

1 WILLIAM R. TAMAYO -- 084965 (CA)
2 DAVID F. OFFEN-BROWN - 063321 (CA)
3 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
4 San Francisco District Office
5 350 The Embarcadero, Suite 500
6 San Francisco, California 94105-1560
7 Telephone: (415) 625-5652
8 Facsimile: (415) 625-5657

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MAR 17 2009 12:53
RICHARD W. WIEKING
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

9 Attorneys for Plaintiff Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
10

11 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
12 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CW
EMC

13 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT
14 OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION,

CV

Civil Action

09

0784

15 Plaintiff,

Amended

PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE

16 v.

17 UNITED AIRLINES, INC.,

FILED

18 Defendant.

MAR 17 2009

RICHARD W. WIEKING
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND

THE LITIGATION

19 Plaintiff Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (the "EEOC" or
20 "Commission") filed this action alleging that Defendant United Airlines, Inc. ("United")
21 violated Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (the "ADA"),
22 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq. The EEOC seeks relief for a class of employees employed at San
23 Francisco International Airport ("SFO"). The EEOC claims that United's former policy of
24 denying overtime to employees on light or limited duty violated the ADA and injured a
25 group of employees, and further alleges that not allowing Charging Party Samuel Chetcuti to
26 be eligible for overtime was improper under the ADA. United denies that its policy or any of
27 its actions were in any way improper or discriminatory.

1 In the interest of resolving this matter, and as a result of comprehensive
2 settlement negotiations, the parties have agreed that this action should be finally resolved by
3 entry of this Consent Decree. This Consent Decree fully and finally resolves any and all
4 issues and claims arising out of the Charge of Discrimination filed by Mr. Chetcuti and the
5 Complaint filed by the EEOC.

6 This Decree does not, however, resolve or affect any future charges or charges
7 that may be pending with the Commission other than the Charge of Discrimination
8 specifically referred to in this paragraph. This Decree binds the parties, Mr. Chetcuti, and
9 their present and future representatives, successors, agents, directors, officers, and assigns.
10 United's agreement to, and compliance with, this Decree shall not be construed as an
11 admission by United of any liability whatsoever, or as an admission by United of any
12 violation of the rights of any other party, class member, or individual, or violation of any
13 order, law, statute, duty, or contract whatsoever. On December 9, 2002, United and several
14 affiliated companies filed petitions for relief pursuant to Chapter 11 of Title II of the United
15 States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"). These cases are being jointly administered under
16 Case No. 02-48191 through 02-48218 (UAL CORPORATION, *et al.*) (the "Bankruptcy
17 Case"), before the Honorable Judge Eugene R. Wedoff in the Bankruptcy Court in the
18 Northern District of Illinois (the "Bankruptcy Court"). Pursuant to Article VIII.B of the
19 Plan, the Reorganized Debtors have the exclusive authority to settle proofs of claims without
20 further notice to or action, order or approval of the Bankruptcy Court. Therefore, this Decree
21 may become binding and enforceable upon full execution by the Parties.

22 FINDINGS

23 Having carefully examined the terms and provisions of this Decree, and based
24 on the pleadings, records and stipulations of the parties, the Court finds the following:

25 A. This Court has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this action and of the
26 parties.

27 B. The terms of this Decree are adequate, fair and reasonable. The rights
28 of the parties and the public interest are adequately protected by this Decree.

1 C. This Decree conforms with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the
2 ADA, and is not in derogation of the rights and privileges of any person. The entry of this
3 Decree will further the objectives of the ADA and will be in the best interests of the parties,
4 the Charging Party, and the public.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED
6 THAT:

7 **DURATION OF DECREE AND RETENTION OF JURISDICTION**

8 1. Unless otherwise noted, all provisions of this Decree shall be in effect
9 (and the Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter to enforce this Decree) for a period of
10 two (2) years, beginning on the date this decree is filed (hereinafter the "effective date"),
11 provided, however, that on or before the end of the two (2) years period, a party may move
12 the Court to extend the term of the Decree to the extent necessary to address any unfinished
13 matter covered by the Decree. Except as extended by the Court for this purpose, the Decree
14 shall expire at the end of the two (2) years period.

15 **PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION**

16 2. For a period of two (2) years following the effective date of this Decree,
17 United and its officers, agents, management (including supervisory employees), successors,
18 assigns, and all persons acting in concert with them shall not discriminate against United
19 employees at SFO on the basis of disability regarding eligibility for overtime, as provided in
20 this Decree.

