# WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI CENTRAL DIVISION

FILED
TO JUN 25 199
R. F. CONNOR, CLK.
U. S. DISTRICT COURT
WEST DISTRICT
OF MISSOURI

In re: TEXAS PRISONER LITIGATION	) )	Master Case No. 98-7330-TX-C-5
PHILLIP JOHNSON et al.  Plaintiffs,	)	In re: Texas Prison Litigation PC-MO-0003-0005
v. BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS.	) )	No. 99-4021-CV-C-5

## Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement

Defendants.

Having negotiated a resolution to this case, the parties move the Court to approve the proposed settlement. For their motion, the parties state:

- 1. The parties have requested that this case be conditionally certified as a mandatory, no-opt out class action under Rule 23(b)(2) for the purpose of permitting the parties to submit a settlement of all claims by the class.
- 2. The parties attach as Exhibit 1, and incorporate by reference, the Settlement Agreement executed on behalf of Class Counsel and Settling Defendants, as defined therein.
- 3. The Settlement Agreement provides in part that (1) members of the Settlement Class may request a review of conduct violations which they contend were improperly issued when they were confined in a Texas correctional facility as part



et al.,

of the Texas Cell Lease Program; (2) certain Defendants will not, at any time before June 15, 2004, contract with any Defendant or any other entity to transfer any member of the Settlement Class to the State of Texas, other than on an individual basis pursuant to the Interstate Corrections Compact; (3) certain Defendants will not, with respect to any member of the Settlement Class who might be transferred to the State of Texas on an individual basis pursuant to the Interstate Corrections Compact, contract with any entity which employs anyone convicted of a crime the elements of which include abuse, neglect or assault upon an inmate; (4) certain Defendants will not maintain or pursue any claim for reimbursement of a Settlement Class member's cost of incarceration or medical care from any funds recovered from the Texas Inmate Litigation Settlement Fund; and (5) the sum of \$2,220,000.00 will be paid into the Texas Inmate Litigation Settlement Fund, to be disbursed under the supervision of the Court to members of the Settlement Class who submit claims pursuant to further notice to be provided by the Court. In exchange for the above consideration, the Class Plaintiffs will release the Defendants and all other persons, firms, corporations, and governmental entities whomsoever from any and all liability to any member of the Settlement Class for claims arising from their confinement in any correctional facility in the State of Texas as part of the Texas Cell Lease Program at any time between January 1, 1995 to December 31, 1997.

4. The monetary compensation of \$2,220,000 will be initially distributed as follows:

- (a) Initial funding of \$100,000.00 for Group A;
- (d) Initial funding of \$100,000,000 for Group B;

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- (c) Total maximum funding of \$820,000.00 for Group C;
- \$900,000.00 for Class Counsel attorneys' fees;
- (e) Total maximum funding of \$300,000,000 for the litigation and class
- administration expenses incurred by Class Counsel.
- Group A consists of all inmates who submit a claim for monetary compensation for the conditions of their confinement in the State of Texas. The sum of \$100,000.00 will be initially allocated to group A. Additional sums may be allocated to group A as set forth below after all payments have been made to the group C claimants and the litigation and class administration expenses incurred by the group C claimants on a per diem rate. The per diem rate shall be determined by dividing the total funding by the total number of days spent by group A claimants in confinement in the State of Texas. By way of example, if the total funding equals \$250,000.00 and the total number of claimants/days equals 12,500, then the per diem rate would be \$20.00. Thus, an immate who was confined in
- Texas for 100 days would receive \$2,000.00

  Group B consists of all inmates who submit a claim for monetary compensation as a result of being confined in any of the cell blocks which were searched by law enforcement personnel at the Brazoria County Correctional Center on September

18, 1996 and/or Gregg County Correctional Center on March 2, 1997. The sum of \$100,000.00 will be initially allocated to group B. Additional sums may be allocated to group B as set forth below after all payments have been made to the group C claimants and the litigation and class administration expenses incurred by Class Counsel have been paid. The total funding of group B will be distributed to the group B claimants on a pro rata basis. Pro rata basis shall be determined by dividing the total funding by the total number of group B claimants. In the event a group B claimant was in both institutions as referred to above, he shall receive two pro rata shares. By way of example, if the total funding equals \$250,000.00 and the total number of group B claimants equals 100, the pro rata share would be \$2,500 per inmate.

