

THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

MICHAEL STARKE, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

STANLEY BLACK & DECKER, INC.

Defendant.

Case No. C-03-CV-21-001091

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS'
FEES, COST, AND INCENTIVE PAYMENT**

Michael Starke (“**Plaintiff**”) filed his Motion for Attorneys’ Fees, Litigation Costs, and Incentive Payment on March 7, 2022 (the “**Motion**”). Having considered the Settlement Agreement (the “**Settlement Agreement**”); the Motion, memorandum of law, supporting declarations and exhibits; the lack of any opposition or objection to the Motion; all arguments presented at any hearing of this matter; all relevant papers on file herein; and finding good cause appearing hereby ORDERS:

1. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over this Action pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 21-501 and personal jurisdiction over the Parties, including all Settlement Class Members, for all matters relating to this Action.
2. Unless otherwise defined herein, the Court adopts the terms and definitions set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

3. Counsel for the Settlement Class¹ (“**Settlement Class Counsel**”) provided adequate Notice of the Fee and Expense Application to the potential class members in a reasonable manner. The Notice provided to all potential class members stated that Class Counsel could seek attorneys’ fees up to \$360,000.00 plus \$15,000 in litigation costs and expenses, and further directed Settlement Class Members to a website on which the full Motion was accessible as of March 7, 2022.

4. I hereby award **\$360,000.00** in attorneys’ fees to Class Counsel. As of February 28, 2022, Class Counsel, collectively, have devoted approximately 677.87 hours, with a lodestar of \$412,526.00 to achieve the Settlement in this Action. This award is less than Class Counsel’s lodestar. Having reviewed Class Counsel’s Motion, the Court finds the requested amount of attorneys’ fees to be fair, reasonable, and appropriate and shall be paid to Class Counsel in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

5. The Court also finds that Class Counsel have incurred \$15,812.50 in litigation costs and expenses. All of these costs and expenses were reasonably incurred in the ordinary course of prosecuting this case and were necessary given the complex nature and scope of this case. The Court finds that Class Counsel are entitled to reimbursement for **\$15,000.00** of these costs and expenses.

6. The Court further approves an incentive award of **\$2,500.00** for the Settlement Class Representative for his active participation in this Action. This incentive award is justified by: (1) the risks Class Representative Plaintiff faced in bringing this lawsuit, financial and otherwise; (2) the amount of time and effort spent on this Action by the Class Representative

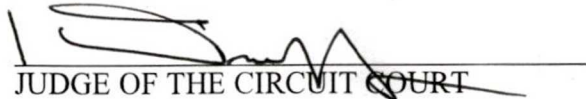
¹ As used herein and as appointed by the Court in the Preliminary Approval Order, “Settlement Class Counsel” refers to The Sultz Law Group P.C and Tydings & Rosenberg, LLP.

Plaintiff; and (3) the benefits the Class Representative Plaintiff helped obtain for the Settlement Class Members under the Settlement Agreement.

7. The Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Service Award set forth in this Order shall be paid and distributed in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: MARCH 18, 2022


JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

Entered: Clerk, Circuit Court for
Baltimore County, MD
March 18, 2022