

David A. Mazie, Esq. (Attorney Id No.: 017941986)  
**MAZIE SLATER KATZ & FREEMAN, LLC**  
103 Eisenhower Parkway  
Roseland, New Jersey 07068  
(973) 228-9898  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

PETER H. MEISTER, legal guardian  
for MARIA MOSER MEISTER, and  
PETER H. MEISTER, individually,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

VERIZON NEW JERSEY, INC.,  
PSE&G SERVICES CORPORATION;  
NEPTUNE HOLDING US CORP.  
d/b/a ALTICE USA; NJ TRANSIT  
CORPORATION; JOHN DOE (a  
Fictitious name); ABC  
CORPORATION (a fictitious  
Corporation); MANNY MOE (a  
fictitious name); and/or DEF  
CORPORATION (a fictitious  
corporation),

Defendants.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
LAW DIVISION: ESSEX COUNTY  
DOCKET NO.: ESX-L-4738-17

CIVIL ACTION

**ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT;  
APPORTIONING SETTLEMENT;  
APPROVING ATTORNEYS' FEES AND  
COSTS; APPROVING THE CREATION  
AND FUNDING OF A TRUST FOR  
MARIA MEISTER; AND DIRECTING  
PAYMENT OF CERTAIN MONIES**

AND ENTRY OF JUDGMENT

THIS MATTER having come before the Court in accordance with R. 4:44-3 with regard to settlements entered into by and between plaintiff Peter Meister, as Guardian of Maria Meister and plaintiff Peter Meister individually; and this Court having appointed Judy Wahrenberger, Esq. as Guardian for Maria Meister with regard to this settlement; and this Court having reviewed all submissions and having heard testimony; and for good and sufficient cause shown;

IT IS on this 4 day of May 2020;

**ORDERED** as follows:

- (a) The settlement of plaintiffs' claims against Verizon New Jersey, Inc. ("Verizon") is hereby approved, and judgment is hereby entered against Verizon in the amount of \$125 million;
- (b) The settlement of plaintiffs' claims against defendant, Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G), is hereby approved, and judgment is hereby entered against PSE&G in the amount of \$250,000;
- (c) The settlement of plaintiffs' claims against defendant, Neptune Holding US Corp. d/b/a Altice USA ("Altice") is hereby approved, and judgment is entered against Altice is hereby entered in the amount of \$25,000;
- (d) The Court approves payment to Mazie Slater Katz & Freeman, LLC of \$216,180.46 as reimbursement for case disbursements. This includes payment of all case disbursements incurred by Kirsch Gelband & Stone, P.A.;
- (e) The gross settlement shall be apportioned as follows: \$ 118,275,000.00 to Maria Meister and \$ \$7,000,000.00 to Peter Meister;
- (f) The Court hereby approves the Squam Trust in the form attached to the Certification of Lance Eisenberg, Esq. and all parties thereto shall proceed to execute it and implement its terms;
- (g) Mazie Slater Katz & Freeman, LLC is hereby awarded attorney's fees of 20 % on the net recovery in excess of \$3 million. In light of the attorneys fee lien being asserted by Kirsch Gelband & Stone, P.A., except for the case disbursements set forth in paragraph (d) above, the attorney's fee shall be held in escrow by the Mazie Slater Katz & Freeman, LLC in an escrow account or in United States Treasury Bills until the lien is resolved through Court Order, or settlement between the two law firms;  
The first \$3M of plaintiffs' recovery shall be subject to a fee calculation provided by court rule as stated by the court and counsel on the record.
- (h) Verizon, PSE&G, Altice and their insurers shall pay all settlement funds within 30 days. All funds paid by or on behalf of Verizon shall be wired into the Mazie Slater Katz & Freeman, LLC Trust Account, with the exception of \$382,443.00 to fund an annuity to provide future periodic payments to Maria Meister's Medicare Set-Aside as set forth in Paragraph (l) below. Mazie Slater shall disburse the net recovery (less any liens, attorneys fees or other expenses) due to Maria Meister and Peter Meister. The funds due Maria Meister shall be wired to Glenmede Trust Company, N.A. on behalf of the Squam Trust;
- (i) The Court shall review the bills of Judith Wahrenberger, Esq. and Philip Corbo, Esq. for the purpose of approving payment. The bills should be submitted within ten days hereof;

- (j) The Court hereby approves the Liability Medicare Set-Aside Allocation attached to the Certification of David A. Mazie and directs that Mazie Slater Katz & Freeman disburse \$52,723.16 (\$51,723.16 to seed the Medicare Set-Aside plus \$1,000 as a one-time professional administration fee) to “Ametros Financial FBO Maria Meister” to fund the Set-Aside;
- (k) The Court hereby approves payment of \$382,443.00 to fund an annuity issued by Pacific Life Insurance Company to provide the following future periodic payments for Maria Meister’s Medicare Set-Aside:

Payee: Ametros Financial FBO Maria Meister.

\$23,995.03 payable annually, guaranteed for 19 years which is 19 payments beginning on 07/01/2021, with the last guaranteed payment on 07/01/2039.

Verizon shall send payment of \$382,443.00 directly to Pacific Life & Annuity Services, Inc., 700 Newport Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 to fund the annuity within thirty (30) days hereof and with notice to Mazie Slater Katz & Freeman.

- (l) The Court hereby directs that Mazie Slater Katz & Freeman shall pay the sum of \$1,599.12 to Medicare to satisfy Medicare’s lien over the amounts received by Maria Meister;
- (m) The Court hereby rules that all sums recovered in this settlement constitute personal injury damages within the meaning of Section 104(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code 1986 as amended. These injuries are permanent physical injuries and the court’s reasoning was set forth on the record.
- This includes past and future lost wage claims of \$5,479,822 and past and future medical expenses.
- (n) A copy of this Order shall be immediately served upon all counsel and parties.

*Stephen L. Petrillo*

HONORABLE STEPHEN L. PETRILLO, J.S.C.

This order follows a hearing on the record which included the presentation of the report of the Guardian ad Litem as well as testimony from Peter Meister, Maria Meister, Lance Eisenberg, Esq., and Peter Moser, Esq. All of the courts’ reasons in support of any findings were made on the record.