

**NOTICE TO ALL PEOPLE CLASSIFIED AS VOLUNTEERS
WHO WORKED FOR EITANE EMERALD CORP, (D/B/A
EMERALD CITY COMICON CORP) IN 2014 AND/OR 2015
("CLASS MEMBERS")**

- The parties have reached a proposed settlement in the class action lawsuit entitled BROOKS vs. EITANE EMERALD CORP ET AL., King County Superior Court Case No. 16-2-11493-8 SEA (the "Lawsuit").
- To settle this action, pursuant to approval by the Court, EITANE EMERALD CORP ("Emerald City Comicon" or "Defendants") will pay a total of \$493,227.84.
- You are receiving this notice because you may be a Class Member. If approved, the proposed settlement will be binding upon Class Members. Please read this notice carefully to understand your options and legal rights under the settlement.
- **IMPORTANT: Class Members must fill out and return a Claim Form no later than July 31, 2017 in order to receive money from the settlement. A Claim Form is included with this notice.**
- **This notice was initially issued on June 15, 2017.**

1. Why did I get this notice?

You received this notice because you may be a member of the following class: All people classified as volunteers who worked for Eitane Emerald Corp, (d/b/a Emerald City Comicon Corp) in 2014 and/or 2015 at the Emerald City Comicon Conventions in Seattle, Washington. The Court has allowed this Notice to be sent to you to inform you about a proposed settlement of a class action lawsuit, and about your options, before the Court decides whether to approve the Settlement. If the Court approves the Settlement, and after any appeals are resolved, payments will be made to eligible Settlement Class Members who 1) have not opted out of the Settlement and 2) timely file a valid claim form.

This Notice package explains the Case, the Settlement, your legal rights, what benefits are available, who is eligible for them, and how to get them.

2. What is this lawsuit about?

Plaintiff Jerry Brooks claims Emerald City Comicon violated Washington State law by failing to pay people classified as volunteers the minimum wages they were owed under Washington laws for performing services at the 2014 and/or 2015 Emerald City Comicon Conventions in Seattle, Washington. Emerald City Comicon denies Plaintiff's claims. Plaintiff filed this lawsuit in May 2016 in King County Superior Court.

3. Why is there a settlement?

The Court did not decide in favor of Plaintiff or Emerald City Comicon. Instead, both sides agreed to a settlement. This allows the parties to avoid the risks and costs of a trial and the people affected will be entitled to receive compensation. Plaintiff and his attorneys ("Class Counsel") think the settlement is fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Class Members.

4. What claims are resolved by the settlement?

The settlement will resolve all claims that Class Members could have brought against Emerald City Comicon regarding Emerald City Comicon's alleged failure to pay Class Members their minimum wages, as set forth in answer to Question 2 above.

5. What are the basic terms of the settlement?

Subject to Court approval, the essential terms of the settlement are as follows:

Settlement Payments: Emerald City Comicon will pay \$493,227.84 to resolve all claims alleged in this lawsuit. As part of the settlement: (a) a payment to the named Plaintiff in an amount up to \$5,000 to compensate Plaintiff for his services in bringing forth this lawsuit and representing the Class; (b) a payment of approximately \$123,306.96 to Class Counsel for their attorneys' fees; (c) a payment of approximately \$1,523.55 to reimburse Class Counsel for the litigation expenses they have incurred since in representing Plaintiff and Class Members; (d) a payment of approximately \$15,000 for payment to Settlement Administrator; and, (e) a payment of approximately \$348,397.33 to the Class (the "Class Fund"), which will be distributed to those Class Members who submit valid and timely Claim Forms.

Class Representative Service Award: The settlement provides for service awards to the Plaintiff and Class Representative, Jerry Brooks, in the amount of up to \$5,000.

Class Counsel's Fees and Expenses: The settlement provides a process for the King County Superior Court to review and approve a payment out of the gross settlement amount to Class Counsel for the attorneys' fees they have incurred in relation to the lawsuit. Class Counsel is seeking payment of 25% of the gross amount or approximately \$123,306.96 for their fees. Subject to approval by the King County Superior Court, Class Counsel will also be reimbursed for the expenses that they have incurred in representing Plaintiff and the Class. Class Counsel is seeking a payment of approximately \$1,523.55 to reimburse them for these costs. These payments are separate from and in addition to the Class Fund payment. Class Counsel have been working on this case since March 2016 but have not yet received anything for their efforts.

Settlement Administrator Fees: The settlement provides for a payment to the Settlement Administrator a fee of up to \$15,000.

Class Fund. The Class Fund is the amount used to compensate Eligible Class Members for the wages they allegedly lost, for interest and payroll taxes on these wage payments, and for damages they are allegedly owed under Washington's wage payment statutes.

Distribution of Class Fund: Each Class Member who submits a valid and timely Claim Form and who does not submit a valid and timely request for exclusion will become an Eligible Class Member and will be eligible to receive a settlement payment. Each Eligible Class Member will receive a proportional share of the Class Fund based on his or her estimated hours worked in conjunction with the 2014 and/or 2015 Emerald City Comicon Convention. Checks will be distributed by the Settlement Administrator and sent to the last known address of all Eligible Class Members.

Should any portion of the Class Fund remain unclaimed 130 days after the period specified in the Agreement for Eligible Class Members to submit Claim Forms and receive cash settlement checks, forty percent of any such residual funds will be disbursed by the Settlement Administrator to the Legal Foundation of Washington, with remaining residual funds then retained by Defendants.

