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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE: TFT-LCD (FLAT PANEL)  
ANTITRUST LITIGATION

No. M 07-1827 SI

MDL No. 1827

This Order Relates to:

ALL INDIRECT-PURCHASER  
PLAINTIFF CLASS ACTIONS

**SECOND AMENDED ORDER  
GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL OF  
COMBINED CLASS, PARENS PATRIAE,  
AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY  
SETTLEMENTS WITH AUO, LG  
DISPLAY, AND TOSHIBA  
DEFENDANTS; ORDERING FINAL  
JUDGMENT OF DISMISSAL WITH  
PREJUDICE; AWARD OF ATTORNEYS'  
FEES, EXPENSES, AND INCENTIVE  
AWARDS**

This matter has come before the Court to determine whether there is any cause why this Court should not approve the combined class, *parens patriae*, and governmental entity settlements between, on the one hand, the Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs (“IPPs”) and the States of Arkansas, California, Florida, Michigan, Missouri, New York, West Virginia, and Wisconsin (“Settling States”) (collectively, the “Settling Plaintiffs”), and, on the other hand, the AUO, LG, and Toshiba Defendants - as identified in each of the Proposed Settlements, and inclusive of named related entities (collectively the “Settling Defendants”), set forth in the Settlement Agreements (“Agreements”) filed with this Court relating to the above-captioned litigation. On November 29, 2012, the Court conducted a fairness hearing addressing whether the Settlements were fair, adequate, and reasonable, and on January 31, 2013, the Court conducted a hearing to address attorneys’ fees, expenses, and incentive awards. The Court, after carefully considering all papers filed and proceedings held herein and otherwise being fully informed in the premises, has determined (1) that the Settlements should be approved; (2) that attorneys’ fees,

United States District Court  
For the Northern District of California

1 expenses, and incentive awards should be awarded and allocated as directed by this Order, and (3) that  
2 there is no just reason for delay of the entry of this final judgment approving the Agreements. For the  
3 following reasons, the Court GRANTS final approval to the Settlements. The Court also awards  
4 attorneys' fees, expenses, and awards as detailed below.

## 5 6 **BACKGROUND**

7 This antitrust class action stems from allegations of a global price-fixing conspiracy in the market  
8 for thin-film transistor liquid-crystal display panels ("TFT-LCD"). TFT-LCD panels are used in a  
9 number of products, such as computer monitors, notebook computers, and televisions. *See generally*  
10 Order Granting Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Certification (March 28, 2010), Docket  
11 No. 1642, at 1-3; Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs' Third Consolidated Amended Complaint, Docket No.  
12 2694, ¶¶ 16-54. Defendants manufacture the panels, which are then sold and assembled into finished  
13 products. The panels have no independent utility, and are not available to the average consumer. Instead,  
14 they are incorporated into finished products as discrete, physical objects within the product.

### 15 16 **I. Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs**

17 Plaintiffs are a class of retail purchasers who purchased products containing TFT-LCD panels in  
18 the United States. The indirect purchaser plaintiffs filed this multidistrict antitrust class action on behalf  
19 of all persons and entities who indirectly purchased TFT-LCD panels (contained in TFT-LCD products)  
20 manufactured, marketed, sold and/or distributed by one or more of the defendants, for the indirect  
21 purchasers' end use and not for resale. Third Consol. Amend. Compl. at ¶ 16. Plaintiffs bought TFT-  
22 LCD products containing TFT-LCD panels either from (1) TFT-LCD panel direct purchasers, such as  
23 Dell, Hewlett-Packard, and Apple, which incorporate TFT-LCD panels into final, branded TFT-LCD  
24 products and sell directly to the public, or (2) retailers, such as Best Buy, Wal-Mart, or Target, which  
25 acquire the TFT-LCD products from TFT-LCD panel direct purchasers or distributors.

26 Plaintiffs alleged a "long-running conspiracy extending from at least January 1, 1999 through at  
27 least December 31, 2006, at a minimum, among defendants and their co-conspirators, the purpose and  
28 effect of which was to fix, raise, stabilize, and maintain prices for LCD panels sold indirectly to Plaintiffs

1 and the members of the other indirect-purchaser classes . . . .” *Id.* at ¶ 1. Plaintiffs sought equitable relief  
 2 under Section 16 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 26, based on alleged violations of Section 1 of the  
 3 Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1, as well as restitution, disgorgement, and damages under the antitrust,  
 4 consumer protection, and unfair competition laws of 23 states.<sup>1</sup>

5 On March 28, 2010, the Court granted indirect purchaser plaintiffs’ motion for class certification,  
 6 certifying a nationwide class and twenty-three statewide classes. *See* Order Granting Indirect Purchaser  
 7 Plaintiffs’ Motion for Class Certification, Docket No. 1642, at 35. Additionally, in July 2011, the Court  
 8 certified a Missouri monetary-relief class. Docket No. 3198.

9  
 10 **II. Settling States**

11 The Settling States filed complaints in various federal and state courts beginning in mid-2010.  
 12 The actions assert claims and seek various forms of relief against the defendants arising from indirect  
 13 purchases made by governmental entities, and/or by consumers of TVs, notebook computers, and  
 14 monitors containing LCD Panels under each Settling State’s *parens patriae* authority, proprietary claims,  
 15 and enforcement authority pursuant to both federal and state law. The Settling States have previously  
 16 summarized some of the key events of their investigation and litigation, including motion practice and  
 17 discovery work that preceded the previously-approved settlements. *See* Docket No. 4424 (motion for  
 18 preliminary approval of previous settlements); Docket No. 5600 (motion for final approval of previous  
 19 settlements); Docket No. 6860 (corrected motion for attorneys’ fees and additional costs).

20  
 21 **III. Settlement Approval Process**

22 On January 26, 2012, the Court granted preliminary approval to settlements totaling \$538.6  
 23 million with the Chimei, Chunghwa, Epson, HannStar, Hitachi, Samsung, and Sharp Defendants (“Round  
 24

25  
 26  
 27 <sup>1</sup>The “indirect purchaser states” are Arizona, California, the District of Columbia, Florida,  
 28 Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico,  
 New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, West  
 Virginia, and Wisconsin.

1 1 Settlements”). Docket No. 4688.<sup>2</sup> The Court granted final approval to these settlements on July 11,  
2 2012. *See* Docket No. 6130.

3 With respect to the remaining defendants (AUO, LG, and Toshiba), the IPPs and Settling States  
4 engaged in arm’s-length negotiations with Settling Defendants, resulting in each Proposed Settlement  
5 (“Round 2 Settlements”). The Court granted preliminary approval to these Settlements on July 31, 2012.  
6 *See* Docket No. 6311. Subsequent to that Order, IPPs filed a Motion for Final Approval, *see* Docket No.  
7 7158, as well motions for attorneys’ fees, expenses, and incentive awards, *see* Docket No. 5157, 6662,  
8 and 6664. Settling States also filed motions for attorneys’ fees and expenses, *see* Docket No.5157 and  
9 6860, and counsel for three separate objectors filed motions for attorneys fees, *see* Docket Nos.  
10 6830/7195, 7200, and 7211.

11 On August 9, 2012, the Court issued an order appointing Martin Quinn as Special Master, *see*  
12 Docket No. 6580,<sup>3</sup> and referred to him the task of assisting the Court by issuing reports and  
13 recommendations on the subjects of: “(1) the reimbursement of the parties’ expenses, and (2) the  
14 appropriate amount of attorneys’ fees to be awarded to the parties. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 53(e).” The Court  
15 granted the Special Master authority to communicate *ex parte* with counsel “in order to facilitate the fair  
16 and effective performance of his duties regarding attorneys’ fees and expenses . . . .”

#### 18 **IV. Terms of the Settlement**

19 Most of the key terms of these Round 2 Settlements are substantially similar to the terms in the  
20 Round 1 Settlements, with the exception of the payment amounts and cooperation provisions. Notably,

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21  
22 <sup>2</sup>On the same date, the Court also prospectively modified the class definitions in advance of the  
23 trial against the then-remaining defendants. *See* Docket No. 4684 (order altering statewide classes to  
24 exclude overlapping members of the direct-purchaser class action, and redefining Missouri and Rhode  
25 Island statewide classes to exclude purchases not made for personal, family, or household use). To  
26 preserve uniformity with the previously-approved settlements, the Proposed Settlements cover the  
27 persons and entities which were excluded by operation of the January 26, 2012 order prospectively  
28 modifying the classes against AUO, LG Display, and Toshiba, resulting in the proposed settlement-only  
classes described below.

