROFES	SIONALS		BLENDEDTOTAL HOURSHOURLY RATEBILLED		<u>TOTAL</u> COMPENSATION
Partners and Coun	sel	\$1,466.00		117.50	\$8,968,268.00
Associates	501	\$780.81		164.70	\$3,251,825.00
Staff Attorneys		\$375.00		57.50	\$21,562.50
Paraprofessionals		\$391.43		28.70	\$89,520.00
Blended Attorney	Rate	\$1,188.47			
Total Fees Incurred			10,	568.40	\$12,331,175.50
		3			

 2

1

SUMMARY OF COMPENSATION BY WORK TASK CODE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 29, 2019 THROUGH JULY 1, 2020

Task Code	Description	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AA	Asset Analysis and Recovery		
AD	Asset Disposition		
BO	Business Operations		
BU	Budgeting (Case)		
CA	Case Administration	13.20	\$13,046.00
CC	Creditor Communications		
CG	Corporate Governance and Board Matters	5,482.70	\$6,802,970.00
СН	Court Hearings	99.50	\$118,468.00
СМ	Claims Administration and Objections	88.70	\$79,286.00
EC	Executory Leases and Contracts		
EE	Employee Benefits/Pensions	16.00	\$24,560.00
ES	Equityholder Communications		
FA	Fee/Employment Applications	611.10	\$665,866.00
FI	Financings/Cash Collateral		
FO	Fee/Employment Application Objections	25.30	\$27,134.50
FR	Fact Analysis and Related Advice	1.90	\$1,800.00
IC	Intercompany Issues		
IP	Intellectual Property Issues		
LI	Litigation: Contested Matters and Adversary Proceedings	72.40	\$75,725.50
LS	Relief From Stay Proceedings		
PL	Plan/Disclosure Statement	1,518.80	\$2,219,067.50
RE	Reporting	0.20	\$238.00
TV^5	Non-Working Travel Time	41.20	\$44,235.50
TX	Tax Issues		
VA	Valuation		
L110	Fact Investigation/Development	1,565.30	\$1,235,737.50
L120	Analysis/Strategy	102.90	\$106,368.50

⁵ Time billed to this task code is billed in accordance with the Fee Guidelines and the Second Amended Fee Procedures Order as of October 24, 2019.

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP 425 Lexington Ave New York, NY 10017

28

34

Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 9 of

Task Code	Description	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Amount</u>
L130	Experts/Consultants		
L143	Discovery - Identification and Preservation		
L160	Settlement/Non-Binding ADR		
L200	Pre-Trial Pleadings and Motions	890.60	\$898,472.50
L241	Motion to Dismiss: Preemption		
L242	Motion to Dismiss: Lack of Subject Matter Jurisdiction		
L243	Motion for Summary Judgment: Kongros		
L244	Motion for Summary Judgment: Causation		
L245	Motion for Summary Judgment: Employment		
L246	Motion for Summary Judgment: Recreational Use Immunity		
L310	Written Discovery		
L330	Depositions		
L350	Discovery Motions		
L400	Trial Preparation and Trial		
L500	Appeal		
L600	eDiscovery - Identification		
L610	eDiscovery - Preservation		
L620	eDiscovery - Collection	3.50	\$1,332.50
L630	eDiscovery - Processing	21.60	\$9,027.00
L650	eDiscovery - Review	0.20	\$91.00
L653	eDiscovery - First Pass Document Review	13.00	\$7,670.00
L654	eDiscovery - Second Pass Document Review		
L655	eDiscovery - Privilege Review		
L656	eDiscovery - Redaction		
L670	eDiscovery - Production	0.30	\$79.50
L671	eDiscovery - Conversion of ESI to Production		
L680	eDiscovery - Presentation		
L800	Experts/Consultants		
L900	Settlement Process		
TOTAL		10,568.40	\$12,331,175.50

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP 425 Lexington Ave New York, NY 10017

28

Doc# 8901

Filed: 08/28/20 of 34 Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 10

1		
2	Jonathan C. Sanders (No. #228785) SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT LLP	
3	2475 Hanover Street Palo Alto, CA 94304	
4	Telephone: (650) 251-5000 Facsimile: (650) 252-5002	
5	Ni dada Caldin	
6	Nicholas Goldin Kathrine A. McLendon Jamie J. Fell	
7	SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT LLP 425 Lexington Avenue	
8	New York, NY 10017 Telephone: (212) 455-2000	
9	Facsimile: (212) 455-2502	
10	Counsel for the Board of Each of PG&E Corpo and Pacific Gas and Electric Company and for	
11	Certain Current and Former Independent Direc	ctors
12		ANKRUPTCY COURT ICT OF CALIFORNIA
13		SCO DIVISION
14		
15 16	In re:	Bankruptcy Case No. 19-30088 (DM)
10	PG&E CORPORATION,	Chapter 11
18	- and –	(Lead Case)
19	PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC	(Jointly Administered)
20	COMPANY,	FOURTH INTERIM AND FINAL
21	Debtors.	APPLICATION OF SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT LLP FOR ALLOWANCE AND
22	□ Affects PG&E Corporation	PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES
23	 Affects Pacific Gas and Electric Company Affects both Debtors 	FOR THE FOURTH INTERIM PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH JULY 1, 2020 AND THE FINAL PERIOD FROM
24	* All papers shall be filed in the Lead Case No.	JANUARY 29, 2019 THROUGH JULY 1, 2020
25	19-30088 (DM).	Hearing Date: To Be Set
26		
		Place: United States Bankruptcy Court
27		Place: United States Bankruptcy Court Courtroom 17, 16th Floor
27 28	Case: 19-30088 Doc# 8901 Filed: 08/28	 Place: United States Bankruptcy Court Courtroom 17, 16th Floor 6

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP 425 Lexington Ave New York, NY 10017

San Francisco, CA 94102

Objection Deadline: September 17, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP ("Simpson Thacher"), as counsel for (i) the Board of Directors (the "Board") of each of PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (the "**Debtors**"), as the Board may be constituted from time to time, and for the members of the Board from time to time in their capacities as members of the Board, and (ii) certain current and former independent directors in their individual capacities who serve or served as independent directors prior to and/or as of the Petition Date (as defined below) (each an "Independent **Director**" and collectively, the "**Independent Directors**"), pursuant to sections 330(a), 331 and 363 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") and Rule 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), hereby submits this combined fourth interim application and final application (this "Fourth Interim and Final Application") for (I) the allowance and payment of compensation for professional services performed in the amount of \$4,856,392.50 and for reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred in the amount of \$42,692.27 for the period commencing January 1, 2020 through and including July 1, 2020 (the "Fourth Interim Compensation Period") and (II) the allowance and payment on a final basis of compensation for professional services performed in the amount of \$12,071,175.50 and for reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred in the amount of \$162,906.72 for the period commencing January 29, 2019 through and including July 1, 2020 (the "Total **Compensation Period**"), and in support thereof, respectfully states as follows:

Preliminary Statement

1. Since January 29, 2019, and throughout the Total Compensation Period, Simpson Thacher has served as counsel for and has provided important and necessary legal advice to the Board and Independent Directors. Specifically, during the Total Compensation Period, Simpson Thacher has, among other things, provided representation and legal advice in connection with (i) these chapter 11 cases (the "**Chapter 11 Cases**") and material aspects of the

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

bankruptcy process, including the negotiation of various settlements underlying the Debtors' proposed plan of reorganization (the "**Plan**") and financing commitments for implementation of the Plan; (ii) regulatory, judicial and other proceedings concerning the conduct of the Debtors, the Board or the Independent Directors; (iii) derivative shareholder and securities litigation and related issues; (iv) the exercise of the Board's fiduciary duties, including with respect to maximizing the value of the Debtors' estates for all stakeholders; (v) director liability insurance and indemnification matters; (vi) the review of disclosures to be made with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"); (vii) director and officer compensation matters; and (viii) general corporate governance matters.