7. Group C consists of all inmates who submit a claim for monetary compensation for significant physical injuries. The sum of \$820,000.00 will be allocated to group C. The value of each group C claim shall be determined by United States Magistrate Judge William Knox of the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, Central Division, or, for named plaintiffs in *Kesler*, et al. v. King, et al., G-96-CV-703, filed in United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Galveston Division, at the election of such plaintiffs, by United States Magistrate Judge John Froeschner of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Galveston Division. The Court shall enter an order establishing the procedure for the valuation of the group C claims. In the event the total value of all group C claims is less than \$820,000.00, then the remaining

- balance shall be allocated equally to group A and group B. By way of example, if the total value of all group C claims is \$520,000.00, then an additional \$150,000.00 shall be allocated to group A and an additional \$150,000.00 shall be allocated to group B.
- 8. A class member may submit a claim under group A and/or group B. A class member may not submit a claim under group A and/or group B if he submits a claim under group C.
- 9. The following attorneys are proposed as Class Counsel: Michael P. Bastian, 906 Olive Street, St. Louis, MO 63101; Frank K. Carlson, Carlson & Hellman 17 South Oak Street, Union, MO 63004; Dan T. Dalton and Stephen M. Ryals, Ryals & Soffer, 8008 Carondelet Avenue, Suite 205, St. Louis, MO 63105; Craig R. Heidemann, Douglas, Lynch, Haun & Kirksey, P.C., 111 West Broadway, Bolivar, MO 65613; Sylvester James, Kenner, James & Kavanaugh, 800 West 47th Street, Suite 515, Kansas City, MO 64112; Lynn J. Klement, P.O. Box 1744, Angleton, TX 77516-1744; John P. Poland, Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice, L.L.C., 1010 Market Street, Suite 1610, St. Louis, Missouri 63101; and Gary R. Sarachan, Rothman, Sokol, Adler & Sarachan, P.C., 7701 Forsythe Boulevard, Fourth Floor, St. Louis, Missouri 63105. The sum of \$900,000.00 is proposed to be paid to Class Counsel for their attorneys' fees as follows: \$150,000.00 to attorneys Bastian, Carlson, Dalton and Ryals; \$150,000.00 to attorney Heidemann; \$150,000.00 to attorney Klement; \$150,000.00 to attorney James; \$150,000.00 to attorney Poland; and \$150,000.00 to attorney Sarachan.

- 10. The sum of \$300,000.00 shall be the maximum sum allocated for litigation and class administration expenses incurred by Class Counsel. In the event the total expenses is less than \$300,000.00, the remaining balance shall be allocated equally to group A and group B. By way of example, if the total expenses is \$200,000.00, then an additional \$50,000.00 shall be allocated to group A and an additional \$50,000.00 shall be allocated to group B.
- 11. The settlement is the product of extensive negotiation conducted over a period of several months and requiring the services of a mediator experienced in this sort of litigation both from his private practice and from his time as a United States Magistrate in this Court.
- 12. The settlement, in all respects, is fair to all parties represented or not, participating or not.
- 13. Court approval of the settlement, mandatory under Rule 23(e) in any event, is a necessary and inherent part of the settlement as well as the class action certification. If this Court or any appellate court disapproves the settlement, then the entire settlement and certification are, by agreement of all parties, void.
- 14. In further support of this motion, various parties have contemporaneously filed suggestions.

WHEREFORE, the parties jointly move this Court for approval of the class settlement under Rule 23(e) upon the terms set out in the settlement agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Poland

#30602

Baker, Sterchi, Cowden & Rice, LLC

1010 Market Street, Ste. 1610

St. Louis, MO 63101

(314) 231-2925

Michael P. Bastian #25815

906 Olive St.

St. Louis, MO 63101

(314) 588-8383

Gary Sarachan #25683

Rothman, Sokol, Adler & Sarachan

7701 Forysth Blvd., Ste. 400

St. Louis, MO 63105

(314) 721-7701

Donald B. Roberson #16056 8154 NW Kirkwood Avenue

Kansas City, MO 64151-1006

Craig K. Heidemann

111 West Broadway, P. O. Box 117

Bolivar, Missouri 65613-0117 Telephone: (417) 326-5261 Facsimile: (417) 326-2845

AS CLASS COUNSEL

Dan K. Purdy

720 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

Osceola, MO 64776

Telephone: (417) 646-8105 Facsimile: (417) 646-7715 Bass, et al. v. Schriro, et al.

Case No. 98-4004-CV-C-5

Richard Stevens

1736 East Sunshine, Suite 401

Springfield, MO 65804

Telephone: (417) 889-4400 Facsimile: (417) 823-4849

Turbyeville v. Brazoria Cty, et al.

Case No. 97-3633-CV-S-1

By:\_

LYNNI. KLEMENT

Law Office of Lynn J. Klement

300 North Velasco

P.O. Box 1744

Angleton, Texas 77516-1744

(409) 849-1175

(409) 849-8928 Facsimile

STATE BAR NO. 11567900

#33617

8ylvester James, Jr #3361 Kenner, James & Kavanaugh Plaza Center Building 800 West 47<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 515 Kansas City, Missouri 64112 (816) 931-1400

Clifford B. Faddis MBE 2 3030 S. Grand St. Louis, Missouri 63108 314-773-3596

James J. Knappenberger MBE 27403 222 S. Meramec, Suite 208 St. Louis, Missouri 63105 314-721-2274

MBE 24841

Michael McAvoy MF 330 Water Street Fenton, Missouri 63026 636-343-9753

James Rohlfing MBE 2 4390 Lindell Blvd. St. Louis, Missouri 63108 314-534-5110

Myra J. Stout, #46098

SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.