<sup>3</sup>Martin Quinn was initially appointed Special Master, for various other pretrial purposes, on  
April 12, 2010, *see* Docket No. 1679. He has provided the Court and counsel with invaluable assistance  
during his tenure as Special Master for this challenging MDL proceeding. During the course of his work  
on the cases he has had an opportunity personally to deal with, observe and evaluate the work of many  
of the IPP counsel who now seek attorneys’ fees and costs.

1 the releases largely mirror the releases in the previously approved settlements. The key terms are  
2 described below.

3  
4 **A. Consideration**

5 Settling Defendants will pay a total of \$571 million: \$27.5 million has been paid to Settling States  
6 in resolution of their civil penalties claims, and \$543.5 million represents consumer redress under the  
7 Proposed Settlements. The breakdown of total settlement payments by Defendant is as follows: AUO  
8 - \$170,000,000; LG Display - \$380,000,000; Toshiba - \$21,000,000.

9 In addition to the cash payments, AUO and LG Display agree, for a period of up to 5 years, not  
10 to engage in price-fixing, market allocation, bid rigging, or other conduct that constitutes a per se  
11 violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, with respect to the sale of any LCD panels, or TVs, notebook  
12 computers, or monitors containing LCD panels likely, through the reasonably anticipated stream of  
13 commerce, to be sold to end-user purchasers in the U.S. Additionally, each settling defendant continuing  
14 to manufacture LCD panels agrees to establish an antitrust compliance program for officers and  
15 employees responsible for pricing or production capacity of LCD panels. Each defendant will certify that  
16 it is complying with this obligation in an annual written report for the next 5 years (3 years for Toshiba).  
17 Lastly, AUO and LG Display are obligated to provide cooperation to the IPPs and Settling States in the  
18 event that one or more of the settlements is not approved.

19  
20 **B. Release**

21 For the class period of January 1, 1999 - December 23, 2006, the IPPs release all claims for  
22 monetary relief held by indirect-purchaser end-user consumers in the certified statewide monetary relief  
23 classes (and the proposed settlement-only classes). They also release, for the time period January 1,  
24 1999-February 13, 2012, all claims for injunctive relief held by indirect-purchaser end user consumers  
25 in the previously certified nationwide Sherman Act injunctive relief cases.

26 Settling States release all claims that were asserted and all claims that could have been asserted  
27 in each Settling State's respective action, arising in any way from the sale of LCD Panels and based on  
28 any form of alleged anticompetitive conduct occurring on or before December 31, 2006, including claims

1 based on governmental entity purchases and applicable *parens patriae* claims, based on the facts alleged.

2  
3 **C. Plan of Distribution**

4 The IPPs and the Settling States propose to compensate members of the IPP monetary relief  
5 classes according to a plan of distribution which provides that qualifying claimants will be eligible to  
6 claim an amount of money from the Settlement Fund based on the number of LCD TVs, notebook  
7 computers, and monitors each class member purchased during the class period.

8 The deadline to file a claim was December 6, 2012. Based on a summary of claims provided by  
9 IPP counsel to the Court on January 29, 2013, 10,429,923 LCD products were claimed by 235,808  
10 claimants.<sup>4</sup> *See* Docket No. 7572. At that time, IPP counsel estimated that if the Court approved the  
11 Settlements as written and approved the amount of attorneys' fees, expenses, and incentive awards  
12 requested, claimants (including both timely and late-filed claims) would likely receive around \$64 per  
13 monitor or laptop computer purchase and \$128 per TV purchase. Additionally, a maximum payment  
14 amount of three times the estimated money damages per claimant will apply. Any residue of the  
15 Settlement Fund will be subject to further distribution as ordered by the Court. None of the Settlement  
16 Fund will revert to any Settling Defendant. Members of the nationwide injunctive relief class, who are  
17 not also members of any statewide monetary relief class, will not receive monetary compensation (but  
18 neither will they release monetary claims under the Proposed Settlements). IPP counsel have indicated  
19 that the Court's approval for the minimum payment will be requested when the data from the actual claim  
20 experience is available.

21  
22 **DISCUSSION**

23 **I. Final Approval of Class Action Settlements**

24 Final approval of a proposed class action settlement will be granted upon a finding that the

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26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>4</sup>These numbers include both timely and late-filed claims. IPP counsel recommend that late-  
28 filed claims be included in distribution payments, and this Court agrees. Additionally, the Court notes  
that these numbers do not include claims which the claims administrator has identified as being highly  
suspicious and likely erroneous or fraudulent. The claims administrator will be investigating these  
claims.

1 proposed settlement is “fair, reasonable, and adequate.” Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(e)(2); *See Hanlon v. Chrysler*  
 2 *Corp.*, 150 F.3d 1011, 1026 (9th Cir.1998) (recognizing that “[i]t is the settlement taken as a whole,  
 3 rather than the individual component parts, that must be examined for overall fairness....”). To determine  
 4 whether a settlement agreement meets this standard, a district court must consider a number of factors,  
 5 including:

6 the strength of the plaintiff's case; the risk, expense, complexity, and likely duration  
 7 of further litigation; the risk of maintaining class action status throughout the trial; the  
 8 amount offered in settlement; the extent of discovery completed and the stage of the  
 proceedings; the experience and views of counsel; the presence of a governmental  
 participant; and the reaction of the class members to the proposed settlement.

9 *Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at 1026.

10 The Court has read, heard, and considered all the pleadings and documents submitted, and the  
 11 presentations made in connection with the motions which came on for hearing on November 29, 2012,  
 12 and January 31, 2013. The Court considers the terms of the Settlement as well as objections received to  
 13 the fairness of the Settlement below.<sup>5</sup>

14  
 15 **A. Objections to Plan of Distribution**

16 The Court received seven objections to the fairness of the Proposed Settlements, from a total of  
 17 11 objectors. Primarily, objectors asserted objections on *cy pres* grounds to a provision in the Settlement  
 18 Agreements allowing the Court to determine the disposition of any remaining residual in the settlement  
 19 disbursement account after the cash distribution, complaining that potential *cy pres* recipients are not  
 20 identified in the Settlement. Objectors cite to the Ninth Circuit’s opinion in *Dennis v. Kellogg Comp.*,  
 21 697 F.3d 858 (9th Cir. 2012) (*Kellogg II*),<sup>6</sup> which set aside a settlement which had *cy pres* components  
 22 which neither identified the ultimate recipients of the *cy pres* awards nor set forth any limiting restriction  
 23 on those recipients. *Id.* at 861.

24 The Court overrules these objections. There is no *cy pres* component in the Proposed Settlements

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 26 \_\_\_\_\_  
 27 <sup>5</sup>Objections to attorney fee awards, expenses, and incentive awards are discussed below, in  
 Section II.

28 <sup>6</sup>Many of the objectors incorrectly rely on *Dennis v. Kellogg Company*, 687 F.3d 1149 (9th Cir.  
 2012) (“*Kellogg I*”), which was withdrawn and superseded by *Kellogg II*, discussed above.

1 or in the proposed plan of distribution. The plan aims to compensate only individual qualifying claimants  
2 with settlements on a *pro rata* basis, and none of the funds revert to the settling defendants. Motion for  
3 Final Approval, Docket No. 7158, at 12; Docket No. 7304 at 37. The only provision in the plan that  
4 would permit payment to persons other than a class member claimant is a provision that any residual  
5 funds remaining at the close of the claims process would be subject to further distribution in the Court's  
6 discretion. *Id.* Therefore, *Dennis v. Kellogg* is inapposite.

7 The Court also received other objections that requested more time to find out about the case or  
8 requested a claim form. To the extent these are considered proper objections, they are overruled.