2. Simpson Thacher's advice to the Board and the Independent Directors and 10 representation of them in connection with the aforementioned matters during the Total 11 Compensation Period were of substantial benefit to the Board and the Independent Directors, and 12 the professional services performed and expenses incurred in connection therewith were actual 13 and necessary. Importantly, the Board is entitled to engage and retain advisors and experts it 14 determines are necessary and appropriate to properly discharge its fiduciary duties to the 15 Debtors, and the Independent Directors were entitled to maintain the representation of 16 independent counsel in order to continue providing advice on the number of ongoing related 17 matters that were not stayed during the pendency of these Chapter 11 Cases. Moreover, Simpson 18 Thacher has worked closely with the Debtors' legal and financial advisors to ensure there has 19 been no duplication of efforts with respect to legal matters affecting the Debtors. In light of the 20size and complexity of these Chapter 11 Cases, Simpson Thacher's fees for services rendered 21 and incurred expenses are reasonable under the applicable standards as set forth in more detail 22 herein. Simpson Thacher therefore respectfully requests that the Court grant this Fourth Interim 23 Application and allow interim compensation for professional services performed and 24 reimbursement for expenses as requested herein for the Fourth Interim Compensation Period and 25 grant this Final Application and finally allow compensation for professional services performed 26 and reimbursement for expenses as requested herein for the Total Compensation Period. 27

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Case: 19-30088 Doc# 8901 Filed: 08/28/20 Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 13 of 34

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

1

2

3

4

5

3. This Fourth Interim and Final Application has been prepared in accordance with and submitted pursuant to the sections 105, 330(a), 331 and 363 of title 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rule 2016, the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the Northern District of California (the "Local Rules"), the Order Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 331 and 105(a) and Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2016 for Authority to Establish Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of Professionals, dated February 27, 2019 [Docket No. 701] (the "Interim Compensation Order"), the Guidelines for Compensation and Expense Reimbursement of Professionals and Trustees for the Northern District of California, effective February 19, 2014 (the "Local Guidelines"), the U.S. Trustee Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed under 11 U.S.C. § 330 by Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Cases, effective November 1, 2013 (the "UST Guidelines") and the Revised Fee Examiner Protocol, dated October 24, 2019 [Docket No. 4473] (as approved and modified by the Second Amended Order Granting Fee Examiner's Motion to Approve Fee Procedures, dated January 30, 2020 [Docket No. 5572] (the "Second Amended Fee Procedures Order") (the "Fee Examiner Protocol," and, together with the Local Guidelines, collectively, the "Fee Guidelines").

4. The Interim Compensation Order provides that professionals may file a Monthly Fee Statement or a Consolidated Monthly Fee Statement (each as defined in the Interim Compensation Order) and serve it upon certain designated notice parties. If there is no objection within twenty-one (21) days after service of the Monthly Fee Statement or Consolidated Monthly Fee Statement, the Debtor is authorized to pay 80% of the fees (with the remaining 20% of the fees requested referred to herein as the "Holdback Amount") and 100% of the expenses requested. If there is an objection to the Monthly Fee Statement or Consolidated Monthly Fee Statement, the Debtor is authorized to pay 80% of the fees and 100% of the expenses that are not subject to an objection.

5. On March 30, 2020, April 30, 2020, May 29, 2020, June 30, 2020, July 23, 2020 and July 28, 2020, Simpson Thacher filed and served, respectively, a Tenth Monthly

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

1

2

3

4

5

6

Fee Statement covering the period from January 1, 2020 through and including January 31, 2020 [Docket No. 6533] (the "Tenth Monthly Fee Statement"), an Eleventh Monthly Fee Statement covering the period from February 1, 2020 through and including February 29, 2020 [Docket No. 7012] (the "Eleventh Monthly Fee Statement"), a Twelfth Monthly Fee Statement covering the period from March 1, 2020 through and including March 31, 2020 [Docket No. 7655] (the "Twelfth Monthly Fee Statement"), a Thirteenth Monthly Fee Statement covering the period from April 1, 2020 through and including April 30, 2020 [Docket No. 8217] (the "Thirteenth **Monthly Fee Statement**"), a Fourteenth Monthly Fee Statement covering the period from May 1, 2020 through and including May 31, 2020 [Docket No. 8504] (the "Fourteenth Monthly Fee Statement"), a Fifteenth Monthly Fee Statement covering the period from June 1, 2020 through and including June 30, 2020 [Docket No. 8553] (the "Fifteenth Monthly Fee Statement"), and a Sixteenth Monthly Fee Statement covering July 1, 2020 [Docket No. 8554] (the "Sixteenth Monthly Fee Statement" and collectively, the "Monthly Fee Statements").

6. In these Monthly Fee Statements with respect to the Fourth Interim Compensation Period, Simpson Thacher requested payment of \$3,885,114.00 (80% of total fees, of which \$1,686,790.40 was in respect of representation of the Board under section 327(e) and \$2,198,323.60 was in respect of representation of the Independent Directors under section 363) as compensation for professional services and \$42,692.27 (100% of expenses, of which of which \$5,535.63 was in respect of representation of the Board under section 327(e) and \$37,156.64 was in respect of representation of the Independent Directors under section 363) as reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses. The total Holdback Amount for the Fourth Interim Compensation Period is \$971,278.50 (20% of undisputed fees). To date, Simpson Thacher has received payment of \$1,845,634.80 in fees for professional services rendered and \$21,490.38 for expenses incurred during the Fourth Interim Compensation Period.

7. The deadlines for any objections to the Tenth through Sixteenth Monthly Fee Statements have passed, and no objections were filed. Consistent with the Interim Compensation Order, Simpson Thacher seeks approval for the allowance and payment (to the

extent not paid prior to the hearing on this Application) of all outstanding amounts requested under the Monthly Fee Statements, including the Holdback Amount. This request is 2 consolidated with Simpson Thacher's concurrent request for final review and approval of all 3 compensation and expenses in these Chapter 11 Cases. 4

8. In addition, with respect to the remainder of the Total Compensation Period, Simpson Thacher previously filed its First Consolidated Monthly Fee Statement covering the period from January 29, 2019 through and including April 30, 2019 (the "First Interim **Compensation Period**"), which is reflected in the First Interim Application [Docket No. 3157]; its Second Monthly Fee Statement through Fifth Monthly Statement collectively covering the period from May 1, 2019 through and including August 31, 2019 (the "Second Interim Compensation Period"), which is reflected in the Second Interim Application [Docket No. 4767]; and its Sixth Monthly Fee Statement through Ninth Monthly Fee Statement collectively covering the period from September 1, 2019 through and including December 31, 2019 (the "Third Interim Compensation Period"), which is reflected in the Third Interim Application [Docket No. 6331].

9. Under the First Interim Application, Simpson Thacher requested payment of \$1,931,632.00 in fees for professional services rendered (including both the initial 80% requested under the First Consolidated Monthly Fee Statement and the 20% Holdback Amount) and \$16,579.35 for expenses incurred during the First Interim Compensation Period. Simpson Thacher reached a compromise with the Fee Examiner to reduce the outstanding fees sought by \$80,000 and the expenses by \$2,000. This Court approved the First Interim Application as amended by the compromise pursuant to the Order Granting Amended First Interim Fee Application of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP for Allowance and Payment of Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period of January 29 2019 Through April 30, 2019 [Docket No. 6446]. Accordingly, Simpson Thacher has been paid a total of \$1,851,632.00 in allowed fees and \$14,579.35 for allowed expenses on account of the First Interim Compensation Period.

1

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

New York, NY 10017

425 Lexington Ave

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

10. Under the Second Interim Application, Simpson Thacher requested payment of \$2,837,908.50 in fees for professional services rendered (including both the initial 80% requested under the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Monthly Fee Statements plus the applicable portion of the Objection Amount and the 20% Holdback Amount) and \$51,945.60 for expenses incurred during the Second Interim Compensation Period. Under the Third Interim Application, Simpson Thacher requested \$2,705,242.50 in fees for professional services rendered (including both the initial 80% requested under the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Monthly Statements plus the applicable portion of the Objection Amount and the 20% Holdback Amount) and \$73,689.50 for expenses incurred during the Third Interim Compensation Period. Simpson Thacher reached a consolidated compromise with the Fee Examiner to reduce the outstanding fees requested under the Second and Third Interim Applications by \$180,000 and the expenses by \$20,000. The Court approved the Second Interim Application and Third Interim Application, each as amended, by amended docket text order [Docket No. 6331], and the Second Interim Approval Order and the Third Interim Approval Order have been submitted and are awaiting entry by the Court. The total outstanding amount to be paid to Simpson Thacher under the Second Interim Application and the Third Interim Application, each as amended, is \$1,329,053.40. As of the date of filing of this Fourth Interim and Final Application, Simpson Thacher has not yet received payment of this amount.

Jurisdiction

11. The Court has jurisdiction to consider this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Venue is proper before the Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

Background

12. On January 29, 2019 (the "Petition Date"), each of the Debtors filed a petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors are authorized to continue to operate their businesses as debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and

Case: 19-30088 Filed: 08/28/20 Doc# 8901 Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 17 of 34

1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors' cases are being jointly administered for procedural purposes only pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015.

13. On February 12, 2019, the Acting United States Trustee for Region 3 (the "U.S. Trustee") appointed the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors [Docket No. 409], which was amended on March 20, 2019 [Docket No. 962]. On February 15, 2019, the U.S. Trustee appointed the Official Committee of Tort Claimants [Docket No. 453], which was amended on February 21, 2019 [Docket No. 530].

14. Additional information regarding the events leading to these chapter 11 cases is set forth in the *Amended Declaration of Jason P. Wells in Support of First Day Motions and Related Relief* [Docket No. 263].