21 3. The parties acknowledge that the policy that gave rise to this matter is
22 no longer in effect. During the period of two (2) years following the effective date of this
23 Decree, except as otherwise provided herein, United shall not adopt or enforce any policy at
24 SFO that makes a qualified employee with a disability ineligible for overtime work. Nothing
25 in this decree shall prevent United from limiting overtime eligibility on reasonable individual
26 bases for employees with disabilities who are working limited or light duty assignments.
27 Nothing in this Decree shall be construed to require United to violate the terms of any
28 collective bargaining agreement (CBA) as such agreement pertains to overtime assignments.

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM

1
2 4. For the purposes of this Decree, “class member” means any current or
3 former employee of United who was employed between January 2, 1998 and December 31,
4 2003 at SFO and can demonstrate that he or she was “disabled” within the meaning of the
5 ADA, the restrictions on his or her ability to perform assigned duties for United did not
6 preclude the employee from working overtime, and who was available to work overtime but
7 denied available overtime during the period in which, and because of, United’s former policy
8 denying overtime to employees on light or limited duty was in effect. Class members shall
9 be those individuals who submit claims pursuant to this Consent Decree and who sign
10 releases of ADA claims in the form of Exhibit D to this Decree.

11 5. United agrees to allow Mr. Chetcuti and the class members a general
12 noncontingent unsecured pre-petition claim against its bankruptcy estate in the amount of
13 \$850,000.00 (“Settlement Amount”) representing monetary damages to Mr. Chetcuti and the
14 class members. No post-petition claims are permitted for any purpose. The EEOC shall
15 determine the share of the Settlement Amount assigned to each claim. The Settlement
16 Amount shall be reasonably distributed pro rata among the claims, with each claim receiving
17 the percent of the Settlement Amount which represents the claim’s percent of the total of all
18 claim amounts. United agrees that this sum represents an allowed, general, unsecured pre-
19 petition claim against its bankruptcy estate. Such claims shall be administered, satisfied and
20 discharged in accordance with the terms and conditions of the plan of reorganization that is
21 confirmed in the Bankruptcy Case, and pursuant to the provisions and requirements of the
22 Bankruptcy Code. Such claim shall not enjoy any type of statutory or administrative priority
23 over any other general, unsecured, pre-petition claim in the Bankruptcy Case. Further, upon
24 distribution of the Settlement Amount, United Airlines will direct its official Notice and
25 Claims Agent to expunge the EEOC’s Proof of Claims filed on Mr. Chetcuti’s behalf
26 (identified in the Bankruptcy case as Claims No. 39798 and Claim No. 43293).

27 6. United agrees to mail to all current and former employees employed at
28 any time between January 2, 1998 and December 31, 2003 at SFO in the position of

1 Mechanic, Storekeeper, Food Service, Ramp Service, Air Freight, Air Frame and/or Cargo
2 information regarding this Decree and their rights to request to be included in the class; this
3 will be done by mailing a letter containing the text of Exhibit A to this Decree within sixty
4 (60) days from the effective date of this Decree. The EEOC will determine which
5 individuals are properly included in the class and its determination will be final and binding.
6 Within six months of mailing by United of the last of the above letters, the EEOC will
7 provide United with a list of the class members (which includes the names, address,
8 employee file numbers and social security numbers) and the payments, if any, to be made
9 from the bankruptcy estate. Within sixty days of United's receipt of the EEOC's
10 determination of how the Settlement Amount is to be distributed, United's Claims
11 Administrator will distribute the Settlement Amount, less applicable withholdings, to Mr.
12 Chetcuti and the class members in accordance with the directions provided by the EEOC.
13 The Settlement Amount shall be treated and paid as a Class 2E-6 claim in accordance with
14 United's confirmed Second Amended Plan of Reorganization (Second Plan) and will be
15 subject to applicable withholdings. United's Claims Administrator will make this distribution
16 by depositing each payee's amount, or its equivalent as provided by the Second Plan, in an
17 account created for each claimant within sixty (60) days of receiving from the EEOC notice
18 of any payment to be made to a class member. Additional amounts shall be distributed to the
19 class members in the same manner, proportion and timetable as distributions are made,
20 including on the appropriate Periodic Distribution Dates as provided by the Second Plan, to
21 other holders of Class 2E-6 allowed claims. "Applicable withholdings" are the taxes
22 (income tax, FICA, Medicare, etc.) which United is required to withhold from employees'
23 compensation, and which United will convey to the appropriate tax authority for credit to
24 each payee's account; the costs of making and transmitting these withholdings will be borne
25 solely by United. United will also convey to the appropriate tax authority its required
26 employer contribution, such as the employer share of FICA and Medicare; these amounts
27 United will pay in addition to the Settlement Amount.
28