### 9 10 **B. Objections to Release Provisions**

11 Illinois and Washington raise the same objections to final approval of the Round 2 IPP  
12 Settlements as they did in opposition to preliminary approval of the Round 1 Settlements. *See* Docket  
13 No. 4493. South Carolina, in an amicus brief, joins Illinois and Washington's Objection. *See* Docket  
14 No. 7250. The crux of the Illinois, Washington, and South Carolina objections is that the IPPs are risking  
15 the class members' recovery by pursuing injunctive but not monetary relief, due to potential claim  
16 preclusion and the settlements' covenants not to sue. They also argue that the IPPs do not have authority  
17 to release state-law injunctive relief claims. The States request, as they did in the Round 1 settlement  
18 process, that their consumers be removed from the class definition or, at the very least, the Court only  
19 approve the settlements after receiving the parties' assurances that their settlements will not preclude the  
20 States' class members' monetary recovery.

21 With respect to these States' request that their consumers be removed from the class definition,  
22 the Court denies this request. The Court previously rejected identical requests by Illinois and  
23 Washington in connection with Round 1 Settlements, *see* Order Denying States of Illinois and  
24 Washington's Motion to Modify the IPP's Class for Injunctive Relief ("Modify Order"). *See* Docket No.  
25 4715. The Court concluded that the IPP injunctive-relief class will not preclude future claims by Illinois  
26 and Washington residents and that modification of the class is therefore not warranted. *Id.* The Court  
27 based its reasoning on the general rule that a class action suit seeking only declaratory and injunctive  
28 relief does not bar subsequent individual suits for damages, *see Hiser v. Franklin*, 94 F.3d 1287, 1291



1 (9th Cir. 1996), as evidenced by the individualized factual showing necessary to establish monetary  
2 relief, but not required to establish injunctive relief, and the limited procedural protections offered by  
3 Rule 23(b)(2).<sup>7</sup> For the same reasons, the States' objection to the final approval based on its request that  
4 the IPP class be modified to exclude their citizens will be overruled.

5 The parties dispute what language should be included in the final approval order to characterize  
6 the release provisions in the Settlement Agreements, and each suggests language to be included. *See*  
7 Docket Nos. 7171-1 and 7321. At the Fairness hearing, held on November 29, 2012, the parties  
8 discussed the release provisions, and Settling Defendants made certain representations with respect to  
9 the release provisions of Settling States. Defendants represented that the release of the injunctive class  
10 claims would not affect damages actions by states which are not within one of the defined IPP damages  
11 classes, even if they are included in the nationwide injunctive relief class. *See* Docket No. 7304 at 19.  
12 Defendants further clarified that this included the *parens patriae* claims by such states not part of an IPP  
13 damage class. *Id.* at 21. With respect to non-Settling States which are within a defined damages class,<sup>8</sup>  
14 the issue is vigorously disputed. IPP Counsel and Settling States urge the Court to use the same language  
15 from the final approval order of the Round 1 Settlements, while Settling Defendants distinguish  
16 themselves from the Round 1 Defendants in that AUO, LG, and Toshiba, unlike the Round 1 Defendants,  
17 have not stipulated that their Settlement Agreements would have no preclusive effect on *any* claims  
18 brought by a non-Settling State. *See* Docket No. 7398, n.3.<sup>9</sup> Although the parties agreed to discuss the  
19 matter and present the Court with a stipulation suggesting language agreed upon by the parties, the Court  
20 has not received any such stipulation or proposed language.

21 The Court concludes that assurances made at the November 29, 2012 hearing resolve the issues

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22  
23 <sup>7</sup>The Court observed that Rule 23(b)(2) classes are mandatory and do not require that class  
members be given notice or the ability to opt out.

24 <sup>8</sup>The following states are non-Settling States which are part of an IPP damages class: Arizona,  
25 District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Minnesota, Nevada,  
New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Vermont.

26 <sup>9</sup>In the Round 1 Settlements, the parties clarified, at the January 20, 2012 hearing, what state  
27 claims would and would not be released. For example, IPP Counsel clarified that "no claims of any kind  
28 for any nonsettling state, including Oregon, Washington, and Illinois, are being released for proprietary  
state claims or for injunctive relief claims or for *parens patriae* or damage claims," but class members  
were "releasing their individual claims for injunctive relief under state law." Docket No. 4659 at 9-10.

1 that Illinois, Washington, and South Carolina raise in their objection, and their objections are thus  
2 overruled. The Court also finds that the language Settling Defendants propose is sufficient in light of  
3 the plain language of the Settlement Agreements. The Court makes this determination with reference  
4 to the assurances Defendants made at the November 29, 2012, hearing that monetary claims, including  
5 *parens patriae* claims, of the non-Settling States who were not part of a defined damages class would not  
6 be released. With respect to non-Settling States who are part of a defined damages class, as identified  
7 in this Court's class certification Order, the Court expects that the Settlement Agreements exclude from  
8 release *parens patriae* claims. To the extent Defendants take a different view, they can resolve that  
9 dispute in the courts of those states. Accordingly, the Court's characterization of release provision will  
10 reflect the language used in the Settlement Agreement, with reference to the assurances made in the  
11 November 29, 2012, hearing.

### 12 13 **C. Conclusion re Fairness of Settlement**

14 Having considered both the parties' and the objectors' arguments as well as the *Hanlon* factors,  
15 with a view to the complex and voluminous nature of this MDL litigation (see discussion of factors  
16 below), as well as the excellent result, the Court concludes that the settlement is fair, reasonable and  
17 adequate, and that IPPs have satisfied the standards for final approval of a class action settlement under  
18 federal law.

## 19 20 **II. Attorneys' Fees**

21 The Court next addresses the motions and objections relating to an award of attorneys' fees,  
22 expenses and incentive awards. As indicated above, the Court appointed a Special Master to aid in  
23 determining the proper awards. In the Court's Amended Order Appointing Martin Quinn as Special  
24 Master, *see* Docket No. 6580, the Court stated it would review "findings of fact made or recommended  
25 by the Special Master for clear error" and review "*de novo* any conclusions of law made or recommended  
26 by the Special Master . . ." pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 53(f)(3). In addition, "[t]he Court will set aside  
27 the Special Master's ruling on a procedural matter only for an abuse of discretion." *Id.* The Court  
28 notified parties of its intent to file an amended order appointing Martin Quinn as Special Master, and

1 ordered all parties who objected to the Proposed Order appointing him to file objections with the Court.  
2 See Docket No. 6500. This Proposed Order included the same standard for legal review standard as  
3 identified in the original order appointing a special master. No objections were received.

4  
5 **A. IPP Class Counsel Fees**

6 **1. Total Fee Awarded - Objections**

7 IPP class counsel seek an award of 28.5% of the settlement fund. The Special Master concluded,  
8 after an exhaustive analysis of factors to be considered in determining fee awards, that an amount of  
9 \$308,225,250, representing 28.5% of the Settlement Fund, was fair and reasonable. The Court received  
10 several objections to the amount of the fee award from class members who asserted various arguments,  
11 some of which are discussed below.

12 The Ninth Circuit has held that in a class action, “the district court must exercise its inherent  
13 authority to assure that the amount and mode of payment of attorneys' fees are fair and proper.” *Zucker*  
14 *v. Occidental Petroleum Corp.*, 192 F.3d 1323, 1328–29 (9th Cir.1999). The judge is obligated to ensure  
15 that any fee award is fair and reasonable. *Staton v. Boeing Co.*, 327 F.3d 938, 963–64 (9th Cir.2003).  
16 In common fund cases in the Ninth Circuit, the “benchmark” award is 25 percent of the recovery  
17 obtained, with 20–30% as the usual range. See, e.g., *Vizcaino v. Microsoft Corp.*, 290 F.3d 1043, 1047  
18 (9th Cir. 2002). As the *Vizcaino* court noted, the 25% benchmark rate is a starting point for the analysis,  
19 and the selection of the benchmark or any other rate must be supported by findings that take into account  
20 all of the circumstances of the case, including the result achieved, the risk involved in the litigation, the  
21 skill required and quality of work by counsel, the contingent nature of the fee, awards made in similar  
22 cases, and the lodestar crosscheck. *Id.* at 1048–50.