15. On June 19, 2020, this Court confirmed the Debtors' Plan. The Plan provides that any final fee applications must be filed within sixty (60) days of the Effective Date (as defined therein). The Effective Date of the Plan occurred on July 1, 2020 [Docket No. 8252].

16. Simpson Thacher was first engaged to represent the Independent Directors in December 2017 to (i) provide legal advice regarding legislation concerning dividends and related issues, (ii) represent the Independent Directors regarding alleged breaches of fiduciary duties and other claims arising out of the 2017 and 2018 wildfires and (iii) advise the Independent Directors in connection with a number of ongoing litigations and inquiries.

17. On April 2, 2019, the Debtors filed an application to retain Simpson Thacher as counsel for the Independent Directors under section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code (the "**Retention Application**"). After the filing of the Retention Application, Simpson Thacher was also asked to represent the Board and the members of the Board from time to time in their capacities as members of the Board. The U.S. Trustee then requested that the retention of Simpson Thacher to represent the Board be approved under section 327(e) of the Bankruptcy Code. *See Supplemental Declaration of Michael H. Torkin in Support of the Motion Pursuant to 11 U.S.C.* §363 Authorizing Debtors to Pay the Fees and Expenses of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP as Counsel to the Independent Directors of PG&E Corp. (as Modified as Described

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

Herein) [Docket No. 1802] (as amended from time to time, the "STB Retention Declaration").
The Retention Application, as modified, was approved by this Court on May 10, 2019 [Docket No. 1979] (the "Retention Order"). The Retention Order is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

18. The Retention Order authorizes the Debtors to employ and retain Simpson Thacher *nunc pro tunc* to January 29, 2019 as attorneys for the Board and Independent Directors in accordance with Simpson Thacher's normal hourly rates and disbursement policies, as described in the Retention Application. Further, the Retention Order authorizes the Debtors (i) pursuant to section 327(e) of the Bankruptcy Code, to pay the reasonable fees of, and reimburse the reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by, Simpson Thacher in connection with the Board Representation (as defined in the Retention Order), including with respect to "all matters related to corporate governance" and "other related matters"; and (ii) pursuant to section 363, to pay the reasonable fees of, and reimburse the reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by, Simpson Thacher in connection the Independent Director Representation (as defined in the Retention Order), including with respect to "representation in ongoing litigation and regulatory inquiries," "fact-gathering," and "related matters."

<u>Summary of Professional Compensation</u> and Reimbursement of Expenses <u>Requested Under Fourth Interim Application</u>

19. Simpson Thacher seeks the interim allowance and payment of (i) compensation for professional services performed during the Fourth Interim Compensation Period in the amount of \$4,856,392.50, of which \$971,278.50 has been held back as the Holdback Amount; and (ii) \$42,692.27 as reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred for the months covered by the Fourth Interim Compensation Period. As of the date of this Fourth Interim and Final Application, \$1,845,634.80 in fees and \$21,490.38 in expenses have been paid to Simpson Thacher in respect of the Fourth Interim Compensation Period.

20. There is no agreement or understanding between Simpson Thacher and any other person, other than members of the firm, for the sharing of compensation to be received for

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

Case: 19-30088 Doc# 8901 Filed: 08/28/20 Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 19 of 34

25

26

27

28

1

2

services rendered in these Chapter 11 Cases. Except as otherwise described herein, no payments have heretofore been made or promised to Simpson Thacher for services rendered or to be rendered in any capacity whatsoever in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases.

21. The fees charged by Simpson Thacher in these cases are billed in accordance with Simpson Thacher's normal and existing billing rates and procedures in effect during the Compensation Period. The rates charged by Simpson Thacher for professional and paraprofessional services in these Chapter 11 Cases are the same rates that Simpson Thacher charges for comparable bankruptcy and non-bankruptcy representations.⁶ Such fees are reasonable based on the customary compensation by comparably skilled practitioners in comparable bankruptcy and non-bankruptcy cases in a competitive national legal market.

22. Attached hereto as **Exhibit B** is a certification regarding Simpson Thacher's compliance with the Fee Guidelines.

23. Attached hereto as **Exhibit C** is a summary and comparison of the aggregate blended hourly rates billed by Simpson Thacher's timekeepers in all domestic offices to nonbankruptcy matters during the prior twelve (12) month rolling period and the blended hourly rates billed to the Debtors during the Compensation Period.

24. With respect to the Independent Director Representation, Simpson Thacher
discussed its rates, fees and staffing with the Independent Directors and Debtors at the outset of
these Chapter 11 Cases. A summary of Simpson Thacher's budget is attached hereto as Exhibit
D. Simpson Thacher estimated its fees for the Fourth Interim Compensation Period in

⁶ By agreement with the Debtors, Simpson Thacher deferred implementation of normal step rate increases for attorneys advancing in seniority, which increases customarily would have taken effect in September, and normal rate increases for all professionals, which increases customarily would have taken effect on January 1.

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

425 Lexington Ave

1

2

connection with the Independent Director Representation would be approximately \$3,076,630, and the fees sought for the Fourth Interim Compensation Period are lower than that estimate.

25. With respect to the Board Representation, professional services were or are being provided on the basis of specific assignments, and accordingly no budget was prepared. However, as set forth in the Retention Motion and the STB Retention Declaration, Simpson Thacher's rates, fees and staffing for the Board Representation are the same as those used in connection with the Independent Director Representation. The Board did not request that Simpson Thacher prepare a budget.

26. The attorneys and paraprofessionals assigned to this matter were necessary to assist with the Board's and Independent Directors' exercise of their fiduciary duties to the Debtors, the preservation of the Debtors' estates, and the other matters described herein. The Debtors are aware of the complexities of these cases, the number of issues to be addressed, the various disciplines and specialties involved in Simpson Thacher's representation, and the number of factors arising in these cases impacting staffing needs. Simpson Thacher has coordinated closely with the Debtors' professionals to ensure there has been no duplication of efforts with respect to any legal matters impacting the Debtors in or outside of these Chapter 11 Cases.

27. The compensation and fees sought for the Fourth Interim Compensation Period are reflected in the Monthly Fee Statements and are set forth therein and in **Exhibits E**, **F** and **H**. **Exhibit E** attached hereto sets forth: (a) the name of each professional and paraprofessional who rendered services and his or her area of practice; (b) whether each professional is a partner, counsel, associate or paraprofessional in the firm; (c) the year that each professional was licensed to practice law; (d) the practice group or specialty of the professional; (e) the number of hours of services rendered by each professional and paraprofessional; and (f) the hourly rate charged by

22

23

24

25

26

27

Case: 19-30088 Doc# 8901 Filed: 08/28/20 Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 21 of 34

23

24

25

26

27

28

1

2

3

Simpson Thacher for the services of each professional and paraprofessional. Exhibit F contains a summary of Simpson Thacher's hours billed using project categories (or "task codes") described therein. Exhibit H sets forth the detailed time entries by Simpson Thacher partners, 4 counsel, associates and paraprofessionals, contemporaneously recorded in increments of onetenth of an hour. Simpson Thacher also maintains computerized records of the time spent by all Simpson Thacher attorneys and paraprofessionals in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases. Copies of these computerized records in LEDES format have been furnished to the Debtors, the U.S. Trustee and the Fee Examiner in the format specified in the Fee Guidelines.

28. Simpson Thacher also hereby requests reimbursement of \$42,692.27 for actual and necessary costs and expenses incurred in rendering services to the Board and Independent Directors. Of the total amount of costs and expenses sought, \$37,156.64 is being requested for reimbursement in connection with Simpson Thacher's Independent Director Representation pursuant to section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code, and \$5,535.63 is being requested for reimbursement in connection with Simpson Thacher's Board Representation pursuant to section 327(e) of the Bankruptcy Code. The costs and expenses sought are described in the Tenth through Sixteenth Monthly Fee Statements and are set forth therein and in **Exhibit G**, which sets forth a summary of costs and expenses incurred during the Fourth Interim Compensation Period, and **Exhibit I**, which sets forth an itemized schedule of all such costs and expenses.

