#### **Class Notice**

# IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ALEXANDRIA JONES THARPE and NASONDRA BENSON et al. vs. SPRINT et al.

### Case Number BC644645

Attention: All persons who are or who have been employed by Sprint as a non-exempt employee in a job code ending in "-STARS" (which stands for "Sprint Team at Radio Shack") in any Sprint California Store Within a Store ("SWAS") Radio Shack location from February 25, 2016 to April 17, 2017 (the "Class Period").

# YOU ARE ENTITLED TO A SHARE OF A \$409,411 CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT. AN ESTIMATE OF YOUR SHARE OF THE SETTLEMENT IS SET FORTH ON THE ENCLOSED GREEN SHEET.

To receive your share, you do not have to file a claim or take any other action. Only if you have an address change must you notify the Settlement Administrator. (See Green Sheet for Instructions)

# TO UNDERSTAND YOUR RIGHTS, READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

THIS NOTICE IS COURT APPROVED. IT IS NOT A SOLICITATION FROM AN ATTORNEY.

A Proposed Settlement has been reached among the parties in the above captioned action pending in the Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles. The Court has preliminarily approved the Proposed Settlement and conditionally certified the Settlement Class for purposes of settlement only. You have received this Notice because Defendant's records indicate that you are a member of the Settlement Class. This Notice informs you of the Proposed Settlement and its terms and of your rights to participate in the Proposed Settlement, object to the Proposed Settlement, or exclude yourself from the Proposed Settlement.

	Your Legal Rights and Options in this Settlement
	Receive an Individual Settlement Payment.
	If you received this Notice by mail and do not exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will
<b>DO NOTHING</b>	receive an Individual Settlement Payment automatically after final judicial approval of the
	Settlement Agreement. You do not have to submit a claim form. You will give up any right to
	sue Sprint/United Management Company ("Sprint") separately over the settled claims.
MAIL IN A	Exclude yourself from the Settlement and get no payment.
WRITTEN	If you want to opt out of the Settlement, submit a signed written exclusion request to the Third-
EXCLUSION	Party Administrator that is postmarked no later than March 5, 2018. To opt out, your written
REQUEST	statement must include your name, current address, telephone number, and last four digits of
	your Social Security number, and must be signed by you. It should also reference that you are
	excluding yourself from the <i>Tharpe v. Sprint</i> SWAS settlement. Opt-out requests that do not
	include all required information, or that are not timely submitted, will be disregarded. If you

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	submit a valid and timely opt-out request, you will not be able to participate in the Settlement
	and will not be bound by either the Settlement or the Final Judgment.
	If you participate in the Settlement, you may also object to the Settlement if you wish. To
	object, you must submit a written objection and supporting papers to the Third-Party
	Administrator that is postmarked no later than March 5, 2018 and you may appear in Court to
OBJECT	express your objection at the Final Approval Hearing. The Final Approval Hearing will occur
<b>UDJEU I</b>	before the Honorable Carolyn B. Kuhl on April 11, 2018 at 10:30a.m. in the Central Civil West
	Courthouse, located at 600 South Commonwealth Ave. Los Angeles, CA. If you object to the
	Settlement, you remain in the Settlement Class, you are bound by the Court's rulings, and you
	will receive an Individual Settlement Payment.

### WHAT THIS NOTICE CONTAINS

BA	SIC INFORMATION PAGE 3
1.	Why did I get this notice?
2.	What is this lawsuit about?
3.	What is a class action and who is involved?
	IE CLAIMS IN THE LAWSUIT PAGE 3-4
4.	What does the lawsuit complain about?
5.	How does Sprint answer?
6.	Has the Court decided who is right?
7.	What are the Plaintiffs asking for?
Тн	IE SETTLEMENTPAGE 4-6
8.	Why is there a Settlement?
9.	What does the Settlement provide?
10	What am I giving up in exchange for the Settlement benefits?
11	. How do I get a payment?
12	When will I get my payment?
13	When is the effective date of the Settlement Agreement?
W	HO IS IN THE SETTLEMENT CLASS PAGE 6
14	Am I part of this Settlement Class?
15	I am still not sure if I am included.
Yc	DUR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS PAGE 6-8
16	. What happens if I do nothing at all?
17	. How do I ask the Court to exclude me from the Settlement Class?
18	. What happens if I exclude myself from the Settlement?
19	. What if I want to object to the Settlement?
20	. What is the difference between objecting and asking to be excluded?
TH	IE LAWYERS IN THIS LAWSUIT PAGE 8
	TE LAWYER REPRESENTING YOU PAGE 9 . Do I have a lawyer in this case?