23 In this case, the Court recognizes that the ultimate result achieved by IPP counsel, a settlement  
24 of approximately \$1.08 billion in cash, is exceptional. This represents approximately 50% of the  
25 potential recovery, according to IPP’s damages experts. No amount will revert to defendants, and there  
26 is a low probability of any unclaimed funds remaining. *Cypres* distribution is not an issue. Moreover,  
27 the amount that individual claimants will receive is excellent. As discussed above, from current  
28 estimates, which will change based on the ultimate case administration costs and investigation of further

1 claims, claimants may receive payment in the range of \$64 per monitor or laptop, or \$128 per TV.<sup>10</sup> The  
2 Court also recognizes the not-insignificant risk involved in litigating the claims at issue. Although some  
3 risk was lessened on account of parallel criminal price-fixing charges and guilty pleas, other factors  
4 complicated the IPP's case. Assessment of damages involved a difficult analysis, which required taking  
5 into account the impact of and relationship between federal and state rules concerning damage analysis,  
6 as well as constitutional limitations on duplicative damages, if any. Additionally, this case implicated  
7 provisions of the FTAIA in relatively unprecedented ways. In grappling with these complicated issues,  
8 IPP counsel prosecuted this action for six years, advancing large amounts of money to fund the many and  
9 expensive costs of litigation, with no guarantee of payout at the end. The Court considers all of these  
10 factors in making its assessment of whether to adjust the benchmark award.

11 Courts often compare an attorney's lodestar with a fee request made under the percentage of the  
12 fund method as a "cross-check" on the reasonableness of the requested fee. *See, e.g., Vizcaino*, 290 F.3d  
13 at 1050 ("[T]he lodestar calculation can be helpful in suggesting a higher percentage when litigation has  
14 been protracted [and] may provide a useful perspective on the reasonableness of a given percentage  
15 award."). The Special Master calculated a lodestar cross-check and determined that the lodestar (total  
16 hours reduced by 20% for possible inefficiencies, adjusted to reflect reasonable blended billing rates, and  
17 subject to multipliers ranging from negative to positive based on quality of work, and averaging between  
18 2.4-2.6) was within 1% of the requested 28.5% of the fee award. The Court agrees with the Special  
19 Master that this independent lodestar analysis corroborates the appropriateness of a 28.5% fee award.  
20 Accordingly, considering the factors noted above, the Court concludes that an award of 28.6% of the  
21 Settlement Fund should be awarded as it represents a reasonable and fair amount<sup>11</sup>

22 The Court's decision takes into account all of the objections received to the fee award. The  
23

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24 <sup>10</sup>The estimates provided were based on assumed amounts of attorneys' fees and expenses which  
25 differ somewhat from the awards actually made in this Order. A calculation based on the amounts  
26 actually awarded in this Order, however, does not materially change the amount of the expected  
distribution payments.

27 <sup>11</sup>The Special Master ultimately recommended \$308,225,250, or 28.5% of the Settlement Fund.  
28 *See* Docket No. 7375. Because the Court concludes that the Special Master erred in reducing the Gray  
Plant firm's allocation by \$1.5 million, this amount will be added to the total attorney fee award. This  
results in an overall award of \$309,725,250, which represents 28.6% of the Settlement Fund.

1 primary objection all objectors raised was that 28.5% of the settlement fund for attorneys' fees is  
2 excessive. Many objectors argued that the percentage should stay under the 25% benchmark identified  
3 in *Vizcaino*, with some objectors arguing that the Court must reduce the award or use a sliding scale  
4 model due to the size of the Settlement Fund and to avoid a windfall for the attorneys. The Court has  
5 specifically considered the size of the fund and whether its recommended award would inappropriately  
6 provide a windfall for attorneys. *See* Transcript of Fee Hearing, Docket No. 7614 at 39-40. Having  
7 reviewed other cases involving large Settlement Funds, the Court finds that its award is proper and fair  
8 in light of the amount and quality of the work done by the attorneys in this case. *See Allapattah Services*  
9 *v. Exxon Corp.*, 454 F.Supp. 2d 1185 (S.D. Fla 2006) (awarding 31.5% of a settlement fund of \$1.06  
10 billion and citing fourteen cases involving settlement funds between \$40-696 billion with fee awards  
11 between 25-35% of the fund); *see also Craft v. County of San Bernadino*, 624 F.Supp. 1113, 1125 (C.D.  
12 Cal 2008) (noting that the fee award of 25% of the fund is substantially below the average class fund fee  
13 nationally). Although the different mega-fund cases involve varying degrees of complexity and risk, the  
14 Court is convinced that the complexity of this case merits the 28.6% fee award. Some objectors  
15 challenge the Special Master's finding regarding the complexity of the case as well as the degree of risk  
16 assumed by counsel, given that defendants' liability had effectively been established. However, as  
17 discussed above, these cases presented issues beyond liability which were significant, complex and  
18 numerous, and the risk assumed was substantial enough to justify an upward adjustment of the 25%  
19 benchmark. Moreover, the excellent result obtained through the Settlements warrants an award of 28.6%  
20 of the Settlement Fund. *See In re Bluetooth Headset Prod. Liab. Litigation*, 654 F.3d 935, 942 (9th Cir.  
21 2011) (“[f]oremost among these considerations, however, is the benefit obtained for the class.”).  
22 Additionally, objectors challenged the Special Master's methodology in calculating the fee award. As  
23 discussed above, the Court finds that the Special Master's use of the percentage of the fund method, with  
24 a lodestar cross-check, was proper. Accordingly, the Court overrules all of the objections received,  
25 including those mentioned above and other various challenges.

## 2. Allocation of Fees Among IPP Class Counsel

In addition to determining the amount of the total fee award, the Special Master was tasked with determining the allocation of the fee award among the 116 law firms that contributed to this litigation. On November 9, 2012, the Special Master issued a Report and Recommendation allocating the total fee award. *See* Docket No. 7127. To determine the amount of the fee award allocated to each firm, the Special Master employed the following methodology. First, he used the lodestar analysis for each firm reduced by 20% to eliminate inefficiencies.<sup>12</sup> Second, he examined the reasonableness of each firm's "lodestar - 20%" by reviewing its declaration and the spreadsheet from each firm which broke down the total hours spent by each lawyer by year and among 13 different tasks. He considered whether the firm's blended and individual billing rates were excessive, whether the hours spent were reasonable for the tasks described in the declaration, whether the number of lawyers and paralegals for each firm was efficient, and whether each kind of task was performed by lawyers at appropriate billing rates. He capped individual billing rates at \$1,000/hr and applied a maximum of about \$350/hr for document review,<sup>13</sup> with some leeway. He then adjusted each firm's reported lodestar to correct for any excessive billing. Third, he applied multipliers to the adjusted lodestar figures based on certain factors. Factors meriting an upward adjustment include: contribution to the joint IPP effort, as opposed to work performed solely for an individual client; performing higher-skill tasks (e.g., taking depositions); paying expense assessments timely and in full; demonstrating efficiency; high quality of work as reported to the Special Master by lead and liaison counsel. Factors meriting a downward adjustment include: excessive recorded hours; failure to submit a declaration; performing largely document review; failure to act professionally and collaboratively to prosecute the joint IPP effort; billing for inconsequential tasks (e.g., reading ECF filing entries); paying assessments late or not at all; performing unimportant or poor quality work as reported by lead and liaison counsel. The Special Master noted that he seriously considered the confidential

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<sup>12</sup>IPP counsel requested an overall 20% reduction to eliminate inefficiencies for the entire group, but the Special Master did not agree that every firm's billings warranted a 20% cut.

<sup>13</sup>Defendants in this action were Korean, Taiwanese and Japanese companies. Most of the original documents and records in the case were in languages which required translation for use in this court. Similarly, many of the witnesses provided testimony in languages which required interpreters for use in this court. Language alone posed a significant and expensive burden on prosecution of these cases.

1 recommendations he received from co-lead and liaison counsel, as well as the input from other counsel  
2 and mediators.

3 Fifteen law firms objected to this report. The Special Master considered these objections and  
4 issued a Supplemental Report on December 18, 2012, *see* Docket No. 7375, revising his proposed  
5 allocation based on new information and perspectives gained by interviews with each of the objecting  
6 firms and consideration of additional declarations, documents, and analyses. In the Report, the Special  
7 Master declined to award a higher total fee to class counsel, he affirmed his use of lodestar and  
8 multipliers to determine allocations, and he made adjustments to his original allocation. Specifically,  
9 he noted that he (1) did not give sufficient weight in the original allocation to the amount and timing of  
10 each law firm's contribution to the litigation fund, and made appropriate adjustments, (2) he did not  
11 "adequately appreciate" that varying levels of document review that took place, and thus made  
12 adjustments based on the type of document review performed, and (3) realized it was inappropriate to  
13 reduce every firm's lodestar by 20%. On this last point, he made the following adjustments: for firms  
14 with lodestars under \$100,000, he used their full lodestar and multipliers in the 1.2 to 1.3 range; for firms  
15 that performed virtually only document review, he applied multipliers in the 1.4-1.6 range, depending  
16 on the complexity of document review; for firms that performed more complex work, he applied  
17 multipliers in the 1.7-1.9 range; for core firms driving the IPP case, he applied multipliers in the 2.0-2.75  
18 range; and for lead and liaison counsel, he applied multipliers in the 3.24-4.24 range.