Summary of Services Performed by Simpson Thacher **During the Fourth Interim Compensation Period**

29. As described above, during the Fourth Interim Compensation Period, Simpson Thacher rendered substantial professional services to the Board and Independent Directors in connection with ongoing litigation, the exercise of their fiduciary duties to the Debtors and their stakeholders, the protection of the Board's and Independent Directors' interests and other matters

Doc# 8901 Filed: 08/28/20 Case: 19-30088 Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 22 of 34

1	relating to these Chapter 11 Cases. The following is a summary of the professional services
2	rendered by Simpson Thacher during the Fourth Interim Compensation Period, ⁷ organized in
3	accordance with Simpson Thacher's internal system of task codes. ⁸
4	
5	a. <u>Corporate Governance and Board Matters (Task Code: BCG)</u> Fees: \$3,393,018.50; Total Hours: 2,843.00
6	i. Attended and provided legal advice during in-person and
7 8	telephonic Board, committee and sub-committee meetings, and prepared presentations and reviewed and provided comments with respect to Board and committee materials;
9 10	 ii. Advised in connection with Directors & Officers insurance ("D&O Insurance") issues, including reviewing current policies and preparing overviews and analyses, engaging in discussions with
11	insurance providers and risk management personnel regarding policy terms and conditions;
12	iii. Advised in connection with resignation of existing board members
13	and selection of new board members, including participation in onboarding sessions with new directors and review and preparation
14	of Board materials in connection therewith;
15	iv. Engaged in discussions, advised on strategy and process,
16	conducted diligence, conducted legal and factual research,
17	prepared presentations and other written materials, and participated in calls and meetings regarding numerous issues including Director
18	compensation, fiduciary duties, insurance coverage, and the
	bankruptcy process, including settlements with key parties, the Debtors' Plan, exit financing and confirmation;
19	v. Advised on strategy, process and substance with respect to
20	v. Advised on strategy, process and substance with respect to strategic alternatives and financing commitments;
21	vi. Advised with respect to certain management personnel issues;
22	
23	
24	⁷ The summary of professional services rendered during the First Interim Compensation Period, the Second Interim Compensation Period and the Third Interim Compensation Period are provided in the First Interim Application,
25	Second Interim Application and Third Interim Application, respectively, which are fully incorporated herein by reference.
26	⁸ Certain services rendered may overlap between more than one task code. If a task code does not appear below, then
27	Simpson Thacher did not bill significant, if any, time to that task code during the Compensation Period.
28	18
	Case: 19-30088 Doc# 8901 Filed: 08/28/20 Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 23 of 34

	1	vii. Engaged in discussions, advised on strategy and process, prepared presentations and other written materials, and participated in
	2	numerus calls and meetings regarding various modifications to Backstop Commitment Letter
	3	
	4	viii. Reviewed and commented on various SEC filings.
	5	b. <u>Court Hearings (Task Code: BCH)</u> Fees: \$36,514.00; Total Hours: 36.20
	6	i. Prepared for and attended hearings regarding case status,
	7	estimation, approval of settlements, and confirmation.
	8 9	c. <u>Fee/Employment Applications (Task Code: BFA)</u> Fees: \$190,654.50; Total Hours: 170.20
	10	i. Reviewed billing records and prepared required monthly fee statements and interim fee applications.
	11	ii. Reviewed all applicable fee guidelines and updated internal
New York, NY 10017	12	systems and coding as necessary for developments regarding
	13	retention and billing matters in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases.
	14	d. Fee/Employment Objections (Task Code: BFO)
	15	Fees: \$10,390.50; Total Hours: 10.20
	16 17	i. Reviewed reports from Fee Examiner and provided outlines and responses for discussions with Fee Examiner; drafted notices of amendment and compromise and proposed orders.
	18	
	19	e. <u>Plan/Disclosure Statement (Task Code: BPL)</u> Fees: \$888,376.50; Total Hours: 599.60
	20	i. Reviewed and researched, conducted diligence and provided
	21	analysis and advice regarding exclusivity and termination thereof, chapter 11 plan proposals, proposed settlement term sheets, equity
	22	commitments and funding alternatives, and plan confirmation, and reviewed and commented on drafts of Plan and Plan
	23	documentation.
	24	ii. Attended and provided legal advice during in-person and
	25	telephonic Board, committee and sub-committee meetings regarding chapter 11 plan proposals, restructuring support
	26	agreements, equity commitments, other funding alternatives and related matters.
	27	
	28	19
		Case: 19-30088 Doc# 8901 Filed: 08/28/20 Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 24 of 34

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

425 Lexington Ave

1

2

3

f. <u>Pre-Trial Pleadings and Motions (Task Code: L200)</u> Fees: \$323,860.50; Total Hours: 274.40

i. Reviewed case dockets and filings and engaged in general coordination and case administration.

ii. Conducted research, conducted fact diligence and legal analysis, engaged in various meetings and communications in connection with securities and derivative claims, and drafted reply papers on motion to dismiss and related court submissions in connection with securities litigation.

30. The foregoing is merely a summary of the professional services rendered by Simpson Thacher during the Fourth Interim Compensation Period. The professional services performed by Simpson Thacher were necessary and appropriate to the representation of the Board and Independent Directors, including in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases, and were in the best interests of the Board, the Independent Directors and the Debtors and their estates. The services provided by Simpson Thacher to the Board and Independent Directors were separate from and not duplicative of any of the services provided to the Debtors by their professionals. The compensation requested for Simpson Thacher's services is commensurate with the complexity, importance and nature of the issues and tasks involved.

31. The professional services rendered by partners, counsel and associates of Simpson Thacher were rendered primarily by the Litigation, Corporate, Executive Compensation and Executive Benefits, and Bankruptcy and Restructuring Departments. Simpson Thacher has an esteemed and nationally recognized reputation for its expertise in these fields, particularly in connection with the representation of boards of directors in challenging and complex matters.

32. During the Fourth Interim Compensation Period, a total of 3,944 hours were expended by attorneys and paraprofessionals at Simpson Thacher in connection with the aforementioned services performed. 2,411.5 hours were spent on the Independent Director

28

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

1

2

Representation pursuant to section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code, and 1,532.5 hours were spent on the Board Representation pursuant to section 327(e) of the Bankruptcy Code. In the aggregate, the partners and counsel of Simpson Thacher accounted for 2,820.10 hours (approximately 71.5% of time), associates accounted for 1,031.90 hours (approximately 26.2% of time), and staff attorneys and paraprofessionals accounted for 92 hours (approximately 2.3% of time).

33. During the Fourth Interim Compensation Period, Simpson Thacher billed for time expended by attorneys based on hourly rates ranging from \$590 to \$1,640 per hour for attorneys. Allowance of compensation in the amount requested herein would result in a blended hourly rate for attorneys of approximately \$1,251.74, and a blended rate for all professionals and paraprofessionals of approximately \$1,231.34.

34. Consistent with the Second Amended Fee Procedures Order, Simpson Thacher capped Non-Working Travel Time (with respect to airplane travel only) at two hours per airplane trip for billing purposes as of October 1, 2019. Prior to the approval of the Fee Examiner Protocol, Simpson Thacher had discounted Non-Working Travel Time by 50%, which is reflected in Monthly Fee Statements prior to the Seventh Monthly Fee Statement. This prior billing approach has been explained to and resolved with the Fee Examiner pursuant to the compromise reached in connection with the Second Interim Application and Third Interim Application.

Actual and Necessary Disbursements of Simpson Thacher

35. Simpson Thacher has disbursed \$42,692.27 as expenses incurred in providing professional services during the Fourth Interim Compensation Period. These expenses were reasonable and necessary and were essential to, among other things, participate in necessary meetings or hearings, timely respond to client or counsel inquiries and provide effective

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

425 Lexington Ave

1

2

3

representation in ongoing regulatory and litigation-related matters. The costs and expenses are not incorporated into Simpson Thacher's hourly billing rates because it is Simpson Thacher's policy to charge such costs and expenses to those clients requiring such expenditures in connection with the services rendered to them.

36. Simpson Thacher began applying the rates and guidelines as set forth in the Fee Examiner Protocol as of October 24, 2019. The amounts for which Simpson Thacher is seeking reimbursement for reasonable meal and transportation costs are thus consistent with the Fee Guidelines. Additionally, as of October 24, 2019, Simpson Thacher charged for disbursements in accordance with the Fee Guidelines. With respect to photocopying and duplicating expenses, reimbursement for costs is at an average rate of \$.20 per page. Computer-assisted legal research, court conferencing participation and mail services are charged at actual cost. Only clients who use services of the types set forth in **Exhibits G** and **I** are separately charged for such services.

37. Simpson Thacher has made every effort to minimize its disbursements in these Chapter 11 Cases. The actual expenses incurred in providing professional services were reasonable, necessary and justified under the circumstances.

Basis for Allowance of Requested Compensation and Reimbursement for Fourth Interim Compensation Period and Total Compensation Period

38. With respect to the Board Representation, section 331 of the Bankruptcy Code provides for the interim compensation of professionals pursuant to the standards set forth in section 330 governing the Court's award of any such compensation. 11 U.S.C. § 331. Section 330 provides that a professional employed under section 327 of the Bankruptcy Code may be awarded "reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services rendered [and] reimbursement for actual, necessary expenses." 11 U.S.C. § 330(a)(1).

