

The Honorable Robert J. Bryan

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

CHAO CHEN, individually and on behalf of
all those similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE GEO GROUP, INC., a Florida
corporation,

Defendant.

No. 3:17-cv-05769-RJB

DECLARATION OF JAMAL
WHITEHEAD IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFF’S OPPOSITION TO
DEFENDANT’S MOTION FOR
RELIEF FROM DEADLINE

I, JAMAL N. WHITEHEAD, declare as follows:

1. I am one of the attorneys of record for Plaintiff Chao Chen in the above-captioned matter. I am over the age of eighteen, competent to testify in this matter, and do so based on personal knowledge.

2. On January 29, 2018, Mr. Chen responded to Defendant The GEO Group, Inc.’s First Interrogatories and Requests for Production, which included over 20 interrogatories and 40 requests for production. In the course of Mr. Chen’s responses, he produced over 250 pages of documents.

1 3. Mr. Chen served GEO with discovery requests on January 31, 2018, seeking
2 information about the putative class and GEO's policies and practices in administering the
3 Voluntary Work Program ("VWP"). GEO answered these requests on March 2, 2018, but
4 provided little information and zero documents in return. The parties held a telephone
5 conference on March 13, 2018, to discuss GEO's failure to respond to Mr. Chen's class-
6 focused discovery and the looming deadline for seeking class certification among other
7 things.
8

9 4. On March 13, 2018, I received a letter via email from Charles Deacon,
10 counsel for GEO, stating as follows:

11 Please provide us with dates where Chao Chen, Kitlee Chen, Amy Chen
12 and Mary Ann Chen are available for their depositions. We will need a full
13 day for the deposition of Chao Chen and we request his deposition be
14 completed first. Depending on how much information the three identified
15 family members have, we may be able to complete those depositions in
one day. However, the witnesses will not be allowed to sit in on the
depositions of the other witnesses or that of Chao Chen.

16 5. On April 4, 2018, Joan Mell called me to propose a stipulation between the
17 parties in which GEO was permitted additional time to file its opposition to Mr. Chen's
18 motion for class certification. I declined her offer during our call, and again in a follow-up
19 letter the next day.

20 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the
21 foregoing is true and correct and based on my personal knowledge.
22

23 Executed in Seattle, Washington, this 11th day of April, 2018.
24

25 *s/ Jamal N. Whitehead*

26 Jamal N. Whitehead, WSBA #39818

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 11, 2018, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to the following:

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DATED at Seattle, Washington this 11th day of April, 2018.

s/ Sheila Cronan

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