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9 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
10 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

11 Don ADDINGTON; John BOSTIC; Mark
BURMAN; Afshin IRANPOUR; Roger
12 VELEZ; and Steve WARGOCKI,

13 Plaintiffs,

14 vs.

15 US AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION,
US AIRWAYS, INC.,
16 Defendants,

17 Don ADDINGTON; John BOSTIC; Mark
BURMAN; Afshin IRANPOUR; Roger
18 VELEZ; and Steve WARGOCKI,

19 Plaintiffs,

20 vs.

21 Steven H. BRADFORD, Paul J. DIORIO,
Robert, A. FREAR, Mark. W. KING,
22 Douglas L. MOWERY, and John A.
STEPHAN,
23

Defendants.

Case No. 2:08-cv-1633-PHX-NVW
(Consolidated)

**DEFENDANT USAPA'S
NOTICE OF MOTION,
MOTION, AND MEMORANDUM
TO COMPEL ANSWERS TO
CLASS CERTIFICATION
INTERROGATORIES**

Case No. 2:08-cv-1728-PHX-NVW

1 USAPA’s First Class Action Interrogatories To Plaintiffs (As Amended By USAPA) And
2 Plaintiffs’ Answers Thereto.” (See, Granath Decl., **Exhibit 3**).

3 Third, pursuant to LRCiv 7.2(j), counsel for Defendant certifies that after personal
4 consultation and sincere efforts to do so, counsel has been unable to satisfactorily resolve
5 this discovery dispute. (See, Granath Decl. ¶ 8, **Exhibit 4**, and **Exhibit 5** detailing both
6 written and telephonic efforts to resolve this discovery dispute by direct consultation with
7 Plaintiffs.).

8 Fourth, Defendant’s original class-certification Interrogatories totaled 24
9 numbered interrogatories. The Revised set of class-certification Interrogatories reduced
10 this number to 7. This motion has been further narrowed to a selection of just 5
11 interrogatories: Nos. 15, 16, 20, 22, and 24 respectively. This narrowed selection reflects
12 the most important of the interrogatories not yet voluntarily compiled with, as well as the
13 Movant’s intent to avoid unduly burdening this Court.

14 Fifth, pursuant to the format required by LRCiv 37.1, Defendant states that the
15 following interrogatories are “evasive or incomplete” responses, for the reasons given
16 below, and therefore “must be treated as failures to answer” within the meaning of Rule
17 37(a)(4) and subdivision (a):
18

19 **Interrogatory No. 15**

20 1) Interrogatory:

21 “a) Do you claim that the method for computation of damages is the same for
22 every class member?”

23 2) Response:

“Please see plaintiff’s motion for class certification, filed December 29, 2008.
Plaintiffs do not claim damages *per se*, but rather the equitable remedy of relief from or

1 disgorgement of dues and fees to USAPA for the time during which USAPA has
2 breached its duty of fair representation. USAPA is in possession of the information
3 required to calculate this for every class member. It is plaintiffs understanding that this
4 information is in possession and/or control of the USAPA Dues Committee: Carl J.
5 Clarke - Chairman, Darrel Webb, and John Mahlman.”

6 3) Deficiency:

7 Incomplete or evasive answer because:

8 First, nothing in Plaintiffs’ motion for class certification, filed December 29, 2008,
9 answers this interrogatory, or even remotely contains any damage calculation, or any
10 documents that would provide a basis to calculate damages. Consequently, reference to
11 Plaintiffs’ motion for class certification is no answer to this Interrogatory.

12 Second, Plaintiffs’ Initial Disclosures similarly failed to disclose any calculations
13 whatsoever (*See*, Granath Decl., **Exhibit 6**). Plaintiffs’ refusal to answer Interrogatory 15
14 is in stark contrast to their promise made in their Initial Disclosures: “Plaintiffs’ damages
15 will continue to accrue and Plaintiffs will supplement their disclosure at the appropriate
16 time.” (*See*, Exhibit 6). Thus, USAPA and this Court are left in the dark as to whether
17 Plaintiffs claim that the method for computation of damages is the same for every class
18 member or not, or how they would calculate it. This, combined with the failure to
19 provide a Trial Plan for trial of their class action, exacerbates the evasive answer here
20 given (and makes Plaintiffs’ motion to certify untenable).

