# COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY FAYETTE CIRCUIT COURT FOURTH DIVISION

Civil Action No. 20-CI-00332

filed electronically

HAYNES PROPERTIES, LLC, et al.

**PLAINTIFFS** 

V.

BURLEY TOBACCO GROWERS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, et al.

**DEFENDANTS** 

#### **Settlement Class Counsel's Motion re Service List**

# **NOTICE**

Please take notice that this Motion will be heard on Friday, March 31, 2023, beginning at the hour of 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard.

## **MOTION**

Settlement Class Counsel, Katherine K. Yunker and Jason R. Hollon, hereby move the Court to enter an Order to establish a process by which parties, counsel, and other persons who have not recently made a filing in the record or appearance at a hearing in this case may remain on service lists for notices, filings, and Court orders. In support of this Motion, Class Counsel state as follows:

- 1. By Order entered November 22, 2021, this Court took under advisement a Class Counsel request to limit CR 5 service to counsel for Named Plaintiffs, the Burley Co-op, and the Class. That request was based on the fact that the Court's approval of the settlement had become final and non-appealable and the case now had moved into an implementation phase.
- 2. At a December 2021 hearing in this case, counsel for defendant Greg Craddock stated and agreed that they and attorney David Tachau (who had appeared on behalf of those

counsel in connection with their request for an attorney-fee award) be removed from service lists, on the understanding that they would remain among those given email notice of electronic filings in the case.

- 3. Since December 2021, the only counsel for parties or other persons who have made a filing in the record or an appearance at a hearing (other than for purposes of the individual class membership and eligibility objections and hearings in Spring-Summer 2022) have been attorneys from the law firms of McBrayer PLLC, Sturgill Turner, Barker, & Maloney PLLC, and W.H. Graddy & Associates.
- 4. Since the Court's Amended Opinion and Order Approving Partial Settlement entered July 28, 2021, service lists have usually included the names (but not the addresses) of unrepresented objectors listed on Schedule A of the Opinion and Order entered June 11, 2021.

  These 28 individuals had expressed an objection to one or more aspects of the proposed settlement, mailing their written objections directly to the Court's chambers in January–March 2021, as instructed in the notices regarding the proposed settlement.
- a. None of these unrepresented objectors has made a filing or an appearance at a hearing in this case since April 2021. Eight (8) of these individuals did not establish membership in the Class or eligibility to receive dissolution proceeds.
- b. So as not to discourage objections to the proposed settlement and to protect the privacy of individuals who were not named parties, it was decided in late 2020 / early 2021 that the addresses of unrepresented objectors would not be filed in the case record. Thus, it is uncertain on the record where service is being sent as to these individuals and whether it is effective. The undersigned have had envelopes returned that were directed to the "original"

addresses for these individuals and have updated some of the addresses with the consent or on the request of certain individuals.

- c. Class Counsel have received requests from some of these individuals to stop serving them, but have not felt authorized to drop them from the service list of their filings or of proposed orders that they tender. In addition, some of these unrepresented objectors to the proposed settlement have evidenced confusion about the service on them of filings in this case. For example, several of them mistook their served copy of the Motion for approval of the \$1.5 million Fund notice and return postcard for the (still to occur) solicitation of their election of options about payment of a proportionate share of the Fund.
- 5. Class Counsel respectfully suggest that the Court establish an <u>opt-in</u> process by which persons not appearing in this case recently may declare (a) an interest in staying on service lists and (b) a publicly of-record address at which to be served.

WHERFORE, Settlement Class Counsel respectfully request that the Court enter an order establishing a process by which parties, counsel, and other persons who have not recently made a filing in the record or appearance may remain on service lists for notices, filings, and Court orders with a publicly-filed address, but otherwise would <u>not</u> be served going forward.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Katherine K. Yunker

Katherine K. Yunker (KBA # 79592)

/s/ Jason R. Hollon

Jason R. Hollon (KBA # 96148)

MCBRAYER PLLC 201 E. Main Street, Suite 900 Lexington, KY 40507-1361 (859) 231-8780

Settlement Class Counsel

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served this <u>23rd</u> day of March 2023, electronically via the e-filing system and via electronic mail upon the following:

Kevin G. Henry
Charles D. Cole
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Courtesy Copy (emailed):

Hon. Julie Muth Goodman c/o Alicia Dean aliciadean@kycourts.net

and via first-class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on unrepresented objectors listed on Schedule A of the Opinion and Order entered June 11, 2021, at addresses given in their respective objections or as thereafter updated:

J.B. Amburgey	Brent Dunaway	Steven Quarles
David Barnes	William David Furnish	Travis Quarles
Jacob Barnes	Michael Furnish	Jerry Rankin
Robert E. Barton	Leonard E. Gilkison	Richard Sparks
Ben Clifford	Bill G. Hall	Jarrod Stephens
Lincoln Clifford	Dudley Wayne Hatcher	Addison Thomson
Wayne Cropper	Steve Lang	William A. Thomson
Josh Curtis	Berkley Marks	Danny Townsend
George M. Darnell	Bruce Quarles	Judy Townsend
Jennifer Darnell		

/s/ Katherine K. Yunker
Settlement Class Counsel