QUESTIONS? CALL (888)-442-8688 - 2 -

- 22. Should I get my own lawyer?
- 23. How will the costs and attorneys' fees for the lawsuit and the Settlement be paid?

# THE FAIRNESS HEARING ...... PAGE 10

24. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the Settlement?

- 25. Do I have to come to the hearing?
- 26. May I speak at the hearing?
- 27. Address Change.

#### GETTING MORE INFORMATION ...... PAGE 9-10

#### **BASIC INFORMATION**

#### Why did I get this notice? 1.

You have received this notice because Sprint's company records indicate that you worked for Sprint as a nonexempt employee in a job code ending in "-STARS" in a Sprint California Store Within a Store Radio Shack location during the Class Period of February 25, 2016 to April 17, 2017 (a "Class Member" or "Settlement Class Member"). This Notice is designed to advise you of how you can participate in this Settlement or how you can exclude yourself from or object to this Settlement.

#### 2. What is this lawsuit about?

Plaintiffs Alexandria Jones Tharpe and Nasondra Benson ("Plaintiffs" or "Class Representatives") claim in the lawsuit that Sprint has violated a number of wage and hour laws. In particular, Plaintiffs claims, among other things, that Sprint failed, at times, to properly provide California Store Within a Store employees with required meal and rest breaks; at times failed to properly compensate California Store Within a Store employees for all hours worked; at times failed to provide California Store Within a Store employees with accurate itemized wage statements; failed to timely pay California Store Within a Store employees all their final wages owed; and failed at times to reimburse California Store Within a Store employees for reasonable and necessary business expenses. Sprint disputes the allegations in the Action and denies that it owes the monies claimed on behalf of the Store Within a Store employees covered by the Action.

#### What is a class action and who is involved? 3.

In a class action, one or more people sue on behalf of other people who have similar claims. The people together are a "Class" or "Class Members." The persons who filed the lawsuit are called the "Plaintiffs." The company they have sued (in this case Sprint) is called the "Defendant." One court resolves the issues for everyone in the Class, except for those persons who choose to exclude themselves from the Class. On December 22, 2017, Carolyn B. Kuhl of the Los Angeles Superior Court, the judge assigned in this lawsuit, issued an order preliminarily certifying the Settlement Class for Settlement purposes.

# THE CLAIMS IN THE LAWSUIT

#### 4. What does the lawsuit complain about?

In the lawsuit, the Plaintiffs said that Sprint failed at times to provide them required meal and rest breaks, to properly compensate them for all hours worked, and to reimburse them for reasonable and necessary business expenses based on unlawful policies and, as a result of these violations, did not provide them with accurate wage statements and failed to pay them all wages due after they ended their respective employments with Sprint.

# 5. How does Sprint answer?

Sprint denies that it did anything wrong and maintains its meal and rest break, off-the-clock work, and business expense policies were all lawful.

# 6. Has the Court decided who is right?

The Court has made no ruling on the merits of Plaintiffs' claims and has determined only that certification of the Settlement Class for settlement purposes is appropriate under state law.

# 7. What are the Plaintiffs asking for?

The Plaintiffs want payment of improperly forfeited monies owed (wages and expense reimbursements), interest, and penalties for Class Members.

### THE SETTLEMENT

# 8. Why is there a Settlement?

Both sides agreed to the Settlement to avoid the costs and risks of further litigation. The Settlement does not mean that any law was broken. Sprint denies all of the claims in the lawsuit. The Class Representatives and their attorneys believe the Settlement is in the best interests of all Settlement Class Members.