21 Third, while Plaintiffs’ objection makes the “equitable remedy of relief from or
22 disgorgement of dues and fees” relevant, their objection is also proof that Plaintiffs have
23 refused to answer this interrogatory directly or indirectly with any calculation of their

1 disgorgement remedy.²

2 Fourth, it is an inadequate answer to point to information or documents
3 supposedly in Defendant’s possession, both as a matter of fact and of law. As a matter of
4 law, Rule 33(b)(1) requires that interrogatories “must be answered by the party to whom
5 they are directed.” And, the mere availability of documents (which are here offered to
6 answer the interrogatory) is not a basis to refuse to answer discovery. *See, e.g., Sabouri*
7 *v. Ohio Bureau of Employment Services*, 2000 WL 1620915 (S.D. Ohio 2000) (fact that
8 documents are available from another source, even a public one, is not, by itself, a valid
9 basis for refusing to produce documents that are within the possession, custody, or
10 control of the responding party).

11
12 In point of fact, USAPA has no calculation of damages nor is it aware of how such
13 calculations should be made from dues or fees. Moreover, USAPA has no idea what
14 *individual* putative class members might claim. Indeed, each named Plaintiff, in their
15 respective deposition testimony, confirmed that calculation of the dues-related damages
16 would involve an individualized assessment of each pilot’s situation by admitting
17 ignorance of the various categories of dues or fees payors, i.e. whether military service,
18 disability, or apprenticeships affects calculation of dues or fees owed. (*e.g.* Addington
19 72:17, 73:23; Bostic 80:9, 80:17, 82:7; Burman 81:15, 85:1, 85:6; Iranpour 107:7,
20

21
22 ² This remedy, though never pled, is nevertheless what Plaintiffs now *actually* pursue;
23 therefore, to the extent that the Court will allow it, it is well within scope of discovery
because it pertains directly to a claim. (*See*, The Advisory Committee Note to the 2000

1 107:14, 107:21,108:3; Wargocki 127:3, 127:8, 127:15; Velez 86:5, 86:13, , 86:18. 86:23).

2 Fifth, the answer to this interrogatory has special importance to the motion for
3 class certification because it goes directly to the need for individual assessments of
4 remedy. There are multiple categories of dues and fees obligations, status, and payors.
5 For example, a pilot could be a fee payer who has objected – or not objected to the
6 calculation of the agency fee amount; a member could be subject to many different
7 deductions from their dues obligation – or not. Thus, it is utterly inadequate to apply a
8 single category or status across the board to 1,800 individuals.
9

10 Sixth, any and all other objections not specifically and timely made in Plaintiffs’
11 response to this interrogatory have been waived. Rule 33(b)(4) (“Any ground not stated
12 in a timely objection is waived unless the court, for good cause, excuses the failure”);
13 *India Ruling, Inc. v. Get Miller Ruling Co.*, 237 F.R.D. 190, 194 (E.D. Wis. 2006) (each
14 specific objection must be asserted or it is waved); *Essex Ins. Co. v. Neely*, 236 F.R.D.
15 287 (N.D. Va. 2006) (late filed objections deemed waived); *Nagele v. Electronic Data*
16 *Systems Corporation*, 193 F.R.D. 94 (W.D.N.Y. 2000) (failure to object to interrogatory
17 in excess of 25 results in waiver).
18

19 **Interrogatory No. 16**

20 1) Interrogatory:

21 “What are the class representatives’ responsibilities if:

- 22 a) Plaintiffs lose the claim?
- 23 b) Plaintiffs prevail on the claim?
- c) Plaintiffs have incurred costs and out-of-pocket expenses and lose the claim?
- d) Plaintiffs have incurred attorney’s fees and lose the claim?

Amendment to Rule 26(b)(1): “The Committee intends that the parties and the court focus on the actual claims and offenses involved in the action.”).

1 e) Has there been any agreement between Plaintiffs, their attorneys, and any other
2 persons that would limit the amount of attorney fees or expenses he or she is to pay?"

