

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

YVONNE BARNES, PATRICIA
DEAN, ANTONIO MORRIS, and
BERNADETTE BOGDANOV,
individually and on behalf of all others
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNILEVER UNITED STATES
INCORPORATED,
Defendant.

Case No.: 1:21-cv-06191

Hon. Matthew F. Kennelly

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO APPOINT INTERIM CLASS COUNSEL
UNDER FED. R. CIV. P. 23(g)(3)**

This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiffs' Motion for Appointment of Interim Class Counsel (Dkt. No. 97), to which Defendant Unilever expressed no position, as indicated in the Parties' Joint Status Report (Dkt. No. 99). The Court being fully advised and for good cause shown, the Motion is hereby **GRANTED**.

Accordingly, the Court **ORDERS** as follows:

A. Appointment of Interim Class Counsel.

1. Plaintiffs' Interim Co-Lead Counsel.

The Court appoints Nick Suciu (Milberg, Coleman, Bryson, Phillips, Grossman, PLLC), Charles Schaffer (Levin, Sedran & Berman LLP), and Jonathan Shub (Shub & Johns LLC) as Interim Co-Lead Counsel for all Plaintiffs. Interim Co-Lead Counsel must assume responsibility for the following duties during all phases of this litigation:

- a) Coordinating the work of preparing and presenting all of Plaintiffs' claims and

- otherwise coordinating all proceedings, including organizing and supervising the efforts of Plaintiffs' counsel in a manner to ensure that Plaintiffs' pretrial preparation is conducted effectively, efficiently, expeditiously and economically;
- b) Delegating work responsibilities and monitoring the activities of all Plaintiffs' counsel in a manner to promote the orderly and efficient conduct of this litigation and to avoid unnecessary duplication and expense;
 - c) Calling meetings of Plaintiffs' counsel for any appropriate purpose, including coordinating responses to questions of other parties or of the Court, and initiating proposals, suggestions, schedules, and any other appropriate matters;
 - d) Determining (after consultation with other co-counsel as may be appropriate) and presenting (in briefs, oral argument, or such other fashion as they or their designees deem appropriate) to the Court and opposing parties the position of the Plaintiffs on all matters arising during pretrial (and, if appropriate, trial) proceedings;
 - e) Serving as the primary contact for all communications between Plaintiffs and Defendant, and acting as spokespersons for all Plaintiffs vis-à-vis Defendant and the Court;
 - f) Directing and executing on behalf of Plaintiffs the filing of pleadings and other documents with the Court;
 - g) Appearing at all court hearings and conferences regarding the case as most appropriate for effective and efficient representation, and speaking for Plaintiffs at all such hearings and conferences;
 - h) Receiving and initiating communication with the Court and the Clerk of the Court (including receiving orders, notices, correspondence, and telephone calls) and

dispensing the content of such communications among Plaintiffs' counsel

- i) Initiating and conducting discussions and negotiations with counsel for Defendant on all matters, including settlement;
- j) Negotiating and entering into stipulations with opposing counsel as necessary for the conduct of the litigation;
- k) Initiating, coordinating, and conducting all discovery on Plaintiffs' behalf and ensuring its efficiency;
- l) Selecting, consulting with, and employing experts for Plaintiffs, as necessary;
- m) Encouraging and enforcing efficiency among all Plaintiffs' counsel;
- n) Assessing Plaintiffs' counsel for the costs of the litigation;
- o) Preparing and distributing periodic status reports to the Court and to the parties ordered;
- p) Developing and recommending for the Court approval practices and procedures pertaining to attorneys' fees and expenses as further detailed below and, on an ongoing basis, monitoring and administering such procedures. At such time as may be appropriate, Co-Lead Counsel also will recommend apportionment and allocation of fees and expenses subject to Court approval; and,
- q) Performing such other duties as are necessary in connection with the prosecution of this litigation or as may be further directed by the Court.

B. Additional Matters.

1. Settlement Discussions.

Any discussions of a settlement of this litigation shall be conducted by Interim Co-Lead Counsel and any counsel designated by Interim Co-Lead Counsel.

2. Proposed Agendas.

In advance of each status conference, Interim Co-Lead Counsel and Defendant's counsel will meet and confer regarding the agenda for the conference. Unless otherwise ordered, Interim Co-Lead Counsel and Defendant's counsel will meet and confer regarding the agenda for the conference. Unless otherwise ordered, Interim Co-Lead Counsel and Defendant's counsel will file a joint notice setting out the proposed agenda and the parties' joint and/or respective positions no later than five calendar days prior to each status conference.

3. Application of this Order.


This Order applies to all actions included in the above-captioned consolidated matters and all subsequently consolidated actions.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

DATED: 6/1/2023



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Hon. Matthew F. Kennelly
United States District Judge