# 9. What does the Settlement provide?

Under the terms of the Settlement, Sprint agrees to pay a Combined Maximum Settlement Amount of \$409,411. Deducted from this amount will be sums approved by the Court for attorneys' fees in the lawsuit not to exceed 1/3, which is approximately \$136,470.33, reasonable costs incurred by Class Counsel in the lawsuit not to exceed \$12,000, incentive awards to the Plaintiffs for their services as Class Representatives not to exceed \$17,500 total, a payment to the State of California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") of \$10,000 for alleged penalties, and the fees and expenses of the Third-Party Administrator in an amount not to exceed \$11,000 total. The cash amount left (the "Net Settlement Amount") is available to pay Settlement Class Members who do not opt out of the Settlement.

For each employee who does not opt out of the Settlement, the Third-Party Administrator will calculate the payment as follows: First, the Third-Party Administrator shall reduce the Settlement Amount of \$409,411 by deducting (a) all attorneys' fees and litigation costs approved by the Court and awarded to Class Counsel, (b) all fees to be paid to the Third-Party Administrator associated with Settlement administration, (c) the enhanced payments to the Plaintiffs approved by the Court and awarded to the Plaintiffs, and (d) payment to the LWDA. The balance, approximately \$222,440.67, is the Net Settlement Amount.

There are two elements to distribution of the Net Settlement Amount:

1) A general payment based on workweeks employed during the period February 25, 2016 to April 17, 2017 in a job code ending in "-STARS" in a Store Within A Store in California wherein each employee will receive approximately \$\_\_\_\_\_ per workweek he or she worked during that period;

2) A payment of \$35.00 to each former employees of Sprint who worked in a job code ending in "-STARS" in a Store Within A Store in California any time during the period February 25, 2016 to April 17, 2017 on account of extra rights they are in a position to assert based on their former status.

If you disagree with the earnings information reflected on the Green Sheet attached to this Notice, you may state the basis of your disagreement and submit documentation supporting your position by no later than March 5,

2018, to the Third-Party Administrator at the following address: Sprint SWAS Settlement, c/o Atticus Administration, PO Box 1440, Minneapolis, MN 55440. Please be advised that the earnings information listed above is presumed to be correct unless the documents you submit prove otherwise. Any decision by the Third-Party Administrator with regard to the disputes as to your earnings shall be final.

The Class Member Individual Settlement Payments shall be considered wages, penalties, and interest payments in equal, one-third  $(\frac{1}{3})$  parts (*i.e.*,  $\frac{1}{3}$  wages,  $\frac{1}{3}$  penalties and  $\frac{1}{3}$  interest payments). The Third-Party Administrator shall calculate the employee's share of tax and other required withholdings, deduct them from those amounts considered wage income, and then will pay the resulting amounts to Settlement Class Members who do not exclude themselves from the Settlement. Nothing in this Notice or the Settlement is intended to be tax advice. Settlement Class Members are directed to consult with their own tax advisors concerning the tax consequences of any payment they receive.

### 10. What am I giving up in exchange for the Settlement benefits?

If approved by the Court, the proposed Settlement Agreement will be binding on all Settlement Class Members who do not timely opt out of the Settlement. If you do not opt out of the Settlement and the Settlement is given final approval, you will release and lose the right to assert all settled claims as described below. The "Released Parties" mean: Sprint, as well as any of Sprint's past, present, and future parents, affiliates, subsidiaries, divisions, predecessors, successors, and assigns, and each of Sprint's officers, directors, board members, trustees, shareholders, members, employees, agents, attorneys, auditors, accountants, benefits administrators or third-party administrators, experts, contractors, stockholders, representatives, partners, insurers, reinsurers, and other persons acting on their behalf.