3 2) Response:

4 "Objection: this requests speculation [sic] regarding future events and may invade the
5 attorney-client privilege. Subject to and notwithstanding the objection, Plaintiffs'
6 responsibilities whether or not they prevail on their claims will be consistent with
7 whatever the court orders in that regard, as anticipated by Plaintiffs motion for Class
8 Certification. Additionally, in light of documents and information already disclosed,
9 Defendants are already aware that the law firm representing them will not seek payment
10 of fees from them."

11 3) Deficiency:

12 Incomplete or evasive answer because:

13 First, the objection that the interrogatory seeks "speculation regarding future
14 events" is invalid: Plaintiffs' claim and class certification motion are not speculative but
15 rather are pending at bar, and both are well within the scope of discovery. The adequacy
16 of the class representatives and their counsel, including their financial resources, have
17 been placed directly in issue by the motion to certify. *See, e.g., In Ray re ML-Lee*
18 *Acquisition Fund II, L.P. and ML-Lee Acquisition Fund (Retirement Accounts) II, L.P.*
19 *Securities Litigation*, 149 F.R.D. 506, 509 (D. Del. 1993) ("the financial status of a
20 proposed representative plaintiff is relevant to the determination of whether that plaintiff
21 is capable of adequately representing the class"); *Elster v. Alexander*, 75 F.R.D. 503, 505
22 (N.D. Ga. 1976).

23 Second, the objection based on the attorney-client privilege is invalid because the
interrogatory seeks information on qualifications, not communications (and certainly not
legal advice) between class counsel and named Plaintiffs. Second, Rule 23(a) and Rule

1 23(c) in the context of Plaintiffs’ pending motion to certify makes this interrogatory
2 timely and directly relevant. Courts frequently have ruled, “discovery relating to the
3 issue of whether a class action is appropriate needs to be undertaken before deciding
4 whether to allow the action to proceed on a class basis.” 7B Charles Alan Wright, Arthur
5 R. Miller & Mary Kay Kane, *Federal Practice & Procedure*, § 1785.3 (3d ed. 2006); *See*,
6 *e.g.*, *In re Am. Med. Sys.*, 75 F.3d 1069, 1086 (6th Cir. 1996) (certification improper
7 where defendant was not permitted, among other things, to “conduct any discovery on
8 any of the plaintiffs”); *McLaughlin On Class Actions: Law and Practice*, Fourth Ed.,
9 Thomson & West (2007), § 3.7, p. 3-27 (*citing Kamm v. California City of Development*
10 *Co.*, 509 F.2d 205, 210 (9th Cir. 1975) (denial of discovery into issue of existence of
11 class ‘would be an abuse of discretion’)).

12
13 Third, it is an incomplete or evasive answer to respond that Plaintiffs’ duties will
14 be “consistent with whatever the court orders.” The Court is not responsible for
15 answering interrogatories. Nor is there any off-the-shelf rule, standing order, etc. that the
16 answer refers to, or could. Certainly the Court would not order duties responsive to all of
17 the subparts of this interrogatory.

18 Fourth, the partial answer, i.e. “in light of documents and information already
19 disclosed, Defendants are already aware that the law firm representing them will not seek
20 payment of fees from them” – does not relieve Plaintiffs from answering the remainder of
21 the interrogatory. *See e.g.*, *Tequila Centennela, S.A. de C.V. v. Bacarid & Co. Ltd.*, 242
22 F.R.D. 1 (D.D.C. 2007); *Martinez v. Cornell Corrections of Texas, a Delaware Corp.*,
23 377 F. Supp. 2d 1128 (D.N.M. 2005).

1 Fifth, any and all other objections not specifically and timely made in Plaintiffs'
2 response to this interrogatory have been waived. Fed. R. Civ. P. 33(b)(4).

3 **Interrogatory No. 20**

4 1) Interrogatory:

5 "Identify each agreement, contract, retainer or understanding, between any class
6 representative and any attorneys representing the representative, that bears upon fees or
disbursements to be received by such attorney?

7 a) Is it contingent upon a judgment in your favor?

8 b) If contingent, what is the percentage of the judgment that will constitute the
fee?

