

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
FORSYTH COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
22 CVS 929
22 CVS 683

VANDA THOMAS, STACY WHARTON,)
KAREN PRUDENCIO, ARCOLA LEWIS)
d/b/a PREMIER ONE SALON, and)
SHERMAN TRANSOU,)
Individually and On Behalf of All Others)
Similarly Situated,)

Plaintiffs,)

v.)

WINSTON WEAVER Co. Inc.,)

Defendant.)
_____)

**ORDER APPROVING PLAINTIFFS
ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES
AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS
IN BUSINESS SUB CLASS**

WHEREAS, by Order dated February 2, 2025, the Court certified the above-captioned action (the "Action") to proceed as a class action.

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2025, the parties reached a settlement agreement for all Business Class Members, setting the Final Fairness Hearing on May 20, 2026.

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2026, at the Final Fairness Hearing the Court gave final approval to the Business Settlement and Settlement Administrator's Fees and Expenses. Also, at this time the Court postponed granting approval of Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Expenses to be decided upon presentation by Attorneys for the Class of a Motion to Approve Attorneys' Fees and Expenses on or before July 1st, 2026.

WHEREAS, on July 1st, 2026, 3 attorneys for the Class each separately moved the Court to approve Attorney Fees of 1/3 (33.33333%) of the total Business Settlement Fund of \$4,500,000.00, in an amount equal to \$1,500,000.00 (the "Total Attorneys' Fees"), to be split into three equal thirds of \$500,000.00 for each of Potts Law Firm, LLP ("Potts"), CR Legal Team, LLP

(“CR”), and jointly to The Law Offices of James Scott Farrin (“Farrin”) and Gary Jackson, Esq. (“Jackson”). Jackson did not join in those Motions.

WHEREAS, on July 1st, 2026, Gary Jackson, Esq., attorney for the Class, filed a Motion to Segregate Funds for Attorneys’ Fee Awards, requesting this Court to postpone final approval of attorneys’ fees pending a final hearing to resolve an internal dispute as to fee allocation to each of the firms that acted as Class Counsel in this case, due to his separation from Farrin during the last stages of this case.

WHEREAS, a hearing was set by this Court for August 25, 2026 to resolve such matters related to Attorneys’ Fees.

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2026 Co-Lead Class Counsel Gary Jackson filed his Motion for Attorneys’ Fees and Reimbursement of Expenses to Gary Jackson.

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2026, Co-Lead Class Counsel Gary Jackson and Derek Potts filed a Joint Report on Pending Requests for Attorney’s Fee Awards and Expense Reimbursement memorializing an agreement reached by all four firms as to the Total Attorneys’ Fees amount as well as a split of the Fees into amounts to be individually awarded to Potts and CR, and a balance amount to be jointly awarded to Farrin and Jackson collectively, all as set forth below, thereby reducing the contested issues before this Court.

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2026, the Law Offices of James Scott Farrin filed an Amended Motion for Award of Attorneys’ Fees and Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses with Incorporated Memorandum of Law concerning the fee dispute between Farrin and Jackson.

WHEREAS, all Class Counsel (including Jackson) successfully agreed to an initial fee allocation among Potts, CR, and Farrin and Jackson collectively, taking into account Farrin and Jackson’s disagreement to be resolved separately by this Court, as follows:

1. Potts respectfully requests the Court grant Attorneys' Fees in the amount of \$480,000.00 and reimbursement to Potts for litigation expenses in the amount of \$40,603.84 related to the Business Class;
2. CR respectfully requests the Court grant Attorneys' Fees in the amount of \$320,000.00 and reimbursement to CR for litigation expenses in the amount of \$542.48 related to the Business Class; and
3. Farrin and Jackson each respectfully request the Court grant Attorneys' Fees in the amount of \$700,000.00, to be allocated between Farrin and Jackson as the Court may determine; and reimbursement to Farrin for litigation expenses in the amount of \$261,062.40, and to Jackson for litigation expenses in the amount of \$1,500.00 related to the Business Class.