By agreeing to be part of the Settlement, you are agreeing to release all claims involving wage and hour violations, related to your employment in a Sprint Store Within a Store, that you have against the Released Parties, including:

1. "Released Claims" which means: any and all causes of action, claims, rights, damages, punitive or statutory damages, penalties, liabilities, expenses, and losses arising from or related to the facts alleged in any of the operative complaints filed in this lawsuit at any time through the date of final approval of the Settlement Agreement by the Court, including (a) any claim based on the alleged failure by Defendant to pay wages, minimum wages, or overtime; (b) any claim based on the alleged failure to provide meal or rest breaks; (c) any claim based on the alleged failure by Defendant to provide accurate itemized wage statements to employees; (d) any claim based on the alleged failure to pay all wages due upon separation of employment; (e) any right or claim for civil penalties pursuant to the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code § 2698 et seq., or any penalties arising under the Labor Code or Wage Order; (e) any right or claim for unfair business practices in violation of California Business & Professions Code § 17200 et seq.; (f) any claim for reimbursement of mileage, uniform, or other reimbursable expense subject to California Labor Code Section 2802; and (g) any right or claim of violation of the California Labor Code arising from or related to the conduct alleged, including, without limitation, violation of Sections 201, 202, 203, 226, 510, 558, 1194, 1198, 2698, et seq., or any other state or federal statute, rule and/or regulation (including any Wage Order), or similar causes of action which any Class Member has or might have, known or unknown, of any kind whatsoever, that relate to, arise or could have arisen out of the allegations in the Complaint (as amended) in the Action arising out of or related to the Class Members' employment in a Store Within a Store.

You will release the Released Claims whether or not you are fully aware of their nature or extent or aware of whether you even have such claims. Whether or not you cash the settlement check, the Settlement will be binding. If you do not cash your check within six months, your Individual Settlement Payment will be distributed in accordance with California Code of Civil Procedure Section 384, as follows:

- (a) 25% to the State Treasury for deposit in the Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund; and
- (b) 75% to the State Treasury for deposit into the Equal Access Fund of the Judicial Branch.

You can talk to the lawyer for the Settlement Class listed in Paragraph 21 for free or you can talk to your own lawyer if you have questions about the released claims and what they mean.

# 11. How do I get a payment?

If you received this Notice by mail, you will receive an Individual Settlement Payment automatically, unless you exclude yourself from the Settlement.

# 12. When will I get my payment?

After the Court approves the Settlement, there may be appeals. Individual Settlement Payments will be mailed to Settlement Class Members who are eligible to receive benefits under the Settlement after the Court approves the Settlement, and after time for appeals has ended and any appeals have been resolved. If there are any appeals, resolving them could take some time, so please be patient.

# 13. When is the effective date of the Settlement Agreement?

The Settlement Agreement became effective on December 22, 2017.

# WHO IS IN THE SETTLEMENT CLASS

# 14. Am I part of this Settlement Class?

Judge Kuhl decided that persons employed by Sprint in California in a Store Within a Store Radio Shack location in a job code ending in "-STARS" between February 25, 2015 and April 17, 2017are Settlement Class Members.

# 15. I am still not sure if I am included.

If you are still not sure whether you are included, you can get free help by calling or writing to Class Counsel at the phone number or address listed in Paragraph 21, or the Third-Party Administrator.

# YOUR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS

You have to decide whether to stay in the Settlement Class or opt out of the Settlement Class by March 5, 2018.

# 16. What happens if I do nothing at all?

You do not have to do anything now if you want to receive a share of the money from this Settlement between Sprint and the Plaintiffs. By doing nothing, you are staying in the Settlement Class and you keep the possibility of getting money that may come from this Settlement. But, you give up any right to sue Sprint separately about the same and/or similar legal claims involving wage and hour issues arising from your employment in a Sprint Store Within a Store that are at issue in this lawsuit.

# 17. How do I ask the Court to exclude me from the Settlement Class?

Settlement Class Members may exclude themselves ("opt out") from the Settlement Class by submitting a signed and dated written exclusion request to the Third-Party Administrator by mail to Sprint SWAS Settlement, c/o

Atticus Administration, PO Box 1440, Minneapolis, MN 55440, on or before March 5, 2018. Opt-out requests that are not submitted timely will be disregarded. Persons who submit valid and timely opt-out requests will not participate in the Settlement and will not be bound by either the Settlement or the Judgment. The Exclusion request should include your full name, current address, telephone number, and last four digits of your Social Security number, and must be signed by you. It should also reference that you are excluding yourself from the *Tharpe v. Sprint* SWAS settlement.