9 c) Are the class representatives billed periodically for attorneys' fees?

10 d) Are the class representatives required to make payment for attorneys' fees prior
to judgment?

11 e) How much have the class representatives paid in attorneys' fees to date?

12 f) How much have the class representatives not paid in attorneys' fees incurred to
date?

13 g) How much in expenses and out of pocket costs have the class representatives
paid to date?"

14 2) Response:

15 "Information responsive to this request was already disclosed."

16 3) Deficiency:

17 Incomplete or evasive answer because:

18 First, no supposedly responsive information is identified or referenced, either
generally or for any subpart.

19 Second, no supposedly responsive information has been disclosed. (*See* separately
20 filed "Defendant USAPA's Notice Of Motion, Motion, And Memorandum To Compel
21 Responses To Class Certification Request For Documents" Docket No. __).

22 Third, any and all other objections not specifically and timely made in Plaintiffs'
23 response to this interrogatory have now been waived. Fed. R. Civ. P. 33(b)(4).

1 **Interrogatory No. 22**

2 **1) Interrogatory:**

3 “What persons, associations, corporations, partnerships, or entities have or will contribute
4 money, funding or in-kind services of any kind to the class or class action?”

- 5 a) What is their address?
- 6 b) What is their phone number?
- 7 c) If they have legal counsel, who is that?”

8 **2) Response:**

9 “Information responsive to this request was already disclosed.”

10 **3) Deficiency:**

11 Incomplete or evasive answer because:

12 First, no supposedly responsive information is identified or referenced, either
13 generally or for any subpart.

14 Second, no supposedly responsive information has been disclosed. (See separately
15 filed “Defendant USAPA’s Notice Of Motion, Motion, And Memorandum To Compel
16 Responses To Class Certification Request For Documents” Docket No. __).

17 Third, any and all other objections not specifically and timely made in Plaintiffs’
18 response to this interrogatory have been waived. Fed. R. Civ. P. 33(b)(4).

19 **Interrogatory No. 24**

20 **1) Interrogatory:**

21 “If any counsel for named plaintiffs has communicated with any non-party class member
22 whom counsel knew or now knows to be a member of the class he seeks to represent:

- 23 a) State whether the communication was oral or in writing or by email?
- b) Identify the party who originated each communication?
- c) State the date of each communication?
- d) Identify each document that records, contains or refers to such communication?
- e) Identify each person present during any oral communications?
- f) State the subject matter of any oral communications?”

1 2) Response:

2 “Objection: this request asks for information protected by the attorney-client privilege
3 and work product doctrines, in his [sic] otherwise impermissible as directed at putative
4 class members and class counsel. *See, e.g., Dean v. Superior Court*, 84 Ariz. 104, 324
5 P.2d 764 (1958); *Brennan v. Midwestern Life Insurance Co.*, 450 F.2d 999, 1005 (7th Cir.
1971); *Rogers v. Baxter International, Inc.*, 2007 WL 2908829 at * 1 (N.D. Ill. October
4 2007); *Clark v. Universal Builders, Inc.*, 501 F.2d 324, 340 (7th Cir. 1974); *Baldwyn &
5 Flynn v. National Safety Association*, 149 F.R.D. 598, 600 (ND Cal. 1993).”

6 3) Deficiency:

7 Incomplete or evasive answer because:

8 First, this interrogatory does not call for disclosure of the *contents* of any
9 responsive communications or documents and certainly not legal advice. Rather it calls
10 for identifying information to allow the *assessment* of any objection based on privilege or
11 work product doctrine; therefore the privilege objection is premature.

12 Second, no privilege log has been produced by Plaintiffs either in response to class
13 certification interrogatories or requests for documents, making the answer to this
14 interrogatory all the more important. *See, See, DL v. District of Columbia*, __ F. Supp.
15 2d __ (D.D.C. 2008) (the obligation to describe the nature of the privileges met through a
16 privilege log); *Weiss v. National Westminster Bank, PLC*, 242 F.R.D. 33 (E.D.N.Y. 2007)
17 (failure to include sufficient information on the privilege log can result in waiver).