	1	39. Section 330 further provides that, "[i]n determining the amount of reasonable						
	2	compensation to be awarded to [a] professional person, the court shall consider the nature, the						
	3	extent and the value of such services, taking into account" the following factors:						
	4	g. Time spent on the services performed;						
	5	h. Rates charged for the services performed;						
	6	i. Whether the services performed were necessary to the						
	7	administration of, or beneficial at the time at which the						
	8	service was rendered toward the completion of the applicable chapter 11 case;						
	9	j. Whether the services were performed in a reasonable						
	10	amount of time "commensurate with the complexity, importance, and nature of the problem, issue, or task						
	11	addressed";						
	12	k. Whether the professional is board certified or otherwise has						
	13	demonstrated skill and experience in bankruptcy; and						
ſ	14 15	 Whether the compensation is reasonable based on the customary compensation charged by comparably skilled practitioners in cases other than chapter 11 cases. 						
	16	40. With respect to the Independent Director Representation, section 363 of the						
	17	Bankruptcy Code applies. Section 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that a debtor in						
	18	possession "after notice and a hearing, may use, sell or lease, other than in the ordinary course of						
	19	business, property of the estate." 11 U.S.C. § 363. In considering whether to approve use of						
	20	estate property under section 363(b), the bankruptcy judge examines whether there is a sound						
	21	business purpose for the proposed use and in doing so, "should consider all salient factors						
	22							
	23	pertaining to the proceeding and, accordingly, act to further the diverse interests of the debtor,						
	24	creditors and equity holders, alike." Walter v. Sunwest Bank (In re Walter), 83 B.R. 14, 19 (9th						
	25	Cir. BAP 1988). Courts have found business justification for and approved the payment of fees						
	26	and expenses of counsel for a debtor's independent directors pursuant to section 363. See, e.g.,						
	27	23						

Filed: 08/28/20 of 34 Case: 19-30088 Doc# 8901 Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 28

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

1

2

3

In re SunEdison, Inc., No. 16-10992 (SMB) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. July 13, 2016) [ECF No. 764]; In re Sabine Oil & Gas Corp., No. 15-11835 (SCC) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Nov. 5, 2015) [ECF No. 485]. The Debtors explained in the Retention Motion that (i) the Debtors' Articles of Incorporation and board resolutions authorize the payment of the fees and expenses of professionals for the Independent Directors, and (ii) it is common for a company the size of the Debtors to engage and pay for separate counsel to provide independent advice to its directors, and asserted that the retention of Simpson Thacher by the Board and the payment of its reasonable fees and expenses were an exercise of the Debtor's sound business judgment.

41. Simpson Thacher submits that the services for which it seeks compensation and the expenditures for which it seeks reimbursement in this Fourth Interim and Final Application were necessary for and beneficial to, among other things, the Board's and the Independent Directors' exercise of their fiduciary duties, the need for the Board and Independent Directors to continue receiving objective and independent legal advice, and the protection of their interests in these unique and challenging circumstances. Specifically, during the Fourth Interim Compensation Period and the Total Compensation Period, Simpson Thacher has represented and advised the Board and Independent Directors in connection with (i) these Chapter 11 Cases and key aspects of the bankruptcy process, including the estimation of wildfire-related claims, the restructuring settlements with subrogation claimholders and tort claimants, the obtaining of backstop commitments and exit financing, discussions with the Governor's Office and the analysis of various chapter 11 plan proposals; (ii) regulatory, judicial and other proceedings concerning the conduct of the Debtors, the Board or the Independent Directors; (iii) derivative shareholder and securities litigation and related issues; (iv) the exercise of the Board's and the Independent Directors' fiduciary duties to the Debtors and their stakeholders; (v) director

liability and indemnification matters; (vi) director and officer compensation matters; and (vii)
general corporate governance matters applicable to the board of directors and management.
Additionally, during the Fourth Interim Compensation Period and the Total Compensation
Period, Simpson Thacher reviewed and advised on SEC disclosures; attended and provided legal
advice during in-person and telephonic board and committee meetings; reviewed and commented
on various pleadings and motions filed in connection with, among other things, the categories
listed in this paragraph 41, and advised the Board and Independent Directors on appropriate
courses of action; and drafted or participated in the drafting of all necessary motions,
applications, stipulations, orders, responses and other papers in support of the positions or
interests of the Board and Independent Directors.

42. Simpson Thacher not only has extensive experience in representing directors in such complex situations, but it also had an established history with the Independent Directors prior to the Petition Date regarding many of the matters referenced herein. The compensation and reimbursement requested herein are reasonable in light of the nature, extent and value of such services to the Board and Independent Directors, and accordingly, should be approved and allowed both for the Fourth Interim Compensation Period and for all fees and disbursements requested in the First, Second, Third and Fourth Interim Applications (as reduced, as applicable in the First, Second and Third Interim Approval Orders) for the Total Compensation Period on a final basis.

The PERA Fee Objections Should be Overruled on a Final Basis

43. PERA objected to \$525,529 in fees reported in the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Monthly Fee Statements primarily on the grounds that the disputed fees are for services rendered to the Independent Directors in connection with the Securities Litigation and that the

Case: 19-30088 Doc# 8901 Filed: 08/28/20 Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 30 of 34

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

1

2

3

4

5

Debtors are not authorized to pay such fees under the Retention Order. As a threshold matter, PERA is incorrect regarding the Retention Order, which expressly authorizes the Debtors to pay Simpson Thacher's fees for services rendered in connection with its representation of the Independent Directors in "ongoing litigation," which includes the Securities Litigation. Moreover, the PERA Fee Objections incorrectly classified many Simpson Thacher time entries as relating directly to the Securities Litigation. Such fees were not Securities Litigation fees but rather fees for legal advice and analysis provided to the Board and Independent Directors regarding matters related to D&O Insurance and/or these Chapter 11 Cases. Finally, Simpson Thacher addressed the prior PERA objections and requested that they be overruled on an interim basis in the Second and Third Interim Applications, which this Court approved on an interim basis on August 3, 2020 (via docket text order), which Simpson Thacher expects will be reflected in the Second and Third Interim Approval Orders that have been submitted to the Court but not yet entered as of the date hereof. PERA did not respond to Simpson Thacher nor did it pursue its objections in connection with Simpson Thacher's request for interim approval of the fees and expenses set forth in the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Monthly Fee Statements. For these reasons, Simpson Thacher requests that the PERA Fee Objections be overruled on a final basis. If necessary, Simpson Thacher will file separate papers further responding to the PERA Fee Objections prior to any hearing on this Fourth Interim and Final Application and reserves all rights with respect thereto.

Notice and Objections

44. Notice of this Application has been provided to parties in interest (the "Notice **Parties**") in accordance with the Interim Compensation Order, and a joint notice of hearing on this Application and other interim/final compensation applications will be filed as determined by

Filed: 08/28/20 Case: 19-30088 Doc# 8901 Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 31 of 34

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

New York, NY 10017

425 Lexington Ave

1

2

3

4

the Fee Examiner with this Court and served upon all parties that have requested notice in these chapter 11 cases pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. Such notice is sufficient and no other or further notice need be provided.

45. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Order, responses and objections (by any party other than the Fee Examiner) to this Fourth Interim and Final Application, if any, must be filed and served on Simpson Thacher and the Notice Parties on or before 4:00 pm on the 20th day (or the next business day if such day is not a business day) following the date this Fourth Interim and Final Application is served.

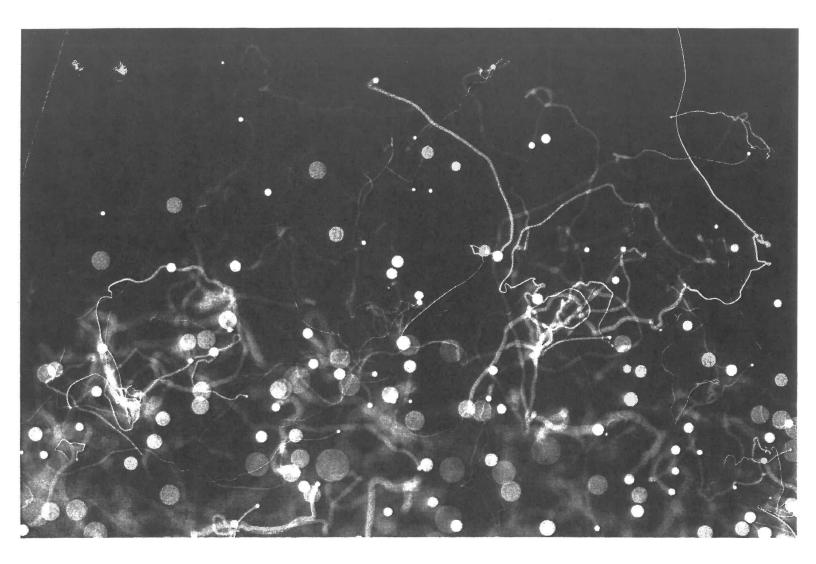
Conclusion

46. Simpson Thacher respectfully requests that the Court enter an Order (i) allowing on a final basis Simpson Thacher's (A) compensation for professional services rendered during the Total Compensation Period in the amount of \$12,071,175.50, consisting of (x) \$7,214,783.00 previously allowed on an interim basis and (y) \$4,856,392.50 in undisputed fees requested in the Fourth Interim Application; and (B) reimbursement for actual and necessary costs and expenses incurred during the Total Compensation Period in the amount of \$162,906.72, consisting of (x) \$120,214.45 previously allowed on an interim basis and (y) \$42,692.27 in expenses requested in the Fourth Interim Application; and (ii) granting such other and further relief and this Court deems just.