# 18. What happens if I exclude myself from the Settlement?

If you ask to be excluded, you will not get an Individual Settlement Payment, and you cannot object to the Settlement. But you may sue, continue to sue, or be part of a different lawsuit against Sprint in the future, subject to any defenses that Sprint may assert. You will not be bound by anything that happens in this lawsuit.

# 19. What if I want to object to the Settlement?

If you timely exclude yourself from the Settlement, you may not submit objections to the Settlement or to Class Counsel's request for attorneys' fees and expenses, nor appear at the hearing to present any objections. However, you will have the right to pursue your own claims against Defendant in a separate proceeding. If you do not exclude yourself from the Settlement, you may object to the terms of the Proposed Settlement before the Final Approval Hearing by mailing the written objection to the Third-Party Administrator, via U.S. Mail, UPS, Federal Express or other mail service which uses a post marked, by March 5, 2018. You may include with your objection a notice of intent to appear at the Final Approval Hearing if you want to address the Court in person. The Third-Party Administrator will forward your objection and/or notice of intent to appear at the Final Approval Hearing to Counsel who will ensure that your documents are properly filed with the Court. If the Court rejects your objection, you will still be bound by the terms of the Settlement.

If you wish to object, you must mail the written objection to the Third-Party Administrator at the following address:

Sprint SWAS Settlement c/o Atticus Administration PO Box 1440 Minneapolis, MN 55440

If you wish to object, you may also mail copies of your written objection to the Parties' counsel as shown below:

# CLASS COUNSEL

Dennis F. Moss, Esq. Moss Bollinger, LLP 15300 Ventura Blvd., Suite 207 Sherman Oaks, CA 91402

Emil Davtyan, Esq. Davtyan Professional Law Corporation 21900 Burbank Blvd., Suite 300 Woodland Hills, CA 91367-7418

# **DEFENSE COUNSEL**

Harold M. Brody, Esq. Pietro A. Deserio, Esq. Elaine H. Lee, Esq. Proskauer Rose, LLP 2049 Century Park East, 32<sup>nd</sup> Floor Los Angeles, CA 90067

# DO NOT ATTEMPT TO OBJECT BY TELEPHONE

Any written objection and/or notice of your intent to appear at the Final Approval Hearing must state each specific reason in support of your objection and any legal support for each objection. No objections should be made by any other method than by letter as described above. Your written objection and/or notice of your intent to appear at the hearing must also state your full name, address, last four digits of your Social Security number, and the dates of your employment with Defendant. <u>No objections may be made by calling the Court or counsel</u>.

To be valid and effective, the Third-Party Administrator must receive any written objections and/or notices of intent to appear at the hearing not later than March 5, 2018. A Class Member who fails to mail a written statement of objection in the manner described above and by the specified deadline will be deemed to have waived any objections and will be foreclosed from making any objection (whether by appeal or otherwise) to the Settlement, including, without limitation, the fairness, adequacy or reasonableness of the Proposed Settlement, or to any award for attorneys' fees and expenses.

If you intend to object to the Settlement, you will still receive your share of the Settlement if it is approved. You will not receive a share of the Settlement if, instead of objecting, you timely request to opt-out under Section 17 above. Regardless of whether you file an objection, if the settlement is approved you will be deemed to have released all claims as set forth in Section 10 above.

# 20. What is the difference between objecting and asking to be excluded?

Objecting is simply telling the Court that you do not like something about the Settlement. You can object only if you stay in the Settlement Class. If your objection is overruled, you will be part of the Settlement, will release your claims, and will receive an Individual Settlement Payment.

Excluding yourself is telling the Court that you do not want to be part of the Settlement Class. If you exclude yourself, you will have no basis to object because the Settlement will no longer affect you.