POSTING OF NOTICE

1
2 7. Within ten (10) business days after the effective date of this Decree,
3 United shall post copies of the Notice attached as Exhibit B to this Decree on the bulletin
4 boards at its San Francisco International Airport Facility, which are usually used by United
5 for communicating with its SFO Mechanics, Storekeepers, or Food Service, Ramp Service,
6 Air Freight, Air Frame, or Cargo employees, and the Notice attached as Exhibit C on the
7 bulletin boards at its other facilities in the United States which are usually used by United for
8 communicating with its Mechanics, Storekeepers, or Food Service, Ramp Service, Air
9 Freight, Air Frame, or Cargo employees. The Notices shall remain posted for two (2) years
10 from the effective date of this Decree. United shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the
11 posting is not altered, defaced or covered by any other material. United shall certify to the
12 EEOC in writing within ten (10) business days after the effective date of the Decree that the
13 Notice has been properly posted. United shall permit a representative of the EEOC to enter
14 United's premises for purposes of verifying compliance with this Paragraph at any time
15 during normal business hours with prior reasonable notice.

RECORDKEEPING

16
17 8. For a period of two (2) years from the effective date of this Decree,
18 United shall maintain all records concerning its implementation of this Decree. United shall
19 also maintain records of complaints made to United of disability discrimination regarding
20 overtime at its SFO Operations. The records shall include United's investigation of such
21 complaints and any response or action taken as a result of the complaints.

REPORTING

22
23 9. United shall furnish to the EEOC the following written reports every
24 six (6) months for a period of two (2) years following the effective date of this Decree and
25 continuing until the expiration of this Decree. The first report shall be due twelve (12)
26 months after the effective date of the Decree. Each such report shall contain:

27 (a) A summary of the information compiled by United pursuant to
28 Paragraph 9; and

1 (b) A certification by United that the Notice required to be posted pursuant
2 to Paragraph 8 remained posted during the entire six (6) month period preceding the report.

3 **DISTRIBUTION OF POLICY**

4 **AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION**

5 10. United will redistribute its policy regarding overtime at SFO for
6 employees with disabilities who are assigned to light or limited duty, in the manner it
7 normally distributes its personnel policies and within ninety (90) days of the effective date of
8 this Decree.

9 **DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

10 11. In the event that either party to this Decree believes that the other party
11 has failed to comply with any provision(s) of the Decree, the complaining party shall notify
12 the other party of the alleged non-compliance and shall afford the alleged non-complying
13 party ten (10) business days to remedy the non-compliance or to satisfy the complaining
14 party that the alleged non-complying party has complied. If the alleged non-complying party
15 has not remedied the alleged non-compliance or satisfied the complaining party that it has
16 complied within ten (10) business days, the complaining party may apply to the Court for
17 appropriate relief.

18 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

19 12. Each party to this Decree shall bear its own expenses and costs. The
20 EEOC and United shall bear their own attorneys' fees.

21 ////

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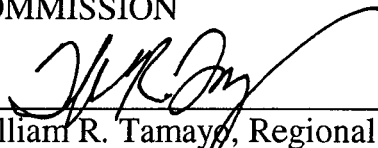
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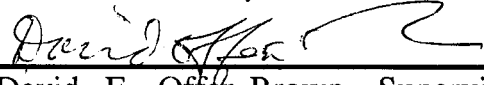
1 13. When this Consent Decree requires the submission by United of reports,
2 certifications, notices, or other materials to the EEOC, they shall be mailed to: United
3 Airlines ADA Settlement, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 350 The
4 Embarcadero, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94105-1260, Attn: David Offen-Brown. When
5 this Decree requires submission by the EEOC of materials to United Airlines, they shall be
6 mailed to: Nancy Pritikin, Littler Mendelson, 650 California Street, 20th Floor, San
7 Francisco, CA 94108.