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP 425 Lexington Ave New York, NY 10017	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	Dated: August 28, 2020)	/s/_ Nic Ka Jan SIN <i>Co</i> <i>Co</i>	spectfully submitted, <u>Jonathan C. Sanders</u> cholas Goldin thrine A. McLendon nie J. Fell MPSON THACHER & BARTLET unsel for the Board of Each of PG rporation and Pacific Gas and Ele mpany and for Certain Current an lependent Directors	&E ectric
	27					
	28			28		
		Case: 19-30088 Doo	c# 8901	Filed: 08/28/20 of 34	Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47	Page 33

	1	NOTICE PARTIES
	2	PG&E Corporation
	3	c/o Pacific Gas & Electric Company 77 Beale Street
	4	San Francisco, CA 94105 Attn: Janet Loduca, Esq.
	5	Weil Gotshal & Manges 767 Fifth Avenue
	6	New York, NY 10153-0119 Attn: Stephen Karotkin, Esq.,
	7	Rachael Foust, Esq.
	8	Keller & Benvenutti LLP 650 California Street, Suite 1900
	9	San Francisco, CA 94108 Attn: Tobias S. Keller, Esq.,
	10	Jane Kim, Esq.
	11	The Office of the United States Trustee for Region 17 450 Golden Gate Avenue, 5th Floor, Suite #05-0153
t LLF	12	San Francisco, CA 94102 Attn: James L. Snyder, Esq.,
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP 425 Lexington Ave New York, NY 10017	13	Timothy Laffredi, Esq.
in Thacher & Bartle 425 Lexington Ave New York, NY 10017	14	Milbank LLP 55 Hudson Yards
hache Lexii York,	15	New York, NY 10001-2163 Attn: Dennis F. Dunne, Esq.,
son T] 425 New	16	Sam A. Khalil, Esq.
Simp	17	Milbank LLP 2029 Century Park East, 33rd Floor
	18	Los Angeles, CA 90067 Attn: Paul S. Aronzon, Esq.,
	19	Gregory A. Bray, Esq., Thomas R. Kreller, Esq.
	20	Baker & Hostetler LLP
	21	11601 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1400 Los Angeles, CA 90025-0509
	22	Attn: Eric Sagerman, Esq., Cecily Dumas, Esq.
	23	Bruce A. Markell
	24	541 N. Fairbanks Court, Suite 2200
	25	Chicago, IL 60611-3710 bamexampge@gmail.com
	26	pge@legaldecoder.com traceygallegos@gmail.com
	27	
	28	29
		Case: 19-30088 Doc# 8901 Filed: 08/28/20 Entered: 08/28/20 18:14:47 Page 34 of 34

EXHIBIT D



ELM Solutions 2023 Real Rate Report®

The industry's leading analysis of law firm rates, trends, and practices





Report Editor

Jeffrey Solomon Vice President, Segment Leader LegalVIEW® BillAnalyzer Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

Lead Data Analysts

Carol Au Business Systems Quantitative Analyst Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

Anand Kumar Pathinettam Padian Software and Data Engineer Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

ELM Solutions Creative

David Andrews Senior Graphic Designer Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

Contributing Analysts and Authors

Jason Bender Legal Analytics Product Manager Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

Haemi Jung Strategic Business Intelligence Manager Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

Margie Sleboda Lead Technology Product Manager Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

Executive Sponsor

Barry Ader Vice President, Product Management and Marketing Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

© 2004 - 2023 Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions. All rights reserved. This material may not be reproduced, displayed, modified, or distributed in any form without the express prior written permission of the copyright holders. To request permission, please contact:

ELM Solutions, a Wolters Kluwer business 3009 Post Oak Blvd, Suite 1000 Houston, TX 77056 United States ATTN: Marketing ELMSolutionsSales@wolterskluwer.com

LEGAL CAVEAT

Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions has worked to ensure the accuracy of the information in this report; however, Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information or analyses in all cases. Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or other professional services. This report should not be construed as professional advice on any particular set of facts or circumstances. Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions is not responsible for any claims or losses that may arise from any errors or omissions in this report or from reliance upon any recommendation made in this report.

Table of Contents - 2023 Real Rate Report

A Letter to Our Readers • 4

Report Use Considerations • 5

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts • 8

- Partners, Associates, and Paralegals
- Partners, Associates, and Paralegals by Practice Area and Matter Type
- Partners and Associates by City
- Partners and Associates by City and Matter Type
- Partners by City and Years of Experience
- Associates by City and Years of Experience
- Partners and Associates by Firm Size and Matter Type

Section II: Industry Analysis • 62

- Partners, Associates, and Paralegals by Industry Group
- Partners and Associates by Industry Group and Matter Type
- Basic Materials and Utilities
- Consumer Goods
- Consumer Services
- Financials (Excluding Insurance)
- Health Care
- Industrials
- Insurance
- Technology and Telecommunications

Section III: Practice Area Analysis • 82

- Bankruptcy and Collections
- Commercial
- Corporate: Mergers, Acquisitions, and Divestitures
- Corporate: Regulatory and Compliance
- Corporate: Other
- Employment and Labor
- Environmental
- Finance and Securities
- General Liability (Litigation Only)
- Insurance Defense (Litigation Only)
- Intellectual Property: Other
- Intellectual Property: Patents
- Intellectual Property: Trademarks
- Real Estate

Section IV: In-Depth Analysis for Select US Cities • 164

- Boston, MA
- Chicago, IL
- Los Angeles, CA
- New York, NY
- Philadelphia, PA
- San Francisco, CA
- Washington, DC

Section V: International Analysis • 181

Section VI: Matter Staffing Analysis • 211

A Letter to Our Readers

Welcome to the latest edition of Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions Real Rate Report[®], the industry's leading data-driven benchmark report for lawyer and paralegal rates.

Our Real Rate Report has been a relied upon data analytics resource to the legal industry since its inception in 2010 and continues to evolve, providing you with the most comprehensive rate benchmarking insights, trends, and practices. The Real Rate Report is powered by the Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions LegalVIEW® data warehouse, which has grown to include \$160B+ in anonymized legal data.

The depth and granularity of the data within the Real Rate Report empowers users to benchmark and negotiate effectively and make well-informed investment and resourcing decisions for the organization.

As with previous Real Rate Reports, our data is sourced from corporations' and law firms' e-billing and time management solutions. We have included lawyer and paralegal rate data filtered by specific practice and sub-practice areas, metropolitan areas, and types of matters. This level of detail gives legal departments and law firms the precision they need to identify areas of opportunity. We strive to make the Real Rate Report a valuable and actionable reference tool for legal departments and law firms.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions on what information would make this publication more valuable to you. We thank our data contributors for participating in this program. And we thank you for making Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions your trusted partner for legal industry domain expertise, data, and analytics and look forward to continuing to provide market-leading, expert solutions that deliver the best business outcomes for collaboration among legal departments and law firms.

Sincerely,

Barry Ader Vice President, Product Management and Marketing Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

Report Use Considerations

2023 Real Rate Report

- Examines law firm rates over time
- Identifies rates by location, experience, firm size, areas of expertise, industry, and timekeeper role (i.e., partner, associate, and paralegal)
- · Itemizes variables that drive rates up or down

All the analyses included in the report derive from the actual rates charged by law firm professionals as recorded on invoices submitted and approved for payment.

Examining real, approved rate information, along with the ranges of those rates and their changes over time, highlights the role these variables play in driving aggregate legal cost and income. The analyses can energize questions for both corporate clients and law firm principals.

Clients might ask whether they are paying the right amount for different types of legal services, while law firm principals might ask whether they are charging the right amount for legal services and whether to modify their pricing approach.

Some key factors¹ that drive rates²:

Attorney location - Lawyers in urban and major metropolitan areas tend to charge more when compared with lawyers in rural areas or small towns.

Litigation complexity - The cost of representation will be higher if the case is particularly complex or timeconsuming; for example, if there are a large number of documents to review, many witnesses to depose, and numerous procedural steps, the case is likely to cost more (regardless of other factors like the lawyer's level of experience).

Years of experience and reputation - A more experienced, higher-profile lawyer is often going to charge more, but absorbing this higher cost at the outset may make more sense than hiring a less expensive lawyer who will likely take time and billable hours to come up to speed on unfamiliar legal and procedural issues.

