

HON. SALVADOR MENDOZA JR.

1 Clay M. Gatens  
2 Devon A. Gray  
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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

8 EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

9 VALERIE RHODES, a single woman,  
10 and on behalf of others similarly situated,

11 Plaintiff,

12 vs.

13 WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL  
14 ASSOCIATION, A National Banking  
15 Association

16 Defendant.

NO. 2:17-CV-0093-SMJ

DECLARATION OF VALERIE  
RHODES IN SUPPORT OF  
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR  
ATTORNEYS' FEES AND SERVICE  
AWARD

CLASS ACTION

17 VALERIE RHODES, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declares:

18 1. This declaration is based upon my personal knowledge, and I am competent  
19 to testify to the matters asserted herein

20 2. I am requesting a \$10,000 service award.

3. I spent a significant amount of time over past nearly two years as the named  
plaintiff in this case.

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1           4.     My time commitment involved locating and interviewing with legal counsel  
2 to take this case on for myself and others like me who experienced a pre-foreclosure entry  
3 onto their home and lock change prior to the completion of a foreclosure. Once I retained  
4 JDSA as my legal counsel, I invested significant time into helping Mr. Gatens investigate  
5 my claim, responded promptly to his questions, reviewed and gave input on all discovery  
6 responses, reviewed all of the pleadings filed in this matter, stayed abreast of the case and  
7 litigation, was prepared to sit for a deposition, and participated in both mediation efforts  
8 and strategy discussions.

9           5.     During the course of this litigation I was in routine contact with Mr. Gatens  
10 and his staff regarding the status of the case and the litigation strategy. I made every effort  
11 to respond to their communications promptly and to call or email to exchange status  
12 updates every so often. I also agreed to serve as the face of this litigation knowing full well  
13 that I would be publicly admitting to defaulting on a loan (and taking on a multi-year  
14 commitment) simply because I was passionate about holding Wells Fargo accountable for  
15 its pre-foreclosure lock changes and protecting other Washington borrowers. Participating  
16 in this litigation even affected other loans that I was involved with. I believe my requested  
17 service award is reasonable given all of the time I have devoted to this case.

18           6.     I believe Class Counsel have fully and effectively litigated this case,  
19 championing my rights and the rights of Washington borrowers. I have reviewed the  
20 attorneys' fee request that Class Counsel and making in this case. I understand that the

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1 general attorney fee award benchmark is 25% of the common settlement fund. In this case  
2 that would be \$6,576,520. I also understand that Class Counsel is requesting only half of  
3 that benchmark: 12.5% of the common fund, or \$3,288,125. I believe that this request is  
4 reasonable and appropriate given the size of the settlement achieved and the risks  
5 associated with taking on this case.

6 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the  
7 foregoing is true and correct.

*Valerie Rhodes*

\_\_\_\_\_  
VALERIE RHODES

8  
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10  
11 Date October 1, 2018

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13 Place of Signing Federal way wa

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20  
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**JEFFERS, DANIELSON, SONN & AYLWARD, P.S.**  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on the 1st day of October, 2018, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF System. Notice of this filing will be sent to the parties listed below by operation of the Court’s electronic filing system. Parties may access this filing through the Court’s system.

Rudy A. Englund:	englundr@lanepowell.com
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DATED at Wenatchee, Washington this 1st day of October, 2018.

s/CLAY M. GATENS  
 Clay M. Gatens, WSBA No. 34102  
 Attorney for Plaintiff  
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