19 Seven firms objected to the Special Master's Supplemental Report. Some arguments common  
20 to the objecting firms include challenges to the Special Master's methodology in determining the  
21 allocation, including his use of the lodestar method as well as multipliers; assertions that specific factual  
22 findings were in error; and claims that the Special Master arbitrarily decided fee awards. Additionally,  
23 the Court received requests from a few other firms to be heard in the event the Court decided to reduce  
24 their fee awards from what the Special Master had recommended. The Court first discusses these general  
25 objections and then addresses specific issues involving certain objecting firms.

26

27

28





1 Report. After reviewing the Supplemental Report and the reasons why certain distributions were  
2 changed, the Court finds that fees were awarded rationally and fairly, and not arbitrarily.

3  
4 **b. Allocation to Zelle Hoffman**

5 The Special Master's Supplemental Report recommends a fee award of \$75 million to Zelle,  
6 Hoffman, Voelbel & Mason. This is the single largest fee recommendation, almost twice as much as the  
7 next highest recommendation, and reflects the single largest multiplier. For all the reasons set out by the  
8 Special Master in his original and supplemental reports, this Court concurs that Zelle, Hoffman  
9 contributed significantly, continuously and consistently to the prosecution and ultimately to the success  
10 of this litigation, and the Court concurs in the fee recommendation. Zelle Hoffman objects to the  
11 Supplemental Report, which reduced the original recommendation from \$80 million to \$75 million, based  
12 on the Special Master's evaluation of relative contributions of and appropriate multipliers for all the 116  
13 IPP firms. However, this Court has reviewed and concurs with the Special Master's analysis, and  
14 therefore overrules Zelle Hoffman's objection.

15  
16 **c. Allocation to Alioto**

17 The Special Master's Supplemental Report recommends a fee award of \$47 million to The Alioto  
18 Law Firm. This is the second largest fee recommendation. A number of issues have been raised with  
19 respect to Alioto's recommended fee award, and the Court addresses the following issues: (1) Fee  
20 Sharing Agreement alleged by Alioto, (2) Alioto's claim that the Special Master relied on impermissible  
21 hearsay, and (3) two liens asserted against Alioto.

22 **Fee Sharing Agreement:** Alioto and Francis Scarpulla of the Zelle Hoffman firm dispute the  
23 existence of a fee-splitting agreement, by which their firms would split all attorneys' fees 50/50. After  
24 reviewing their submitted pre-hearing briefs and conducting a hearing, the Special Master concluded that  
25 Alioto had not carried his burden of demonstrating that the parties had a meeting of the minds on a  
26 definitive agreement. *See* Docket No. 7375 at 20. He also concluded that even if a definitive agreement  
27 had existed, it would likely be unenforceable.

28 Alioto objects to the Special Master's findings and contends that there is written documentation

1 confirming the existence of a formal agreement to split the fees 50/50. Having reviewed the evidence,  
2 the Court finds that Alioto has failed to demonstrate the existence of such an agreement. At most, Alioto,  
3 through the evidence submitted, has demonstrated that an agreement to split the fees and labor was  
4 contemplated, but ultimately, any such agreement was to have been a fee split subject to the firms doing  
5 an equal amount of work and an equal contribution to the litigation. *See* Moore Decl., Exh. A. at 4.  
6 Moreover, there is a dispute as to the terms of the agreement even within the evidence Alioto cites in his  
7 Objection. *See* Docket No. 7556-2, p. 17 (“Joe: I just read your last sentence; as I have told you at least  
8 10 times before, including several emails, there was no such agreement as you have stated it and I cannot  
9 and wilk [sic] not confirm anything of the sort.”). In any event, even if an agreement, as defined by  
10 Alioto, existed, it would likely be unenforceable. Both federal law and California law require that any  
11 fee-allocation agreement among attorneys that are not members of the same firm be in writing and signed  
12 by the clients, and be made in proportion to the services performed and responsibilities assumed. *Agent*  
13 *Orange*, 818 F.2d at 220 (citing ABA Code of Professional Responsibility, DR 2-1-7(A)); *Mark v.*  
14 *Spencer*, 166 Cal.App.4th 219 (2008); *Chambers v. Kay*, 29 Cal.4th 142 (2002); Cal. Civil Code § 1624  
15 (Cal. Statute of Frauds, requiring that contracts not to be performed within one year be in writing and  
16 signed by the party to be charged). Alioto notes that in a class action, it would be impractical to have all  
17 class members consent to the agreement, but here no plaintiff was even informed of any fee-splitting  
18 agreement.

19 The Court finds that Alioto failed to satisfy his burden of establishing that an agreement was  
20 formed with sufficient particularity to be enforceable, let alone that the an agreement was formed to  
21 divide fees 50/50 unconditionally.

22 **Impermissible Hearsay:** The Court rejects Alioto’s claim that the Special Master relied on  
23 impermissible hearsay in violation of FRE § 807. The Special Master conferred with Alioto and other  
24 IPP class counsel in determining the best and fairest procedure to collect and analyze fee information  
25 from the 116 law firms, in order to allocate the fees. Alioto does not indicate that he objected to the  
26 Special Master’s procedure at that time or that he had concerns with particular issues of hearsay.  
27 Moreover, the Court’s Amended Order appointing Martin Quinn as Special Master specifically provided  
28 for the use of *ex parte* communications to facilitate the Special Master’s duty in allocating the funds.

1 Alioto made no objection to the Order at that time nor did he indicate any potential concerns with issues  
2 of hearsay or to the Special Master's reliance on *ex parte* communications with mediators. Accordingly,  
3 the Court overrules Alioto's hearsay objections.

4 **Lien by Alexandra Brudy:** Alexandra Brudy filed a Notice of Lien on November 29, 2012,  
5 asserting a lien against Mr. Alioto for \$345,164.69, plus \$59.92 per diem interest, arising from an  
6 original August 28, 1991 judgment ("Original Judgment") for failure to compensate Daniel Mulligan for  
7 legal work he had performed. Mulligan assigned the rights from the Original Judgment to Brudy as part  
8 of their dissolution proceedings in December of 2005. The Original Judgment was twice renewed, once  
9 by Mulligan on August 27, 2001, and a second time by Brudy on May 18, 2011. Alioto filed an  
10 opposition to the Notice of Lien on December 31, 2012, challenging the lien on three grounds: (1) that  
11 Brudy failed to prosecute the action; (2) that the statute of limitations has expired; and (3) that the Notice  
12 of Lien was not filed by the original Judgment Creditor (Mr. Mulligan). Alioto also filed a Motion to  
13 Strike the lien on January 29, 2013, which was denied in a separate order.