Overhead - The costs associated with the firm's support network (paralegals, clerks, and assistants), document preparation, consultants, research, and other expenses.

Firm size – The rates can increase if the firm is large and has various timekeeper roles at the firm. For example, the cost to work with an associate or partner at a larger firm will be higher compared to a firm that has one to two associates and a paralegal.

¹ David Goguen, J.D., University of San Francisco School of Law (2020) Guide to Legal Services Billing Retrieved from: https://www.lawyers.com/legal-info/research/guide-to-legal-services-billing-rates.html

² Source: 2018 RRR. Factor order validated in multiple analyses since 2010

Partner with the leader in AI-powered bill review

LegalVIEW[®] BillAnalyzer

()

Many vendors claim to have an advanced and innovative AI model; however, only BillAnalyzer leverages the most extensive industry database, expertise, and AI models to provide the best outcomes for your spend management program.

LegalVIEW BillAnalyzer can offer more than other legal bill review providers:

- Builds a custom Al model based on your guidelines
- Over 100 data scientists, 400 compliance experts and 50 process experts support the BillAnalyzer Al model

Industry and peer guideline benchmarking

- Leverages industryleading \$160B+ in legal performance data
 - Uses your actual historical data to train and optimize your custom AI model
 - Surveys past billing in review to evaluate historical patterns

The benefits you can expect to realize from LegalVIEW BillAnalyzer include:



Control legal spend with up to 10% cost savings



Deliver up to 20% increase in billing guideline compliance



Optimize resources so attorneys can focus on higher value work

elmsolutionssales@wolterskluwer.com 1 800 780 3681 (Toll-free)

www.wolterskluwer.com



When you have to be right

Mastering spend. Totally.



Supercharged cost management

Maximize compliance, minimize spend leakage

200

Better analytics, smarter decisions

Act on insights from advanced analytics



Complete visibility

Visibility and management of all vendor invoices

Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions redefines spend management and takes it to the next level with total spend management. By incorporating our artificial intelligence and advanced analytics solutions into your spend management program, you can push the very boundaries of cost savings, billing compliance, engagement with outside counsel, and the value of what your legal department delivers to your organization.

elmsolutionssales@wolterskluwer.com 1 800 780 3681 (Toll-free)

www.wolterskluwer.com



When you have to be right

All data and analysis based on data collected thru Q2 2023

Cities

By Matter Type

2023 - Real Rates for Associate and Partner **Trend Analysis - Mean** Third Quartile First City Matter Type Role Median 2023 2022 2021 Quartile Jackson MS Non-Litigation Associate 21 \$55 \$55 \$176 \$125 \$159 \$125 Jacksonville FL Litigation Partner 10 \$269 \$333 \$478 \$352 \$394 \$543 Kansas City MO Litigation Partner 59 \$415 \$466 \$596 \$511 \$473 \$450 Associate 48 \$277 \$350 \$385 \$331 \$316 \$316 Non-Litigation Partner 103 \$428 \$522 \$625 \$530 \$526 \$487 Associate 85 \$260 \$338 \$385 \$335 \$324 \$312 Las Vegas NV Litigation Partner 11 \$296 \$350 \$453 \$380 \$405 \$450 Non-Litigation Partner 16 \$420 \$502 \$601 \$502 \$450 \$422 Associate 16 \$250 \$282 \$348 \$300 \$305 \$297 Little Rock AR Non-Litigation Partner 12 \$215 \$250 \$315 \$284 \$260 \$256 Los Angeles CA Litigation Partner 302 \$525 \$840 \$1,159 \$867 \$815 \$739 Associate 353 \$431 \$680 \$880 \$674 \$650 \$606 Non-Litigation Partner 438 \$574 \$857 \$1,198 \$905 \$941 \$904 Associate 492 \$452 \$635 \$840 \$660 \$697 \$715

Cities

By Years of Experience

2023 - Real Rat	tes for Partner					Trei	nd Analys	sis - Me
City	Years of Experience	n	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	2023	2022	2021
Detroit MI	21 or More Years	35	\$294	\$371	\$443	\$364	\$371	\$391
Greenville SC	21 or More Years	13	\$415	\$448	\$521	\$462	\$464	\$462
Hartford CT	Fewer Than 21 Years	12	\$361	\$458	\$548	\$485	\$451	\$393
	21 or More Years	31	\$461	\$565	\$730	\$603	\$568	\$546
ionolulu HI	21 or More Years	11	\$278	\$295	\$330	\$318	\$333	\$375
louston TX	Fewer Than 21 Years	40	\$525	\$753	\$935	\$757	\$770	\$707
ndianapolis IN	Fewer Than 21 Years	20	\$225	\$400	\$450	\$402	\$376	\$390
	21 or More Years	32	\$350	\$473	\$652	\$481	\$490	\$467
ackson MS	Fewer Than 21 Years	10	\$300	\$320	\$392	\$326	\$331	\$348
	21 or More Years	28	\$255	\$385	\$450	\$376	\$402	\$397
(ansas City MO	Fewer Than 21 Years	40	\$390	\$472	\$534	\$473	\$472	\$403
	21 or More Years	66	\$485	\$595	\$710	\$593	\$544	\$493
.as Vegas NV	Fewer Than 21 Years	10	\$344	\$428	\$511	\$417	\$388	\$349
os Angeles CA	Fewer Than 21 Years	154	\$548	\$747	\$1,102	\$831	\$823	\$790

Trend Analysis - Mean

Cities

By Years of Experience

2023 - Real Rates for Partner

						IT Chu Analysis - Meal			
City	Years of Experience	n	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	2023	2022	2021	
Los Angeles CA	21 or More Years	284	\$518	\$802	\$1,188	\$877	\$885	\$846	
Memphis TN	Fewer Than 21 Years	10	\$295	\$352	\$360	\$336	\$332	\$307	
	21 or More Years	12	\$395	\$415	\$433	\$391	\$400	\$380	
Miami FL	Fewer Than 21 Years	50	\$395	\$555	\$671	\$544	\$475	\$479	
	21 or More Years	80	\$413	\$625	\$789	\$616	\$593	\$581	
Minneapolis MN	Fewer Than 21 Years	36	\$493	\$610	\$687	\$578	\$545	\$484	
	21 or More Years	72	\$576	\$714	\$845	\$696	\$658	\$622	
Nashville TN	Fewer Than 21 Years	17	\$381	\$509	\$615	\$502	\$449	\$400	
	21 or More Years	42	\$454	\$484	\$559	\$515	\$504	\$488	
New Orleans LA	Fewer Than 21 Years	20	\$330	\$336	\$377	\$358	\$344	\$316	
	21 or More Years	40	\$320	\$370	\$500	\$449	\$422	\$366	
New York NY	Fewer Than 21 Years	384	\$632	\$1,025	\$1,475	\$1,084	\$1,064	\$1,030	
	21 or More Years	810	\$645	\$1,083	\$1,611	\$1,132	\$1,116	\$1,064	
Oklahoma City OK	21 or More Years	12	\$250	\$380	\$385	\$337	\$332	\$328	

Cities By Matter Type

2023 - Real Rate	es for Associate and Partner						Trend Analysis - Mean			
City	Role	n	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	2023	2022	2021		
Little Rock AR	Partner	20	\$224	\$255	\$398	\$314	\$268	\$260		
	Associate	17	\$150	\$180	\$210	\$189	\$173	\$171		
Los Angeles CA	Partner	665	\$555	\$850	\$1,195	\$890	\$896	\$846		
	Associate	795	\$450	\$645	\$869	\$666	\$680	\$679		
Louisville KY	Partner	23	\$279	\$330	\$400	\$335	\$333	\$343		
	Associate	13	\$211	\$253	\$275	\$258	\$237	\$232		
Memphis TN	Partner	22	\$318	\$365	\$415	\$366	\$371	\$349		
Miami FL	Partner	189	\$395	\$575	\$723	\$586	\$549	\$535		
	Associate	127	\$275	\$405	\$521	\$414	\$391	\$380		
Milwaukee WI	Associate	21	\$265	\$283	\$347	\$308	\$310	\$310		
Minneapolis MN	Partner	151	\$494	\$662	\$795	\$643	\$617	\$578		
	Associate	135	\$308	\$425	\$536	\$430	\$434	\$401		
Nashville TN	Partner	84	\$396	\$504	\$600	\$512	\$487	\$462		
	Associate	74	\$292	\$351	\$406	\$358	\$332	\$299		

EXHIBIT E



ELM Solutions

2024 Real Rate Report®

The industry's leading analysis of law firm rates, trends, and practices





Report Editor

Jennifer Mclver Director, Legal Operations and Industry Insights Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

Lead Data Analysts

Carol Au Business Systems Quantitative Analyst Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

Aaryak Shandilya Data Scientist Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

ELM Solutions Creative

David Andrews Senior Graphic Designer Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

Contributing Analysts and Authors

Jason Bender Legal Analytics Product Manager Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

Haemi Jung Strategic Business Intelligence Manager Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

Margie Sleboda Lead Technology Product Manager Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

Executive Sponsor

Brian Jorgenson Vice President, Product Management Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

© 2004 - 2024 Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions. All rights reserved. This material may not be reproduced, displayed, modified, or distributed in any form without the express prior written permission of the copyright holders. To request permission, please contact:

ELM Solutions, a Wolters Kluwer business 2929 Allen Pkwy Ste 3300 Houston, TX 77019 United States ATTN: Marketing ELMSolutionsSales@wolterskluwer.com

LEGAL CAVEAT

Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions has worked to ensure the accuracy of the information in this report; however, Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information or analyses in all cases. Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or other professional services. This report should not be construed as professional advice on any particular set of facts or circumstances. Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions is not responsible for any claims or losses that may arise from any errors or omissions in this report or from reliance upon any recommendation made in this report.