Tax Treatment of Settlement Payments: One-half (50%) of each award to a Class Member will be treated as wages and subject to normal payroll tax withholdings and payments. The other one-half (50%) of each award to a Class Member will be treated as non-wages on which there will be no tax withholding. **Please consult an accountant regarding the taxes you may owe if you receive money from the settlement.**

Release of Claims: Upon final approval by the Court, Class Members will release Emerald City Comicon, Jim Demonakos, George Demonakos, Reed Elsevier, Inc., and Reed Exhibitions from any and all past or present claims, debts, demands, causes of action, liabilities, losses, obligations, interest, attorneys' fees, costs, expenses, damages, exemplary damages, and injuries of every kind, nature and description that were or could have been asserted by Plaintiff on behalf of Settlement Class Members against any Defendant based on

the facts alleged in the Complaint, including, but not limited to, any claims related to any work performed related to 2014 and/or 2015 Emerald City Comicon Conventions.

For the full language of the release, and to review the entire settlement agreement please visit <https://www.rekhiwolk.com/class-actions/comicon-emerald-corp-unpaid-volunteers/>

Dismissal of Action: Upon Final Approval the Court will enter a Judgment of Dismissal of the Lawsuit with prejudice but may retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms of the settlement.

6. How can I get a payment?

To get a payment, you must complete and return a Claim Form to the following address:

Brooks v. Eitaine Emerald Settlement Administrator
Post Office Box 470
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-0470

A Claim Form is attached to this Notice. A notice is also available online at www.emeraldcitycomiconclassaction.com. Read the instructions carefully, fill out the Claim Form, sign it, and mail it to the address. In the alternative you have the option to fill out the form online at www.emeraldcitycomiconclassaction.com. All Claims forms must be **received** by the Settlement Administrator no later than **July 31, 2017**.

7. When will I get my payment?

As noted above, the only way to get money from the settlement is to complete and return a timely Claim Form. The Superior Court will hold a hearing on August 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM to decide whether to approve the settlement. If the Court approves the settlement, the parties will then have to wait to see whether there is an appeal. This will take at least 30 days and, if there is an appeal, it can take up to a year or more to resolve. In the event of an appeal, information regarding its progress will be posted at www.emeraldcitycomiconclassaction.com. If there is no appeal, payments will then be processed and paid to Class Members arising from the settlement. Please be patient.

8. Do I have a lawyer in this case?

The Superior Court has decided that lawyers from Rekhi & Wolk, P.S. are qualified to represent you and all Class Members. The lawyers are called "Class Counsel." You will not be charged for these lawyers. If you want your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

9. How can I exclude myself from the Settlement?

If you fit the definition of a Settlement Class Member and want to exclude yourself from the Settlement, you must request exclusion in writing by July 15, 2017. You may be excluded as a member of the class by submitting a written request stating, "I hereby request that I be excluded from the proposed settlement class in the case of BROOKS vs. EITANE EMERALD CORP ET AL." The request must include your name, your address, and your signature. The letter **received** by the Settlement Administrator no later than July 15, 2017 to the Settlement Administrator at *Brooks v. Eitaine Emerald* Settlement Administrator, Post Office Box 470, Tallahassee, Florida 32302-0470, or electronically at staff@settlementservicesinc.com.

If you exclude yourself from the Settlement (i.e., opt out), you will not receive any payment from the Settlement. You will also not be entitled to object to the Settlement as set out in Section 10 below. If you exclude yourself, you will not be bound by the terms of the Settlement, including the Release described in Section 5, above. This means you will retain the right at your own expense, to pursue any claims you may have against Defendants.

10. If I don't like the settlement, how do I tell the Court?

If you are a Class Member and you do not like the settlement, you can object. If you object, you must do so in writing and you must state the reasons why you think the Court should reject the settlement. The Superior Court will consider your views. If you send a letter, be sure to include the following information: your name, address, and telephone number; the name of the case: BROOKS vs. EITANE EMERALD CORP ET AL., King County Superior Court Case No. 16-2-11493-8 SEA; the reasons you object to the settlement; and your signature. Your objection letter must be received by the Settlement Administrator no later than **July 15, 2017**.

11. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the settlement?

The Court will hold a Fairness Hearing at 10 a.m. on August 23, 2017, at the King County Superior Court, 516 3rd Ave, Seattle, Washington, 98104, in Courtroom E-835 of Judge Susan J. Craighead. At this hearing, the Court will consider whether the settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate. If there are objections, the Court will consider them. You do not have to come to the hearing.

12. What happens if I do nothing at all?

If the Settlement Administrator does not receive your Claim Form by **July 31, 2017**, you will not receive a share of the settlement but you will release all claims against Defendant.

13. How do I get more information?

This Notice summarizes the proposed Settlement. More details are in the Settlement Agreement. You can get a copy of the Settlement Agreement by visiting <https://www.rekhiwolk.com/class-actions/comicon-emerald-corp-unpaid-volunteers/> or writing to Class Counsel at Rekhi & Wolk, P.S., 529 Warren Ave. N., #201, Seattle, WA 98109 or calling: 206-388-5887. Plaintiff's motion for final approval of the settlement agreement, including Class Counsel's request for attorneys' fees, costs, Settlement Administration Expenses, and Service Award for the named Plaintiff will be available for you to review on August 14, 2017 if you contact Class Counsel and request a copy.

14. Who is the Settlement Administrator?

Brooks v. Eitane Emerald Settlement Administrator
Post Office Box 470
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-0470
staff@settlementservicesinc.com
866-854-4173