8 AGREED AND APPROVED FOR:

10 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
11 COMMISSION

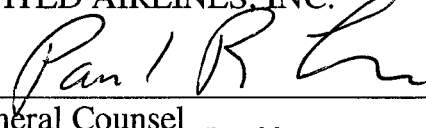
12 Date: 2/23/09

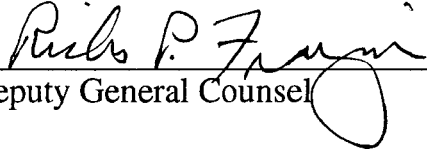
13 
14 _____
15 William R. Tamayo, Regional Attorney

16 
17 _____
18 David F. Offen-Brown, Supervisory Trial
19 Attorney

20 UNITED AIRLINES, INC.

21 Date:

22 
23 _____
24 General Counsel
25 Senior Vice President
26 General Counsel and Secretary

27 
28 _____
Deputy General Counsel

IT IS SO ORDERED.

29 Date: **MAR 13 2009**
30 _____, 2009

31 
32 _____
33 JUDGE, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

1 **EXHIBIT A**

2 [EEOC Letterhead]

3
4 Re: EEOC et al v. United Airlines, Inc. Claims

5 Dear Current or Former United Airlines Employee:

6 The United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) wants
7 to know whether you were denied overtime when you were on light or limited duty, and
8 while you had a disability. If you qualify, you will be entitled to a monetary award from
9 United Airlines, Inc. (United).

10 The EEOC, the federal agency principally responsible for enforcing our
11 nation's federal laws against employment discrimination, has determined that United's
12 overtime guidelines which excluded medically restricted employees from working overtime
13 while they were assigned to light or limited duty violated the ADA with respect to disabled
14 employees (as specially defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)). Without
15 admitting liability, United has agreed to compensate such employees for missing overtime
16 they otherwise would have worked at SFO between January 2, 1998 and December 31, 2003.
17 Because this settlement is a compromise and concerns events covered by United's
18 bankruptcy, compensation will be reduced in value. United has also agreed to no longer
19 make a qualified employee with a disability ineligible for overtime work.

20 To be eligible for this monetary compensation, please fill out the enclosed
21 questionnaire and return it to us in the enclosed envelope no later than [date sixty days after
22 this letter is sent]. If you cannot complete the entire form in that time, please feel free to
23 return it partially completed, or call the undersigned, by [date]. If you do not return it by
24 date, you will not be eligible for this compensation. We will use any information you
25 provide to help determine whether or not you were illegally deprived of overtime, and if so,
26 the extent of your damages and the amount of your award. We will also contact you for
27 further information, so it is very important that you give us your current telephone and email
28 and mailing addresses.

United has agreed to this letter, and United is prohibited by federal law from
taking any harmful action against you in retaliation for contacting us or making a claim. If
you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at (415) 625-5652. You may
also write or email to the above addresses. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David F. Offen-Brown
Supervisory Trial Attorney

1 **QUESTIONNAIRE**

2
3 United Questionnaire to [name]

4 1. Instructions: If your answer will not fit in the space provided, please complete your answer
5 on the reverse side of this page or attach additional sheets as needed. **NOTE:** To be eligible
6 for an award, you must meet the ADA definition of "disabled", which is that you were
7 substantially limited in a major life activity such as walking, hearing, seeing, caring for
8 yourself, etc. Temporary disabilities like a broken leg which fully healed do not qualify.
9 Feel free to call David Offen-Brown at (415) 625-5652 if you have any questions.

10 2. Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____
11 Cell phone: (____) _____ Employee File No.: _____
12 Address: _____
13 _____
14 Email address: _____ Date of Birth: _____
15 Hire date: _____ Social Security No.:
16 _____

17 3. Jobs you had at United between **January 2, 1998 and December 31, 2003** and the dates you
18 worked in them:

19 Job Title: _____
20 Dates: _____
21 Job Title: _____
22 Dates: _____
23 Job Title: _____
24 Dates: _____

25 4. Between what dates were you denied overtime because you were on light or limited duty?

26 5. To qualify for an award, you must meet the ADA definition of "disabled", which is that you
27 were substantially limited in a major life activity such as walking, hearing, seeing, caring for
28 yourself, etc. Temporary disabilities like a sprained ankle do not qualify. Describe below
how you were disabled between January 2, 1998 and December 31, 2003. If you have any
questions about whether you qualify, please call David Offen-Brown at (415) 625-5652.

