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9 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Class*

10 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

11 **COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

12 ALEXANDER GUREVICH, et al.,)
13 Plaintiff,)
14 v.)
15 ROYAL AMBULANCE, INC., et al.,)
16 Defendants.)

**CASE NOS. RG12631895 (Lead case)
RG12639791**

[Assigned to the Hon. Wynne Carvill, Dept. 21]

**DECLARATION OF STEVEN M. BRONSON IN
SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR ATTORNEY FEES
AND COSTS**

18 KEVIN DICKENS, et al.,)
19 Plaintiffs,)
20 v.)
21 ROYAL AMBULANCE, INC., et al.,)
22 Defendants.)

**Hearing Date: July 28, 2015
Time: 8:45 a.m.
Place: Dept. 21
Reference No. R-1648298**

Consolidated Complaint Filed: Nov. 12, 2013

1 **DECLARATION OF STEVEN M. BRONSON**

2 I, Steven M. Bronson, declare as follows:

3 1. I am an attorney with Smoger & Associates, and counsel for Plaintiff Alexander
4 Gurevich and the Class in the above captioned case, entitled *Alexander Gurevich, et al. v. Royal*
5 *Ambulance, Inc., et al.*, Case Nos. RG12631895 (Lead case) and RG12639791, I am licensed to practice
6 before all of the Courts of the State of California and State of Missouri.

7 2. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and if called as a witness,
8 I could and would competently testify to the following under oath.

9 3. This declaration is submitted in support of the Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs.

10 4. I have been integrally and actively involved in the prosecution of the above entitled case
11 since its inception in May of 2012 (over 4 years.)

12 5. **Exhibit 1**, attached hereto, is a true and correct copy of my Curriculum Vitae, with
13 respect to my standing in this case to request fees at the hourly rate requested here.

14 6. My hourly rate for this action is \$600.00, which is a reasonable rate for the San Francisco
15 community, in light of the complexity and skill required in this matter, and my training and experience.
16 The above billing rate is comparable and at times even lower than the billing rates charged by lawyers
17 similarly experienced, as well as those who are less experienced, who work at large defense oriented law
18 firms, including many of the prominent firms against whom I typically litigate against. I have cross-
19 referenced this hourly rate with my understanding of the so-called "Laffey Matrix" and this cross-
20 reference further supports the reasonableness of this hourly rate in a class action case.

21 7. In several approved class action settlements in federal court several years ago, I have
22 submitted my time to the court at an hourly rate of \$475.00, and thus my current rate has modestly
23 increased over the course of two to four years. These cases include, but are not limited to, *In re*
24 *Wachovia Corp. "Pick-A-Payment" Mortgage Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation, Case No.*
25 *M:09-CV-2015-JF* (N.D. Cal. 2011) (*see* Doc. No. 60 filed May 17, 2011, and Doc. No. 117-2 filed Feb.
26 23, 2011, at p.46); and *Ralston v. Mortgage Investors Group, Inc. Case No. 5:08-cv-00536-JF* (N.D.
27 Cal. 2013) (*see* Doc. No. 426 filed Sept. 19, 2013, and Doc. No. 394-1 filed July 17, 2013, at p. 124).
28

1 8. My recorded time in this matter is 91.1 hours. By multiplying my requested hourly rate
2 by the number of hours worked, the lodestar amounts to \$54,660. I spent my time in this matter
3 drafting the complaint, the consolidated complaint, reviewing discovery responses and document
4 production, analyzing the damage modeling, attending the April 2013 mediation, attending the July
5 2014 case management conference, preparing, drafting, and negotiating the stipulated settlement
6 agreement, preparing the motion for preliminary approval and accompanying documents, and preparing
7 the motion for final approval and accompanying documents.

8 **Costs**

9 9. During the litigation, I personally incurred \$997.80 in costs associated with the litigation
10 of the above captioned matter. These costs consist of airline fees associated with traveling from San
11 Diego, where my office is located, to San Francisco for the first mediation in this matter, and from San
12 Diego, to Oakland, to attend the Court's case management conference on behalf of Gurevich and the
13 Class on July 17, 2014.

14 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is
15 true and correct.

16 Dated: July 14, 2015



STEVEN M. BRONSON

EXHIBIT NO. 1

STEVEN M. BRONSON, J.D.

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Steven M. Bronson was named Public Justice Foundation's "2012 Trial Lawyer of the Year". He was also named "2011 Lawyer of the Year" and "2009 Lawyer of the Year Honoree" for the State of Missouri, by Missouri Lawyers Media. He has been recognized as a "Young Attorneys Finalist" in 2012 and "Top Attorneys" semi-finalist in 2013 by The Daily Transcript in San Diego. In 2014 and 2015, he was selected to Super Lawyers for Missouri. He is in private practice, representing injured consumers and victims. Mr. Bronson represents children exposed to toxic substances, including lead and other toxins. In 2011, the trial of sixteen cases for injuries due to toxic exposure to these chemicals resulted in a verdict of \$358.5 Million for the Plaintiffs. At the time it was the largest collectible jury verdict in Missouri state history.