Table of Contents - 2024 Real Rate Report

A Letter to Our Readers • 4

Report Use Considerations • 5

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts • 8

- Partners, Associates, and Paralegals
- Partners and Associates by City and Matter Type
- Partners and Associates by City
- Partners, Associates, and Paralegals by Practice Area and Matter Type
- Partners and Associates by Firm Size and Matter Type
- Partners by City and Years of Experience
- Associates by City and Years of Experience

Section II: Industry Analysis • 65

- Partners, Associates, and Paralegals by Industry Group
- Partners and Associates by Industry Group and Matter Type
- Basic Materials and Utilities
- Consumer Goods
- Consumer Services
- Financials (Excluding Insurance)
- Health Care
- Industrials
- Insurance
- Technology and Telecommunications

Section III: Practice Area Analysis • 88

- Bankruptcy and Collections
- Commercial
- Corporate: Mergers, Acquisitions, and Divestitures
- Corporate: Regulatory and Compliance
- Corporate: Other
- Employment and Labor
- Environmental
- Finance and Securities
- General Liability (Litigation Only)
- Insurance Defense (Litigation Only)
- Intellectual Property: Other
- Intellectual Property: Patents
- Intellectual Property: Trademarks
- Real Estate

Section IV: In-Depth Analysis for Select US Cities • 175

- Boston, MA
- Chicago, IL
- Los Angeles, CA
- New York, NY
- Philadelphia, PA
- San Francisco, CA
- Washington, DC

Section V: International Analysis • 195

Section VI: Matter Staffing Analysis • 220

Appendix: Data Methodology • 225

A Letter to Our Readers

Welcome to the latest edition of Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions Real Rate Report[®], the industry's leading data-driven benchmark report for lawyer and paralegal rates.

Our Real Rate Report has been a relied upon data analytics resource to the legal industry since its inception in 2010 and continues to evolve, providing you with the most comprehensive rate benchmarking insights, trends, and practices. The Real Rate Report is powered by the Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions LegalVIEW® data warehouse, which has grown to include \$180B+ in anonymized legal data.

The depth and granularity of the data within the Real Rate Report empowers users to benchmark and negotiate effectively and make well-informed investment and resourcing decisions for the organization.

As with previous Real Rate Reports, our data is sourced from corporations' and law firms' e-billing and time management solutions. We have included lawyer and paralegal rate data filtered by specific practice and sub-practice areas, metropolitan areas, and types of matters. This level of detail gives legal departments and law firms the precision they need to identify areas of opportunity. We strive to make the Real Rate Report a valuable and actionable reference tool for legal departments and law firms.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions on what information would make this publication more valuable to you. We thank our data contributors for participating in this program. And we thank you for making Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions your trusted partner for legal industry domain expertise, data, and analytics and look forward to continuing to provide market-leading, expert solutions that deliver the best business outcomes for collaboration among legal departments and law firms.

Sincerely,

Brian Jorgenson Vice President, Product Management Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions

Report Use Considerations

2024 Real Rate Report

- Examines law firm rates over time
- Identifies rates by location, experience, firm size, areas of expertise, industry, and timekeeper role (i.e., partner, associate, and paralegal)
- Itemizes variables that drive rates up or down

All the analyses included in the report derive from the actual rates charged by law firm professionals as recorded on invoices submitted and approved for payment.

Examining real, approved rate information, along with the ranges of those rates and their changes over time, highlights the role these variables play in driving aggregate legal cost and income. The analyses can energize questions for both corporate clients and law firm principals.

Legal departments might ask whether they are paying the right amount for different types of legal services, while law firm principals might ask whether they are charging the right amount for legal services and whether to modify their pricing approach.

Some key factors¹ that drive rates²:

Attorney location - Lawyers in urban and major metropolitan areas tend to charge more when compared with lawyers in rural areas or small towns.

Litigation complexity - The cost of representation will be higher if the case is particularly complex or timeconsuming; for example, if there are a large number of documents to review, many witnesses to depose, and numerous procedural steps, the case is likely to cost more (regardless of other factors like the lawyer's level of experience).

Years of experience and reputation - A more experienced, higher-profile lawyer is often going to charge more, but absorbing this higher cost at the outset may make more sense than hiring a less expensive lawyer who will likely take time and billable hours to come up to speed on unfamiliar legal and procedural issues.

Overhead - The costs associated with the firm's support network (paralegals, clerks, and assistants), document preparation, consultants, research, and other expenses.

Firm size – The rates can increase if the firm is large and has various timekeeper roles at the firm. For example, the cost to work with an associate or partner at a larger firm will be higher compared to a firm that has one to two associates and a paralegal.

¹ David Goguen, J.D., University of San Francisco School of Law (2020) Guide to Legal Services Billing Retrieved from:

https://www.lawyers.com/legal-info/research/guide-to-legal-services-billing-rates.html

² Source: 2018 RRR. Factor order validated in multiple analyses since 2010

All data and analysis based on data collected thru Q2 2024

wolterskluwer.com

Cities

By Matter Type

2024 - Real Rates for Associate and Partner

Trend Analysis - Mean

City	Matter Type	Role	n	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	2024	2023	2022
Jacksonville FL	Litigation	Partner	14	\$315	\$329	\$383	\$361	\$351	\$366
Kansas City MO	Litigation	Partner	68	\$470	\$550	\$656	\$565	\$522	\$478
		Associate	44	\$340	\$380	\$400	\$368	\$340	\$321
	Non- Litigation	Partner	147	\$512	\$595	\$747	\$621	\$566	\$534
		Associate	108	\$290	\$380	\$426	\$381	\$348	\$326
Las Vegas NV	Litigation	Partner	16	\$299	\$360	\$534	\$417	\$416	\$405
	Non- Litigation	Partner	20	\$233	\$288	\$536	\$410	\$501	\$477
		Associate	18	\$228	\$321	\$454	\$350	\$296	\$301
Los Angeles CA	Litigation	Partner	350	\$548	\$895	\$1,268	\$933	\$881	\$810
		Associate	385	\$477	\$713	\$946	\$718	\$693	\$645
	Non- Litigation	Partner	540	\$563	\$963	\$1,267	\$969	\$975	\$966
		Associate	540	\$455	\$690	\$920	\$711	\$702	\$716
Louisville KY	Litigation	Partner	26	\$246	\$308	\$419	\$356	\$342	\$344
		Associate	12	\$210	\$280	\$300	\$277	\$255	\$224

Cities

By Role

Trend Analysis - Mean

2024 - Real Rates for Associate and Partner

City Role First Median Third 2024 2023 2022 Quartile Quartile Las Vegas NV Partner 32 \$239 \$355 \$535 \$413 \$477 \$444 Associate 33 \$275 \$323 \$395 \$344 \$299 \$302 Little Rock AR Partner 15 \$250 \$264 \$315 \$310 \$307 \$264 Associate 16 \$150 \$170 \$195 \$176 \$172 \$162 Los Angeles CA 790 \$557 Partner \$933 \$1,268 \$954 \$936 \$909 Associate 862 \$473 \$705 \$930 \$714 \$698 \$690 Louisville KY Partner 51 \$260 \$380 \$481 \$384 \$385 \$357 Associate 34 \$210 \$275 \$307 \$274 \$258 \$232 Madison WI Partner 15 \$413 \$555 \$618 \$541 \$505 \$405 **Memphis TN** Partner 28 \$300 \$370 \$467 \$393 \$387 \$371 **Miami FL** Partner 213 \$410 \$600 \$755 \$601 \$601 \$552 Associate 170 \$225 \$370 \$495 \$388 \$427 \$392 **Milwaukee WI** Partner 43 \$399 \$477 \$612 \$539 \$519 \$462 Associate 33 \$306 \$374 \$513 \$404 \$374 \$373