The lawyers for Sprint are:			
PROSKAUER ROSE LLP			
HAROLD M. BRODY (SBN 84927)			
hbrody@proskauer.com			
PIETRO A. DESERIO (SBN 309230)			
pdeserio@proskauer.com			
2049 Century Park East, Suite 3200			
Los Angeles, CA 90067-3206			
Telephone: (310) 557-2900			
Facsimile: (310) 557-2193			

#### THE LAWYERS IN THIS LAWSUIT

### THE LAWYER REPRESENTING YOU

### 21. Do I have a lawyer in this case?

The Court decided that Moss Bollinger LLP and Davtyan Professional Law Corporation are qualified to represent you and all Settlement Class Members. The law firms are called "Class Counsel." If you have any questions regarding the case or this Notice, or you want to communicate with the lawyers representing the Plaintiffs, you may contact them at:

#### MOSS BOLLINGER, LLP

DENNIS F. MOSS dennis@dennismosslaw.com 15300 Ventura Blvd., Suite 207 Sherman Oaks, CA 91402 Telephone: (310) 773-0323

### DAVTYAN PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

EMIL DAVTYAN 21900 Burbank Blvd., Suite 300 Woodland Hills, CA 91367-7418 Telephone: (818) 992-2935

### 22. Should I get my own lawyer?

If you do not opt out of this Settlement, you do not need to hire your own lawyer because Class Counsel will be working on your behalf. However, if you wish to do so you may hire your own attorney at your expense. If you opt out of the Settlement and you start your own lawsuit against Sprint, you will have to hire and pay your own lawyer for that lawsuit, and you will have to prove your claims.

#### 23. How will the costs and attorneys' fees for the lawsuit and the Settlement be paid?

Subject to Court approval, Sprint agrees to pay up to \$136,470.33 in attorneys' fees and reasonable costs in the amount of up to \$12,000 to Class Counsel. Subject to Court approval, Sprint also agrees to pay the Class Representatives up to \$17,500 total as enhancement awards for their initiation and prosecution of this lawsuit and for taking on the risk of litigation. The Court may award less than these amounts. Sprint shall pay the Third-Party Administrator's costs and fees associated with administering the Settlement in an amount up to \$15,000.

#### THE FAIRNESS HEARING

The judge will hold a hearing to decide whether to approve the Settlement. If you have filed a written objection on time, you may attend and you may ask to speak, but you do not have to.

# 24. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the Settlement?

The Court will hold a hearing on April 11, 2018 at 10:30a.m. in the Central Civil West Courthouse, located at 600 South Commonwealth Ave. Los Angeles, CA. The hearing may be moved to a different date and/or time without additional notice. At this hearing, the Court will consider whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate. If there are any objections, the judge will consider them. The Court will only listen to persons who are authorized to speak at the hearing. At this hearing, the Court will also decide how much to pay Class Counsel and how much to pay Plaintiffs as enhancement awards. After the hearing, the Court will decide whether to approve the Settlement. We do not know how long these decisions will take.

QUESTIONS? CALL (888)-442-8688

### 25. Do I have to come to the hearing?

No. Class Counsel will answer any questions the Court may have. But, you are welcome to come at your own expense. If you send an objection, you do not have to come to talk about it. As long as you mailed your written objection on time, the Court will consider it. You may also pay another lawyer to attend, but it is not required.

### 26. May I speak at the hearing?

You may speak at the hearing, either representing yourself or through counsel.

#### 27. Address Change.

If you move before settlement payments are made, or if the address on this Notice is incorrect in any way, you must notify the Third-Party Administrator of your updated address to ensure your receipt of your share of the Settlement funds.

#### **GETTING MORE INFORMATION**

This Notice only summarizes the lawsuit and other related matters. For more information, you may review the Court's files any time during regular business hours in the Office of the Clerk, Case No. BC626095, Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles, 600 S. Commonwealth Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90005. Any questions regarding this Notice should be sent to Class Counsel at the address and telephone number listed in Paragraph 21. If your address changes or is different from the one on the envelope enclosing this Notice, please promptly notify the Third-Party Administrator. Please note that your contact information was obtained for purposes of this Settlement only, by Order of the Court, and will not be utilized for any other purpose other than this pending Settlement. Counsel will use all reasonable means to protect your information.

# PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT OR THE COURT CLERK'S OFFICE TO INQUIRE ABOUT THIS SETTLEMENT OR THE CLAIM PROCESS.