In 2009, Mr. Bronson was lead trial attorney in a case where a drunk driver caused a collision, seriously injuring Mr. Bronson's client and killing his client's fiancé and father of their child. The jury unanimously awarded \$89,000,000.00 in damages. He has also represented individuals in Palo Alto, California, who developed HIV and Hepatitis C after contaminated needles were used on them during routine blood draws. Mr. Bronson was a participating attorney at Smoger & Associates when the firm was appointed as class counsel in *In re: Wachovia Corp.*, and other Option ARM loan cases that he litigated, which resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars of benefits to class members. These cases involve representing consumers who were defrauded into purchasing Option ARM loans. Banks and lenders originated these loans using loan documents that failed to disclose, among other things, that the loan's principal balance was guaranteed to increase, rather than decrease, with each payment made, resulting in a loss of equity in the home.

In addition to his private practice, Mr. Bronson volunteers his time to the public interest. In the past, he wrote on *amici* briefs to the United States Supreme Court, supporting the positions of the editors of the New England Journal of Medicine in *Wyeth v. Levine*; the American Medical Association, American Cancer Society, and eight other national public health groups in *Altria v. Good*; and forty renowned marine biologists, lead by Jean-Michel Cousteau, in *Exxon v. Baker*. He has also received awards for completing pro bono work in San Diego.

Mr. Bronson earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Wisconsin— Madison, before he undertook graduate studies at California Western School of Law, where he received his Juris Doctor's Degree. He is a member of the Bars of California, Missouri, and the United States District Courts for the Northern, Central, and Southern Districts of California.

I. EDUCATION

CALIFORNIA WESTERN SCHOOL OF LAW, San Diego, CA: J.D.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, Madison, WI: B.A. History and Political Science

II. BAR MEMBERSHIPS

California State Bar
(2006-Present)

Missouri State Bar
(2008-Present)

United States District Court for the Southern District of California
(2006-Present)

United States District Court for the Northern District of California
(2008-Present)

United States District Court for the Central District of California
(2009-Present)

III. ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

PUBLIC JUSTICE (FORMERLY "TLPJ"):
Member (2008-Present)
Auction Committee (2008-2009)

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (FORMERLY "ATLA"):
Member (2007-Present); Member of Section on Toxic, Environmental and
Pharmaceutical Torts (2009-Present)

CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA ("CAOC"):
Member (2008-Present)

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF TRIAL ATTORNEYS ("MATA")
Member (2011-Present)

CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF SAN DIEGO ("CASD"):
Member (2008-Present)

CALIFORNIA WESTERN SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Board Member (2012-Present)

FIorenzo V. LOPARDO AMERICAN INNS OF COURT, CHAPTER #303
Associate (2007-2010)

PUBLIC CITIZEN
Member (2008-Present)

IV. SELECTED LEGAL BRIEFS



Writer, *Exxon Shipping Co. et al. v. Grant Baker, et al.*
United States Supreme Court, Docket No. 07-219
Brief of Jean-Michel Cousteau and Other Natural and Social
Scientists as *Amici Curiae* in Support of Respondents



Writer, *Altria Group, Inc. et al. v. Stephanie Good et al.*
United States Supreme Court, Docket No. 07-562
Brief of American Medical Association, American Cancer
Society, Inc., Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, American
Heart Association, American Lung Association, American
Public Health Association, American Legacy Foundation,
American College of Chest Physicians, Oncology Nursing
Society, and American Academy of Pediatrics as *Amici Curiae*
in Support of Respondents



Writer, *Wyeth v. Diana Levine*
United States Supreme Court, Docket No. 06-1249
Brief of *New England Journal of Medicine* Editors and
Authors as *Amici Curiae* in Support of Respondent



Writer, *Daniel Raymond Stephenson et al. v. Dow Chemical Company et al.,
Joe Isaacson et al. v. Dow Chemical Company et al.*
United States Supreme Court, Docket No. 08-461, 08-460
Petitioners' Reply to Brief in Opposition
(*Certiorari* denied)

V. SELECTED CASES

Trial Attorney, *Alexander v. Fluor Corp. et al.*, Case No. 22052-09567
Circuit Court of the City of St. Louis, Missouri
Jury Verdict: \$358,527,186.00

Lead Trial Attorney, *Christine Hodge et al. v. Troy Zerna*, Case No. 08AB-CC00169
Circuit Court of Franklin County, Missouri
Unanimous Jury Verdict: \$89,000,000.00

Class Counsel (Smoger & Associates), *In re Wachovia Corp. "Pick-A-Payment"
Mortgage Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation*, Case No. M:09-CV-2015-JF
U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
Class Action Settlement: \$50 Million Cash Fund plus
mortgage modifications valued at over \$1 Billion

VI. AWARDS

Nation's Top One Percent, National Association of Distinguished Counsel (2015)

Super Lawyers Missouri, Thomson Reuters (2014-2015)

Top Attorneys Semi-Finalist, The Daily Transcript (2013)

Young Attorneys Finalist, The Daily Transcript (2013)

2012 Trial Lawyer of the Year, Public Justice Foundation (2012)



2011 Lawyers of the Year, State of Missouri, Missouri Lawyers Media (2012)

2011 Largest Plaintiff Wins, State of Missouri, Missouri Lawyers Media (2012)

Top Ten Jury Verdicts of 2009, No. 4 in the United States — Lawyers USA (2010)

Largest Verdict of the Year in Missouri, Missouri Lawyers Media (2010)

Winningest Plaintiff Lawyers of 2009, No. 2, Missouri Lawyers Media (2010)

Lawyer of the Year Honoree, Missouri Lawyers Media (2009)

Finalist, 2008 Writers' Award, North County Lawyer Magazine (2009)

Legal Aid Society of San Diego Award for Pro Bono Work (2007)

State Bar of California Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Work (2005)

California Western Pro Bono Honors Society Award (2005)