18 Third, as a general matter, the United States Supreme Court and several lower
19 courts have held that “absent” class members as distinguished from class representatives
20 are proper targets for discovery. *See, Phillips Petroleum Company v. Shutts*, 472 US 797,
21 810 n.2 (1985); *Brennan v. Midwestern United Life Insurance Company*, 450 F.2d 999,
22 1004 (7th Cir. 1971) (“... class members may be required” to submit to discovery); *See*
23

1 also, Manual For Complex Litigation (Fourth) § 21.142 (2004) (discovery from
2 “unnamed class members” is permissible when such discovery would illuminate the
3 nature of proof needed to establish the claims and defenses).

4 Fourth, Plaintiffs cited a handful of cases to substantiate their objection to giving
5 any answer whatsoever to this interrogatory, but not one supports their objection:

- 6 • *Dean v. Superior Court*, 84 Ariz. 104, 324 P.2d 764 (1958): this is an Arizona
7 state case construing a state version of Rule 34 that existed several decades ago,
8 and has nothing to do with the scope of the attorney-client privilege in the context
9 of a class action, state or federal, or with discovery of communications with
10 putative class members. *Dean* is no basis to object to Interrogatory No. 24.
- 11 • *Brennan v. Midwestern Life Insurance Co.*, 450 F.2d 999, 1005 (7th Cir. 1971):
12 this case concerned the narrow issue of discovery of existing albeit absent class
13 members – not putative members – that did not respond to a notice following
14 certification. But even in that circumstance, the *Brennan* court expressly *upheld*
15 discovery of the class members holding: “...absent members of a class who receive
16 notice of the pendency of the class suit may be subjected to the party discovery
17 procedures permitted under the Federal Rules.” *Brennan* is no basis to object to
18 Interrogatory No. 24.
- 19 • *Rogers v. Baxter International, Inc.*, 2007 WL 2908829 at * 1 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 4,
20 2007): Like the *Brennan* case, the *Rogers* case is distinguishable because it
21 concerns discovery directed to a certified class, not putative class members. In
22 *Rogers*, specific interrogatories having nothing to do with interrogatory No. 24 at
23 issue in this motion but rather concerning issues unique to ERISA, were rejected
by the court. But the *Rogers* court, like the *Brennan* court, specifically notes that
even in the case of a certified class, “discovery from absent class members may be
allowed ...” *Rogers* is no basis to object to Interrogatory No. 24.
- *Clark v. Universal Builders, Inc.*, 501 F.2d 324, 340 (7th Cir. 1974): This case
reversed on appeal a directed verdict on substantive law grounds and remanded for
trial. It contains only a passing reference to a discovery issue arising in the
context of post-class certification. Again, the principle that discovery including
interrogatories and depositions of “absent class members” is appropriate was
reaffirmed in *Clark*, provided there is no “stratagem to diminish class
membership.” There is no contention by Plaintiffs here that Interrogatory No. 24
is a stratagem for diminishing the class, or that it might have that effect. Thus,
Clark, too, is no basis to object to Interrogatory No. 24.

- 1 • *Baldwyn & Flynn v. National Safety Association*, 149 F.R.D. 598, 600 (N.D. Cal.
2 1993): In *Baldwyn* a district court denied a motion to *depose up to one-third or*
3 *one half* of the unnamed members of a yet to be certified class. But Interrogatory
4 No. 24 is not a deposition notice. Interrogatory No. 24 is rather limited in scope
5 and directed not at putative class members but at the “named plaintiffs” counsels’
6 communication; it does not compare with the scope or the issues in *Baldwyn* even
7 remotely. Answering interrogatory No. 24 does not require any contact or
8 communication with putative class members. Moreover, the *Baldwyn* court
9 expressly noted that a court “may find that pre-certification discovery is needed”
10 (*Id. citing, Folding Cartons, Inc. v. American Can Co.*, 79 F.R.D. 698, 700 (D. Ill.
11 1978); *Kamm v. California City Development Co.*, 509 F.2d 205, 209 (9th Cir.
12 1975); *Doninger v. Pacific Northwest Bell, Inc.*, 564 F.2d 1304, 1312 (9th Cir.
13 1977). Thus, *Baldwyn* is also no basis to object to Interrogatory No. 24

