HON. BETH ANDRUS 1 Noted for: February 11, 2013 2 Without Oral Argument 3 4 5 6 7 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY 8 9 SANDY JUDD, TARA HERIVEL, and NO. 00-2-17565-5 SEA COLUMBIA LEGAL SERVICES, for **CLASS ACTION** 10 themselves, and on behalf of all similarly DECLARATION OF CHRIS R. YOUTZ IN situated persons, 1 1 SUPPORT OF INTERLATA AND INTRALATA CLASSES UNOPPOSED 12 Plaintiffs, MOTION FOR: 13 v. (1) PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF 14 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT; AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY and (2) PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF 15 T-NETIX, INC., PLAN OF ALLOCATION; 16 (3) DIRECTIVE TO SEND NOTICE; AND Defendants. 17 (4) ESTABLISHMENT OF FINAL APPROVAL HEARING 18 19 Chris R. Youtz declares under penalty of perjury as follows: 20 1. I am one of the attorneys representing plaintiffs and the classes. 21 The facts stated in this declaration are based on my personal knowledge. 22 2. I have been the attorney primarily responsible for this case from 23 the time it was filed 12½ years ago. This is been a hard-fought case by all parties. 24 Discovery has been extensive, involving thousands of documents, highly technical 25 depositions taken across the country, and expert witnesses including professors in 26 computer science, statisticians, damages experts, and even an expert in human

memory. This matter has been before the Washington Supreme Court twice (once where review was accepted), before Division I of Washington Court of Appeals twice, and before two administrative law judges and the full commission of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. An appeal by AT&T from the WUTC's final order was affirmed by the Thurston County Superior Court and is pending in Division II of the Washington Court of Appeals. Defendants twice sought discretionary review from the Washington Court of Appeals during the past year. In this Court there have been numerous motions for summary judgment on a variety of issues.

- 3. The net result of these orders and opinions is that AT&T was found liable under the Washington Consumer Protection Act for failing to make proper disclosure of rates for collect calls from 15 Washington Department of Corrections facilities from June 20, 1996 to December 31, 2000. The sole remaining issue to be tried was the amount damages to be paid to the class members.
- 4. This case was not easily resolved. The parties complied with the court ordered mediation last August using nationally recognized mediator Professor Eric Green, who was one of the founders of JAMS. The parties engaged in a full day mediation in Boston but left the session substantially apart. After the Court ruled on pending summary judgment motions, the parties engaged in direct settlement discussions, but had very different views of how the case should be resolved.
- 5. As trial approached, both parties agreed to a second mediation session, this time with former U. S. Magistrate Judge Edward Infante, a California mediator both parties' counsel had previously used. That session failed to produce a settlement, but Judge Infante (ret.) continued to press and positioned the parties such that he issued a mediator's proposal to settle the case. That proposal was for a cash payment of \$45 million, which both parties accepted the day before trial began. The CR 2A agreement confirming the settlement was signed the following day.

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- 6. The settlement is an exceptional result for the Class. As with the settlement reached with T-Netix, AT&T class members who submit claims will likely receive 100 percent of the damages they would have received had the class received everything requested at the damages trial, even after deduction for attorney fees, costs and expenses. It is also likely there will be a substantial residual amount available to distribute to the Legal Foundation of Washington and other organizations eligible under CR 23(f).
- 7. AT&T claimed that the maximum amount that could be awarded was \$33 million. The Class intended to argue that the estimated damages should be approximately \$57 million. The Class's damages were based in large part on estimating the number of class members who could not be identified but who would each be eligible to receive a statutory damages award of \$200. The Class located approximately 65,000 names or addresses of potential class members. For approximately 90,000 telephone numbers, however, the Class could not locate names or addresses through data services or reverse directories. The Class's experts estimated the number of class members by extrapolating from information available from known class members. Although the Class believes its methodology was sound, any estimation is subject to attack on the grounds that it is speculative. Further, AT&T argued that at least 17% of the charges for the collect calls were not paid by the class members and should be excluded from damages. The Class included no deduction for alleged "bad debt" in its calculations. There was room for debate on several damages issues and the jury could have determined a damages amount anywhere between the figures offered by the parties.
- 8. A major factor in our recommendation to settle for the amount proposed by the mediator is the length of the case. The case has been pending for more than a decade, and if we proceeded to trial there was little doubt that the parties would appeal various decisions, delaying resolution for another 2 to 3 years. Some class

members are now deceased, and many have relocated from addresses and telephone numbers they had during the 1996-2000 time period. Further delay would make it even more difficult to distribute funds to class members. Since the settlement will likely allow class members submitting claims to be paid in full even after deduction for fees and expenses it seems appropriate to bring this litigation to an end.

- 9. I have handled class action litigation for over 30 years. Based on the factors outlined above, I believe that \$45 million is a fair and reasonable settlement for the Class and request this amount be preliminarily approved by the Court.
- 10. The terms of the agreement are contained in Appendix 1 to our motion for preliminary approval. The terms of that document were negotiated and discussed in a session with the mediator.
- 11. The CR 2A agreement provides for a long form agreement to be negotiated by the parties. On January 22, the date that the CR 2A agreement was signed, we forwarded a proposed long form agreement to counsel for AT&T that was based on the long form agreement signed by T-Netix, which the court has preliminarily approved. AT&T has sought to add additional terms to that long form agreement that were not accepted when the CR 2A agreement was negotiated. We advised AT&T that we would be filing the motion for preliminary approval today based on the CR 2A agreement. As we explained to AT&T we cannot delay seeking approval of the agreed outline of the settlement, the notices, and the distribution plan while they seek arbitration to add terms to the long form agreement, which would delay payment to class members.

DATED: February 1, 2013, at Seattle, Washington.

/s/ Chris R. Youtz Chris R. Youtz (WSBA #7786)

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify, under penalty of perjury and in accordance with the laws of the
State of Washington, that on February 1, 2013, I caused a copy of the foregoing
document to be served on all counsel of record in the manner shown and at the
addresses listed below:

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