14 The Court retains jurisdiction to enforce this money judgment under Fed. R. Civ. P. § 69(a) and  
15 concludes that the lien is valid. Alioto's arguments to the contrary are not persuasive. First, because Ms.  
16 Brudy holds a final judgment against Alioto, his assertion regarding her failure to prosecute is  
17 inapplicable. California Code of Civil Procedure section 583.130, cited by Ms. Brudy in her Reply,  
18 addresses dismissal for failure to proceed with reasonable diligence only in the context of pending  
19 actions, not actions for which a final judgment has been issued. Second, Alioto's contention that the  
20 statute of limitations has invalidated Ms. Brudy's judgment fails because the Original Judgment, valid  
21 for 10 years following the date of entry (August 28, 1991), has been timely renewed twice, once on  
22 August 27, 2001 and again on May 18, 2011. *See* Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 683.020 (a money judgment  
23 is enforceable for a 10-year period following the date of entry); Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 683.120 (a  
24 judgment creditor may renew the judgment by filing an application for renewal prior to the end of the  
25 10-year period); *see also OCM Principal Opportunities Fund v. CIBC World Markets Corp.*, 168  
26 Cal.App.4th 185, 191 (Cal. App. 2008) (the renewal does not create a new judgment or modify the  
27 present judgment, but merely extends the enforceability of the judgment). Therefore, Ms. Brudy is not  
28 barred from enforcing the Original Judgment against Mr. Alioto by any statute of limitations. Lastly, that

1 the Notice of Lien was not filed by the original judgment creditor, Mr. Mulligan, is irrelevant. “A  
2 judgment creditor may assign the right represented by a judgment to a third person.” Cal. Civ. Code  
3 § 954; *Great Western Bank v. Kong*, 90 Cal.App.4th 28 (2001); *Fjaeran v. San Bernadino Cty. Bd. of*  
4 *Supervisors*, 210 Cal.App.3d 434, 440-41 (1989) (upon execution and delivery to the assignee of a  
5 written assignment of the rights represented by the judgment, the judgment is perfected and becomes  
6 enforceable against third persons). Having assigned the judgment against Alioto to Ms. Brudy through  
7 dissolution proceedings, Ms. Brudy may properly enforce the August 1991 judgment against Alioto.

8 Accordingly, the Court directs the Settlement Funds Administrator to distribute from Alioto’s fee  
9 allocation to Alexandra Brudy at c/o Craig P. Bronstein, Esq., LANAK & HANNA, P.C., 625 The City  
10 Drive South, Ste. 190, Orange, California 92868, the amount of \$345,164.69, which represents the  
11 Original Judgment amount of \$100,000 plus fees, costs, and interest at 7% per annum through November  
12 28, 2012.

13 **Lien by LFG Capital:** LFG National Capital, LLC (“LFG”) claims it holds a perfected first lien  
14 security interest in all assets of Alioto’s firm, including any fees, costs or other amounts due to Alioto  
15 as a result of this litigation. *See* Docket No. 7568. This security interest arises out of a loan agreement  
16 between LFG and Alioto, upon which LFG asserts Alioto has defaulted numerous times. *Id.* LFG has  
17 filed a motion requesting that the Court enter an order directing that the Settlement Fund Administrator  
18 pay to LFG “all sums representing fees and costs of the Alioto Law Firm and/or Joseph M. Alioto . . .  
19 up to the amount presently due and owing under the Term Loan and Security Agreement between LFG  
20 and the Alioto Law Firm.” *See* Docket No. 7671. LFG estimates this amount to be \$28,264,324.93.  
21 Alioto denies that he is indebted to LFG for \$28.2 million, disputes factual statements and legal claims  
22 made by LFG’s counsel, and argues that the loan between LFG and his firm, and associated security  
23 interests associated with the loan, are not properly before this Court. *See* Docket Nos. 7589 and 7606.

24 The Court concludes that, even assuming this Court is the proper forum to adjudicate this dispute,  
25 a finding it is not ready to make, the Court is not prepared to issue a decision without further briefing and  
26 a hearing. Accordingly, in order to avoid delaying the final approval of the IPP Settlements, the Court  
27 will issue a separate Order addressing the dispute between LFG and Alioto.

28



1 included a copy of the fee-splitting agreement. *See* Docket No. 6635-6. Accordingly, the fee-splitting  
2 agreement is enforceable in this Court, and the Court awards Winters, who was awarded \$1 million, and  
3 the Girardi Keese firm, which was awarded \$3.5 million, each \$2.25 million.

4  
5 **f. Allocations to Other Firms**

6 With respect to the remaining objections received, the Court has considered them and concludes  
7 that the Special Master was correct in his allocations for these firms.

8  
9 **B. Settling States Fee**

10 Settling States seek an award of approximately \$11.054 million as attorneys' fees. This represents  
11 just over 1% of the Settlement amount. In his Report and Recommendation, the Special Master  
12 concluded that this amount was fair and reasonable, and the Court has not received any objections to this  
13 amount. The hours spent by the Settling States were reasonable and necessary. *See* Docket No. 7127.

14 In consideration of the Settling States' contribution to the Settlement and their excellent work,  
15 the Court awards Settling States their requested amount of attorneys' fees in the amount of  
16 \$11,054,191.01. The Settling States provided detailed summaries of their hours worked, and their billing  
17 rate are entirely reasonable; based on these findings, the fee request is proper and will be awarded as  
18 requested.

19  
20 **C. Fees for Objectors' Counsel**

21 Three attorneys representing separate objectors or groups of objectors seek awards of attorneys'  
22 fees for their contributions to improvement of the Settlements. Geri Maxwell, Andrea Kane/Pridham,  
23 and the Bradley objectors each filed a motion for attorneys' fees in varying amounts. The Special Master  
24 reviewed and denied each motion, concluding that none of these attorneys had substantially benefitted  
25 class members. *See Vizcaino*, at 1051 (to be eligible to receive attorneys' fees, counsel for objectors must  
26 "increase the fund or otherwise substantially benefit the class members."). Maxwell, Kane/Pridham,  
27 and the Bradley objectors each objected to the Special Master's findings. The Court reviews these  
28 objections individually.

1                   **1.       Maxwell**

2           George G. Cochran, a lawyer from Louisville, Kentucky representing Geri Maxwell,<sup>15</sup> seeks  
3 provisional approval of attorneys' fees on grounds that Maxwell is directly responsible for the addition  
4 of a provision making trebled damages distribution mandatory in the Round 2 Settlements. Cochran  
5 claims that the Maxwell objectors filed an objection to any *cy pres* distribution of excess funds without  
6 trebling damages to successful claimants, that he communicated the idea to Mr. Alioto, and Mr. Alioto  
7 brought it to the attention of class counsel to be included in the Round 2 Settlement. The Special Master  
8 denied the motion and found that (1) plaintiffs already intended to distribute 100% of the Settlement  
9 fund, something on which Mr. Alioto claims he had always insisted, and (2) plaintiffs' intent was clearly  
10 expressed in court papers.

11           In his objection Cochran asserts that the Special Master misinterpreted the record and applied the  
12 wrong legal standard. He also argues that the Special Master downplayed the distinction between an  
13 explicit versus implicit treble damages clause and that this was a substantial benefit to the class, as was  
14 potentially eliminating a *cy pres* issue.

15           Aside from determining whether or not including the treble damage award provision provided  
16 a substantial benefit to the class, the Court, having reviewed the record, is not persuaded that Maxwell  
17 was responsible for making explicit the treble damage clause in the Round 2 settlements. Although  
18 Cochran claims his conversation with Mr. Alioto propelled IPP counsel to insert the clause, he has failed  
19 to provide any evidence that this was what transpired, and, to the contrary, the evidence provided  
20 suggests that Mr. Alioto had pushed for an all cash settlement, with no *cy pres* distributions, from the  
21 start. The Court finds that the Special Master's recommendation was correct, overrules Maxwell's  
22 objection, and denies this motion for provisional approval of fees.

23  
24                   **2.       Pridham-Kane**

25           Attorney Grenville Pridham, counsel for objector Andrea Pridham-Kane, seeks attorneys' fees  
26 for enhancements to the class on the ground that her objections are responsible for (1) ensuring the

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28           <sup>15</sup>Three of the four original Maxwell objectors have withdrawn their objections. Thus, only Geri  
Maxwell remains as an objector. *See* Docket No. 7112.

1 settlement would explicitly state that there would be no meaningful *cy pres* distributions, (2) correcting  
2 an improper notice provision regarding the attorneys' fees motion, and (3) requiring class counsel to  
3 document their expenses. Pridham-Kane also asserts that she has benefitted the class by preserving her  
4 objections to the Court's jurisdiction. The Special Master concluded that her first reason fails for the  
5 same reason as identified in his discussion of the Maxwell objection. With respect to the other two  
6 assertions, the Special Master concluded that even if Pridham-Kane were responsible for these changes,  
7 which he said was "far from clear," they were minor procedural changes that did not increase the  
8 settlement amount or provide a substantial benefit to the class.

9 Pridham-Kane objects that the Special Master underestimated her contributions and asserts that  
10 it cannot be assumed that she was not responsible for the changes. She thus requests an evidentiary  
11 hearing to the extent there is a question about whether she benefitted the class.