14 Fifth, communications between class counsel and *putative* class members are not
15 normally protected by the attorney-client privilege. *See e.g., In re McKesson HBOC,*
16 *Inc.*, 126 F. Supp. 2d 1239, 1245 (N.D. Cal. 2000) (“While lead counsel owes a
17 generalized duty to unnamed class members, the existence of such a fiduciary duty does
18 not create an inviolate attorney-client relationship with each and every member of the
19 putative class. Taken to an extreme, lead plaintiff’s logic suggests that putative class
20 members are forever walled off from any effort at solicitation, a proposition that seems
21 unsupportable.”); *Rahman vs. Smith & Wollensky Restraunt Group*, 2007 U.S. Dist.
22 LEXIS 37632 (S.D.N.Y. 2007) (“[w]hile lead counsel owes a generalized duty to
23 unnamed class members [prior to certification], the existence of such a fiduciary duty
does not create an inviolate attorney-client relationship with each and every member of
the putative class”) (*citing In re McKesson HBOC, Inc. Securities Litigation*, 126 F.
Supp. 2d 1239, 1245 (N.D. Cal. 2000)); *Morisky v. Public Service Electric*, 19 F.R.D.
419, 424 (D.N. J. 2000) (“... appears to assert a representational relationship based on its
projection that this litigation will proceed as a class action ... Even if certified as a class,

1 ‘class members are really neither parties to the litigation nor clients of plaintiffs’
2 counsel.’” (citing *Penk v. Oregon State Bd. of Higher Ed.*, 99 F.R.D. 511, 516 (D. Or.
3 1983)); *Valone v. CAN Financial Corp.*, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4655 (N.D. Ill. 2002)
4 (“Defendants’ motion to compel plaintiffs to supplement their responses to defendants’
5 interrogatories and document request is granted. If those who returned questionnaires
6 were putative class members, no privilege would have attached”) (citing *In re McKesson*
7 *HBOC, Inc.*, 126 F. Supp. 2d 1239, 1245 (N.D. Cal. 2000); *Penk v. Oregon State Board*
8 *of Education*, 99 F.R.D. 511, 516 (D. Or. 1983)). See also *Atari v. Superior Court*, 166
9 *Cal. App. 3d* 867, 212 *Cal. Rptr.* 773 (Cal. 1985).

11 Sixth, even if the privilege were applicable, Plaintiffs have made no attempt to
12 show that they have any existing clients in the pool of potential, putative class members,
13 nor have they made any attempt to show they can meet the prerequisites to assert the
14 privilege. In order to invoke the attorney-client privilege, Plaintiffs must establish the
15 following elements:

16 1) The asserted holder of the privilege is or sought to become a client;

17 2) The person to whom the communication was made (a) is a member of the bar of
18 a court, or his subordinate and (b) in connection with the communication is acting as a
19 lawyer;

20 (3) The communication relates to a fact of which the attorney was informed (a) by
21 his client (b) without the presence of strangers (c) for the purpose of serving primarily
22 either (i) an opinion on law or (ii) legal service or (iii) assistance in some legal
23 proceeding, and not (d) for the purpose of committing a crime or tort; and

1 (4) The privilege has been claimed and not waived by the client.

2 *U.S. v. Impastato, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 63454 at *5, 2007 WL 2463310, at * 2 (E.D.*
3 *La. Aug. 23, 2007) (citing U.S. v. Kelly, 569 F.2d 928, 938 (5th Cir. 1978)).*

4 Plaintiffs have not even made the attempt and because Plaintiffs refuse to disclose
5 the identity of any client save for the six named Plaintiffs, this Court is entitled to
6 presume for the purposes of this motion that there are no other clients for Plaintiffs to
7 claim the privilege over in order to evade discovery.
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1 WHEREFORE, Defendant USAPA respectfully requests that its motion to
2 compel complete and non-evasive answers pursuant to Rule 37 be GRANTED.

3 Respectfully Submitted,

4 Dated: February 16, 2009

By:

/s/ Nicholas Paul Granath, Esq.

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