One Kansas City Place

1200 Main Street

Kansas City, Missouri 64105

816/474-6550

FAX: 816/421-5547 Case No. 97-4297-CV-C-5

Bill Ohlemeyer, #32226

SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.

One Kansas City Place

1200 Main Street

Kansas City, Missouri 64105

816/474-6550

FAX: 816/421-5547

Case Nos. 97-4297-CV-C-5

97-4275-CV-C-5

Richard Gray, #45732

SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.

One Kansas City Place

1200 Main Street

Kansas City, Missouri 64105

816/474-6550

FAX: 816/421-5547

Case No. 97-4275-CV-C-5

# CAMPBELL, HOLT & McCUE

David T. Holt #32526

2306 Commerce Tower

P.O. Box 13085

Kansas City, Missouri 64199

(816) 471-6630

(816) 471-1123 FAX

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF, HUBERT J. BRADLEY CASE NO. 98-4095-CV-C-5

Teasdale & Lafferty

222 W. Gregory, Suite 313

Kansas City, MO 64114

(816) 822-0073

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

in the following cases:

98-4098-CV-C-5

98-4148-CV-C-5

98-4149-CV-C-5

98-4150-CV-C-5

98-4151-CV-C-5

98-4152-CV-C-5

98-4153-CV-C-5

#### For John McCon

Dennis J.C. Owens, Esquire

Dennis J.C. Owens, Esquire Missouri Bar No. 25981

> 7th Floor, Harzfeld Building Town Pavilion, 1111 Main Street Kansas City, Missouri 64105 Telephone: (816) 474-3000

Facsimile: (816) 474-5533

Counsel for Plaintiff John McCon

In the Circuit Court of Cole County, Missouri Case No. 98-4154-CV-C-5

McCon v. Limestone County, Texas, et alia

Gregory W. Vleisides #2555 Vleisides, Donnelly & O'Leary

1 Ward Parkway, Suite 249

Kansas City, Missouri 64112

Telephone: (816) 474-0666 Facsimile: (816) 474-0668

**CORLEY LAW FIRM** 

By: M. Corinne Corley, #31225
4400 Madison, Suite 205
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

Telephone: 816-753-5556 Telecopy: 816-753-8734 E-Mail: CcorleyJD@aol.com

ATTORNEY FOR CCRI

### THE O'MALLEY LAW FIRM

John F. Cooney, #32522 Attorneys for Defendant

Dove Development Corporation

10 South Brentwood, Suite 102

P. O. Box 16124

St. Louis, MO 63105-0824

Phone: (314) 721-8001 Fax: (314) 721-3754

THE BOBBY ROSS GROUP, INC.

Tony L. Schaffer

Texas Bar No 17720880 1021 Ranch Road 620 South

Austin, Texas 78734 Phone: (512) 263-9480 Fax: (512) 263-9481 ENSZ-AND JESTEK, P.C.

ROBERT O. JESTER

MO #23465

2121 City Center Square

1100 Main Street

Kansas City, Missouri 64105 Telephone: 1-816-474-8010 Facsimile: 1-816-471-7910

LAW OFFICES OF MARY K. WOLF Mary K. Wolf 1301 Nueces, Suite 101 Austin, TX 78701 ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT TRANSCOR, INC. HENRY W. PREJEAN

SBN 16245850

Attorney-In-Charge

DONALD S. STEPHENS

SBN 24003000

Brazoria County District Attorney's Office

111 E. Locust, Suite 408A

Angleton, Texas 77515

(409) 849-5711 x1230

(409) 849-8714 Fax

JAMES D. CONKRIGHT

#48757

CHRISTOPHER C.S. MANNING

Sanders Conkright & Warren LLP

10450 Holmes, Suite 330

Kansas City, Missouri 64131

(816) 942-6100

(816) 942-0899 (Fax)

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon Attorney General

JOHN MOLLENKAM

Assistant Attorney General Missouri Bar No. 43361

P. O. Box 899

Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Phone: (573) 751-8775

Attorneys for Defendant SCHRIRO

WALTHER, ANTEL, STAMPER & MINGUS, P.C.

Thomas M. Mingus, #4178

700 Cherry Street

P.O. Box 7686

Columbia, MO 65205

(573) 442-2454

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT GARY ALLAN

James D. Conkright

Christopher C. S. Manning Sanders Conkright & Warren

10450 Holmes, Ste. 330

Kansas City, MO 64131

Attorneys For Gregg County, Texas