12 The Court finds no clear error in the Special Master's determination that Pridham-Kane was not  
13 responsible for propelling IPP counsel to explicitly state there would be no substantial *cy pres*  
14 distributions. As the Special Master noted in his report regarding the Maxwell fee motion, Mr. Alioto  
15 was firm in believing that there would be no *cy pres* component from the start and insisted on an all cash  
16 settlement. Even at the November 29, 2012 fairness hearing, IPP counsel confirmed that there would be  
17 no meaningful *cy pres* distribution and that this had never been a *cy pres* settlement. *See* Docket No.  
18 7304 at 37-38. As for the other matters that Pridham-Kane asserts she is responsible, the Court finds she  
19 has not met her burden in establishing that she conferred a substantial benefit to the class. *Vizcaino*, at  
20 1051 (denying objectors fee motion based objectors' argument that they caused the court to require class  
21 counsel to submit time records and that they brought about minor procedural changes in the settlement  
22 agreement). Accordingly, the Court denies Pridham-Kane's request for an evidentiary hearing, overrules  
23 her objection, and denies her motion for fees.

### 24 25 **3. Bradley Objectors**

26 The Bradley objectors seek fees for their arguments advanced in opposition to the Special  
27 Master's Report awarding attorneys' fees. They claim that they made several non-duplicative, novel  
28 arguments to benefit the class. The Special Master noted that their motion is based on the possibility that



1 the Court will sustain their objection, and, in any event, found that no objection they raised was novel  
2 or unique.

3 The Court agrees with the Special Master's conclusion. In reviewing the Bradley objections to  
4 the Special Master's Report, the Court is not persuaded that the objectors raised any novel factual or legal  
5 argument. To the contrary, the Bradley objections raised a number of similar arguments as raised in the  
6 Maxwell and other objections. That some of those objections were filed after the Bradley's objections  
7 does not detract from the fact that they were not novel. In any event, because the Court overrules the  
8 objections raised by Bradley (and others), as discussed *supra*, Bradley objectors did not benefit the class,  
9 and are not entitled to attorneys' fees.

### 11 **III. Expenses and Incentive Awards**

#### 12 **A. IPP Counsel**

13 IPP counsel seek \$8,743,449.42 in expenses. In his original Report, the Special Master  
14 discounted IPP counsel's requested expenses by \$329,385.01 due to high charges for overlapping experts  
15 as well as AT&T charges for certain conference calls. Upon reconsideration of additional evidence  
16 regarding the need for a second expert, however, the Special Master concluded that a second expert was,  
17 in fact, necessary and beneficial to the interests of the class, and approved the \$324,385.01 in expert  
18 expenses, *see* Special Master's Supplemental Report, Docket No. 7298. He declined to award the \$5,000  
19 in charges for AT&T conference calls. Subsequently, the Special Master issued another Supplemental  
20 Report on February 13, 2013, Docket No. 7608, to correct an error made in his initial Supplemental  
21 Report, Docket No. 7298. He had inadvertently awarded \$2,317.99 in charges that IPP Counsel had  
22 requested be reduced due to reductions in the charges that had occurred after IPP Counsel had submitted  
23 their motion for expenses. This last report corrected that error and awarded IPP Counsel a total of  
24 \$8,736,131.43, representing the total amount IPP counsel requested, less \$5,000 for AT&T conference  
25 call charges and \$2,317.99 in deposition transcript charges that IPP counsel confirmed had been reduced.  
26 The Court received two objections to the Special Master's original Report that reiterated arguments  
27 raised by the same objectors to the award of attorneys' fees. They assert that the Special Master erred  
28 by treating fees separate from expenses as this will increase the percentage of money awarded over

1 28.5%, and when the Ninth Circuit calculates a 25% benchmark, it combines total fees and expenses.  
2 *See* Docket No. 7178.

3 The Court overrules the objections and concludes that the Special Master was correct in awarding  
4 \$8,736,131.43 in expenses to IPP counsel. *See Vizcaino*, 290 F.3d 1043 (calculating the 25% benchmark  
5 for attorneys' fees only).

6  
7 **B. Settling States**

8 Settling States seek a total of \$1,206,479.48 in expenses.<sup>16</sup> The Special Master concluded this  
9 amount was reasonable, and no objections were received to this amount.

10 The Court concludes the Settling States' requested amount of \$1,206,479.48 for expenses is  
11 reasonable and will award this amount to Settling States.

12  
13 **C. Incentive Awards**

14 IPP Counsel request a total amount of \$660,000 for incentive awards. Specifically, they seek an  
15 award of \$15,000 for each of the 40 court-appointed class representatives and \$7,500 for each of the eight  
16 additional named plaintiffs. The Special Master concluded that the total amount of \$660,000 was  
17 reasonable for incentive awards, and no objections were received to this amount. Additionally, counsel  
18 for some objectors request incentive awards for their clients who appeared for depositions.

19 The Court approves incentive awards of \$15,000 to each of the 40 court-appointed class  
20 representatives, and \$7,500 for each of eight additional named plaintiffs. The Court recognizes the  
21 contribution these class representatives and named plaintiffs made to this litigation and finds the amounts  
22 requested are reasonable in light of these contributions. The Court declines to grant incentive awards for  
23 objectors who appeared for depositions.

24  
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28 

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<sup>16</sup>The Settling States requested this total amount in two separate motions. *See* Docket Nos. 5157  
and 6860.

1 **CONCLUSION**

2 Accordingly, the Court directs entry of Judgment which shall constitute a final adjudication of  
3 this case on the merits as to the parties to the Agreements. Good cause appearing therefore, it is:

4  
5 **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:**

6 1. The capitalized terms used in this Order have the meaning ascribed to them in the  
7 Agreements.

8 2. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this litigation, and all actions within  
9 this litigation and over the parties to the Agreement, including all members of the IPP Classes, the  
10 Settling Plaintiffs, and the Settling Defendants, and any person or entity claiming by, for, or through the  
11 Settling Parties as regards the Released Claims.

12 3. The definitions of terms set forth in the Agreements are incorporated herein as though  
13 fully set forth in this Judgment.

14 4. The Court hereby finally approves and confirms the settlements set forth in the  
15 Agreements and finds that said settlements are, in all respects, fair, reasonable, and adequate to the IPP  
16 Classes pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and all applicable state laws.

17 5. The following class is certified for settlement purposes only, pursuant to Rule 23 of the  
18 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:

19 All persons and entities in Arkansas who, from January 1, 1999 to December 31, 2006,  
20 as residents of Arkansas, purchased TFT-LCD Panels incorporated in televisions,  
21 monitors, and/or laptop computers in Arkansas indirectly from one or more of the named  
22 Defendants or Quanta Display, Inc., for their own use and not for resale. Specifically  
23 excluded from the Class are defendants; the officers, directors, or employees of any  
24 defendant in the Actions; the parent companies and subsidiaries of any defendant; the  
25 legal representatives and heirs or assigns of any defendant; and their named affiliates and  
26 coconspirators. Also excluded are any federal, state or local governmental entities, any  
27 judicial officer presiding over this action and the members of his/her immediate family  
28 and judicial staff, and any juror assigned to this Action.

25 6. The following class is certified for settlement purposes only, pursuant to Rule 23 of the  
26 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:

27 All persons and entities in Missouri or Rhode Island who, from January 1, 1999 to  
28 December 31, 2006, as residents of Missouri or Rhode Island, respectively, purchased  
TFT-LCD Panels incorporated in televisions, monitors, and/or laptop computers in  
Missouri or Rhode Island, respectively, indirectly from one or more of the named

1 Defendants or Quanta Display, Inc., primarily for business use (and not for personal,  
2 family, or household use) and not for resale. Specifically excluded from the Class are  
3 defendants; the officers, directors, or employees of any defendant; the parent companies  
4 and subsidiaries of any defendant; the legal representatives and heirs or assigns of any  
5 defendant; and the named affiliates and co-conspirators. Also excluded are any federal,  
6 state or local governmental entities, any judicial officer presiding over this action and the  
7 members of his/her immediate family and judicial staff, and any juror assigned to this  
8 Action.