EXHIBIT B

NOTICE TO ALL UNITED AIRLINES EMPLOYEES

1
2
3
4 This Notice is being posted pursuant to a Consent Decree entered by the
5 federal court in EEOC v. United Airlines, Inc., Case No. _____, resolving a
6 lawsuit filed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (“EEOC”) against
7 United Airlines (“United”). In its suit, the EEOC alleged that United discriminated
8 against an employee at SFO on the basis of disability by denying overtime eligibility
9 to employees on light or limited duty. This policy was repealed by United and has not
10 been in effect for some time. United denies that it engaged in any unlawful disability
11 discrimination.
12
13

14 To resolve the case, United and the EEOC have entered into a Consent
15 Decree which provides, among other things, that: 1) United will provide monetary
16 damages through the bankruptcy case to the class members, 2) United will not
17 discriminate against any disabled employee at SFO on the basis of disability with
18 respect to overtime eligibility; and 3) United will comply with various reporting and
19 record keeping requirements for two years.
20
21

22 The EEOC enforces the federal laws against discrimination in
23 employment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability.
24 If you believe you have been discriminated against, you may follow the complaint
25 procedure in United’s non-discrimination and anti-harassment policy and you may
26 contact the EEOC at (415) 625-5600. The EEOC charges no fees and has a TTD
27
28

1 number.

2 THIS IS AN

3 OFFICIAL NOTICE AND MUST NOT BE DEFACED BY ANYONE

4
5 This Notice must remain posted for two (2) years from the date below
6 and must not be altered, defaced or covered by any other material. Any questions
7 about this Notice or compliance with its terms may be directed to: United Airlines
8 Settlement, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 350 The Embarcadero,
9 Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94105-1260, Attn: David Offen-Brown.
10

11
12 MAR 13 2009

13 Date

14

15 Judge

1 EXHIBIT C

2 NOTICE TO ALL UNITED AIRLINES EMPLOYEES

3
4 This Notice is being posted pursuant to a Consent Decree entered by the
5 federal court in EEOC v. United Airlines, Inc., Case No. 09-0784CW, resolving a
6 lawsuit filed in San Francisco, California by the Equal Employment Opportunity
7 Commission (“EEOC”) against United Airlines (“United”). In its suit, the EEOC
8 alleged that United discriminated against an employee at SFO on the basis of
9 disability by denying overtime eligibility to employees on light or limited duty. This
10 policy was repealed by United and has not been in effect for some time. United
11 denies that it engaged in any unlawful disability discrimination.
12
13

14 To resolve the case, United and the EEOC have entered into a Consent
15 Decree which provides, among other things, that: 1) United will provide monetary
16 damages through the bankruptcy case to the class members, all of whom worked at
17 SFO, 2) United will not discriminate against any disabled employee at SFO on the
18 basis of disability with respect to overtime eligibility; and 3) United will comply with
19 various reporting and record keeping requirements for two years.
20
21

22 The EEOC enforces the federal laws against discrimination in
23 employment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability.
24 If you believe you have been discriminated against, you may follow the complaint
25 procedure in United’s non-discrimination and anti-harassment policy and you may
26 contact the EEOC at (866) 408-8075. The EEOC charges no fees and has a TTD
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28

1 number.

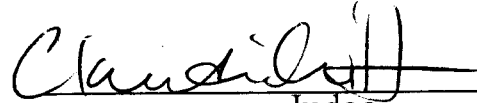
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6 and must not be altered, defaced or covered by any other material. Any questions
7 about this Notice or compliance with its terms may be directed to: United Airlines
8 Settlement, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 350 The Embarcadero,
9 Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94105-1260, Attn: David Offen-Brown.
10

11
12 MAR 13 2009

13 Date

14 

15 Judge

EXHIBIT D

RELEASE AGREEMENT

I, _____, for and in consideration of the rights granted to me in the Consent Decree entered by the Court in EEOC v. United Airlines, Inc., Case No. _____ on behalf of myself, my heirs, assigns, executors, and agents, do hereby forever release and discharge United Airlines, Inc. ("United Airlines"), and all past and present parents, subsidiaries, shareholders, officers, agents, employees, and representatives of United Airlines, as well as all successors and assignees of United Airlines, from any and all claims and causes of action concerning denial of the opportunity to work overtime at SFO between January 2, 1998 and December 31, 2003 while I was on light or limited duty which I now have or ever have had under Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* as of the date of this Release Agreement, including, as a result of or arising from the subject matter and claims which were or which could have been asserted in EEOC v. United Airlines, Inc., Case No. _____.

_____ Date

_____ [name]

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