WHEREAS, before this Court are: (i) Jackson's Motion to Segregate Funds for Attorney Fee Awards; (ii) Potts' Motion for Award of Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses together with Supporting Memorandum; (iii) CR's Motion for Award of Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses together with Supporting Memorandum; (iv) Farrin's Motion and Amended Motion for Award of Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses; (v) Jackson's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Reimbursement of Expenses to Gary Jackson ; and (vi) Co-Lead Class Counsel's Joint Report on Pending Requests for Attorney's Fee Awards and Expense Reimbursement;

WHEREAS, the Court has reviewed Class and Plaintiffs' Counsel's separate Motions for Award Attorneys' Fees and Expenses, with the respective Memoranda in Support of Motion for Award of Attorney's Fees, Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses to each of Class Counsel, the various supporting Declarations and Joint Reports by the attorneys involved in the case as to the

work done and the lodestars showing the hours worked by each firm, and other related matters submitted by Class and Plaintiffs' Counsel, and has heard the arguments of counsel.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1) The Court has considered each of the pending Motions;;
- 2) The Court notes that Potts has worked on the Business Class settlement portion of this case for the last year and has provided the Court with a total of 1,113.7 hours worked on the same;
- 3) The Court notes that CR has worked on the Business Class settlement portion of this case for the last year and has provided the Court with a total of 465 hours worked on the same;
- 4) The Court notes that Farrin has worked on the Business Class settlement portion of this case for the last year and has provided the Court with a total of 527 hours worked on the same;
- 5) The Court notes that Jackson and his paralegal have worked on the Business Class settlement portion of this case for the last year and have provided the Court with a total of 681 hours worked on the same;
- 6) The Court has analyzed the fee requests of the attorneys using prevailing percentage fees in the local geographical area and cross-checked the total hours of the attorneys using the prevailing hourly rates in the local geographical area and hereby finds and awards:
 - a) A total award of one third (1/3) of the total settlement fund, or \$1,500,000, is fair and reasonable and is awarded to the collective counsel Potts, Jackson, Farrin and

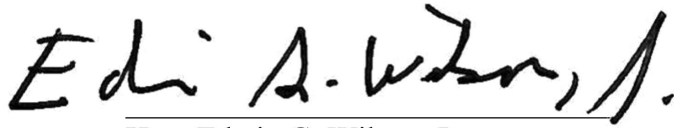
CR and the Court grants the motion for the administrator to segregate this amount for use by the Court in awarding fees (“Total Attorneys’ Fees”).

- b) The Potts Law Firm fees in an amount of \$480,000.00 is awarded to that firm, the Court expressly finding this amount of the Total Attorneys’ Fees to be a fair and reasonable award to the Potts Law Firm. Additionally, the Court finds that the law firms' request for \$40,603.84 as an award of costs and expenses is also fair and reasonable and should be paid. This award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses shall be paid upon the entry of this Order. This award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses is independent of the Court's consideration of the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the Settlement.
- c) The CR Legal Team’s fees in an amount of \$320,000.00 is awarded to that firm, the Court expressly finding this amount of the Total Attorneys’ Fees to be a fair and reasonable award to the CR Legal Team. Additionally, the Court finds that the law firms' request for \$542.48 as an award of costs and expenses is also fair and reasonable and should be paid. This award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses shall be paid upon the entry of this Order. This award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses is independent of the Court's consideration of the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the Settlement.
- d) The Court takes under advisement the remaining motions of Farrin and Jackson seeking awards of fees from the remainder of the Total Attorneys’ Fees. The Court orders Farrin and Jackson to mediate their disputes regarding these remaining motions on or before September 30, 2026 and to file a joint report to the Court

regarding the results of that mediation on or before October 1, 2026.

SO ORDERED, this _____ day of August ___, 2026

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Edwin G. Wilson, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon. Edwin G. Wilson, Jr.

Designated Superior Court Judge (Rule 2.1)