9 7. The following class is certified for settlement purposes only, pursuant to Rule 23 of the  
10 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:

11 All persons and entities in Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Florida,  
12 Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi,  
13 Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island,  
14 South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, or Wisconsin who, from January 1,  
15 1999 to December 31, 2006, as residents of the respective state, purchased TFT-LCD  
16 Panels incorporated in televisions, monitors, and/or laptop computers in the respective  
17 state, indirectly from one or more of the named Defendants or Quanta Display, Inc., for  
18 their own use and not for resale, and whose purchases bring them within the definition of  
19 the certified direct purchaser product class in this Multidistrict Litigation No. 1827 and  
20 who did not opt-out of that class. Specifically excluded from the Class are defendants; the  
21 officers, directors, or employees of any defendant; the parent companies and subsidiaries  
22 of any defendant; the legal representatives and heirs or assigns of any defendant; and the  
23 named affiliates and co-conspirators. Also excluded are any federal, state or local  
24 governmental entities, any judicial officer presiding over this action and the members of  
25 his/her immediate family and judicial staff, and any juror assigned to this Action.

26 8. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(g), Class Counsel, previously appointed  
27 by the Court (Zelle Hofmann Voelbel & Mason LLP and Alioto Law Firm), are appointed as Counsel  
28 for the IPP Classes. These firms have, and will, fairly and competently represent the interests of the IPP  
Classes.

9. The Indirect-Purchaser Plaintiffs' and Settling States' Notice of Exclusions (Docket No.  
7070, filed October 29, 2012) states that no persons/entities have validly requested exclusion from any  
of the above-referenced settlement-only classes.

10. The Court hereby dismisses on the merits and with prejudice the individual, *parens  
patriae*, governmental entity, and class claims asserted by the Settling Plaintiffs against the Settling  
Defendants, with Settling Plaintiffs and Settling Defendants to bear their own costs and attorneys' fees  
except as provided for in the Agreements. The foregoing language does not apply to the related action  
entitled *People of the State of California et al. v. AU Optronics et al.*, San Francisco Superior Court Case  
No. CGC-10-504651 ("the California State Court Action"). The California State Court Action is to be

1 dismissed with prejudice in due course as to the Settling Defendants in compliance with the Agreements,  
2 and this Court will if necessary confer with the Honorable Richard A. Kramer to coordinate such  
3 dismissals.

4 11. As to each Agreement, all persons and entities who are defined as Releasors, and any  
5 person or entity acting or purporting to act on behalf of one or more Releasors, are hereby barred and  
6 enjoined from commencing, prosecuting, or continuing, either directly or indirectly, against the persons  
7 or entities who are defined as Releasees, in this or any jurisdiction, any and all claims, causes of action  
8 or lawsuits, which they had, have, or in the future may have, arising out of or related in any way to any  
9 of the Released Claims as defined in the Agreement. This permanent bar and injunction is necessary to  
10 protect and effectuate the Agreements, this Final Judgment, and this Court's authority to effectuate the  
11 Agreements, and is ordered in aid of this Court's jurisdiction and to protect its judgments.

12 12. As to each Agreement, the Releasees are hereby and forever released and discharged with  
13 respect to any and all claims or causes of action which the Releasors had or have arising out of or related  
14 in any way to any of the Released Claims as defined in the Agreement.

15 13. The Court approves the releases set forth in the Agreements. Those Agreements define  
16 the scope of such releases. Without limitation on the foregoing, the Court notes that (i) the IPP  
17 nationwide injunctive class released claims do not include any claims for monetary relief; and (ii) nothing  
18 in the Agreements shall release any enforcement, proprietary, or injunctive claims of any state which is  
19 not a Settling State.

20 14. The Court finds that the notice given to the IPP Classes of the settlements set forth in the  
21 Agreements and the other matters set forth herein was the best notice practicable under the  
22 circumstances. The Court further finds that said notice provided due, adequate, and sufficient notice of  
23 these proceedings and of the matters set forth herein, including the proposed settlements set forth in the  
24 Agreements, and that said notice fully satisfied the requirements of due process, the Federal Rules of  
25 Civil Procedure, and all applicable state laws.

26 15. The Court finds that the Settling Defendants have served upon the appropriate State,  
27 federal and other officials a notice of proposed settlement that complies with the requirements of the  
28 Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 1711-15.

1           16.     The Court grants final approval to the Plan of Distribution set forth in the IPPs' and  
2 Settling States' motion for final approval.

3           17.     Attorneys' Fees, Expenses and Incentive Awards:

4                 A.     IPP Class Counsel Fees and Expenses

5           The Court awards a total amount of IPP Class Counsel attorneys' fees of \$309,725,250, which  
6 represents 28.6% of the Settlement Fund. The Court also awards \$8,736,131.43 for expenses incurred  
7 by IPP Counsel. Except as otherwise stated, all objections to the fee allocations are overruled. The  
8 attorneys' fees are to be distributed among 116 law firms as identified in the Special Master's  
9 Supplemental Report and Recommendation, *see* Docket No. 7375, with the following exceptions:

10                   1) The Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty & Bennett firm shall be awarded \$14 million as  
11 opposed to the \$12.5 million recommended by the Special Master.

12                   2) The fee sharing agreement between Lingel Winters and the Girardi firm will be given  
13 effect, and therefore, the Court will award Lingel Winters and the Girardi Keese firm each \$2.25 million.

14                   3) With respect to the liens asserted against Joseph M. Alioto, the amount of \$345,164.69,  
15 which represents a judgment amount of \$100,000 plus fees, costs, and interest at 7% annum as of  
16 November 28, 2012, will be paid out of Alioto's \$47 million fee award and will be directed to Alexandra  
17 Brudy at c/o Craig P. Bronstein, Esq., LANAK & HANNA, P.C., 625 The City Drive South, Ste. 190,  
18 Orange, California 92868. Additionally, \$28.2 million of Alioto's fee award shall be set aside in a  
19 separate escrow account pending a determination of the validity and enforceability of the lien asserted  
20 by LFG National Capital, LLC. The Court will address this lien in a separate order.

21                 B.     Settling States Fees and Expenses

22           The Court awards Settling States \$11,054,191.01 in fees and \$1,206,479.48 in expenses.

23                 C.     Incentive Awards

24           The Court awards \$15,000 for each of the 40 court-appointed class representatives and \$7,500  
25 for each of the eight additional named plaintiffs.

26           18.     The Court received objections to the Proposed Settlements from approximately 25  
27 objectors. The Court has carefully reviewed and considered each objection, and concludes that none of  
28 the objections raises any grounds to deny final approval to the Proposed Settlements, and accordingly

1 the Court hereby overrules each of the objections.

2 19. Without affecting the finality of this Judgment in any way, this Court hereby retains  
3 continuing and exclusive jurisdiction over: (a) implementation of these settlements and any distribution  
4 to class members pursuant to further orders of this Court; (b) disposition of the Settlement Funds as  
5 defined in each Agreement; (c) hearing and determining applications by the Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs  
6 (*i.e.*, class representatives) for representative plaintiff incentive awards, attorneys' fees, costs, expenses,  
7 including expert fees and costs, and interest; (d) hearing and determining applications by the States  
8 Attorneys General for attorneys fees, costs, expenses, including expert fees and costs, and interest; (e)  
9 Settling Defendants until the Final Judgment contemplated hereby has become effective and each and  
10 every act agreed to be performed by the parties has been performed pursuant to the Agreements; (f)  
11 hearing and ruling on any matters relating to the plan of allocation of settlement proceeds; and (g) all  
12 parties and Releasors for the purpose of enforcing and administering the Agreements and Exhibits thereto  
13 and the mutual releases and other documents contemplated by, or executed in connection with, the  
14 Agreements.

15 20. In the event that a settlement does not become effective in accordance with the terms of  
16 the relevant Agreement, then the judgment shall be rendered null and void and shall be vacated as to that  
17 Agreement, and in such event, all orders entered and releases delivered in connection herewith shall be  
18 null and void and the parties to that Agreement shall be returned to their respective positions *ex ante*.

19 21. The Court finds, pursuant to Rules 54(a) and (b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,  
20 that Final Judgment should be entered and further finds that there is no just reason for delay in the entry  
21 of Final Judgment, as a Final Judgment, as to the parties to the Agreements. Accordingly, the Clerk is  
22 hereby directed to enter the Judgment of dismissal with prejudice as to Settling Defendants.

23  
24 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

25 Dated: April 3, 2013



26  
27  
28  
SUSAN ILLSTON  
United States District Judge