

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

ROBERT WALKER,	:	CASE NO. CA-21-3504
Plaintiff-Appellee,	:	Trial Court Case No. 2:20-cv-03414
v.	:	JOINT MOTION FOR
NAUTILUS, INC.,	:	INDICATIVE RULING OF
Defendant-Appellant.	:	PLAINTIFF-APPELLEE ROBERT
	:	WALKER AND DEFENDANT-
	:	<u>APPELLANT NAUTILUS, INC.</u>

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 62.1, Plaintiff Robert Walker ("Plaintiff") and Defendant Nautilus, Inc. ("Nautilus") jointly request an indicative ruling that this Court will evaluate a proposed settlement reached between the parties and conduct a fairness hearing regarding settlement upon limited remand from the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ("Sixth Circuit"). A proposed Order granting this Joint Motion is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ D. Jeffrey Ireland

D. Jeffrey Ireland (0010443)
FARUKI PLL
110 North Main Street
Suite 1600
Dayton, OH 45402
Telephone: (937) 227-3710
Fax: (937) 227-3717
Email: djireland@ficlaw.com

Brian D. Wright (0075359)
Jason W. Palmer (0088336)
FARUKI PLL
201 East Fifth Street
Suite 1420
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Telephone: (513) 632-0314
Fax: (513) 632-0319
Email: bwright@ficlaw.com
jpalmer@ficlaw.com

Attorneys for Defendant-Appellant
Nautilus, Inc.

/s/ W.B. Markovits (per email authorization)

W.B. Markovits (0018514)
Terence R. Coates (0085579)
Justin C. Walker (080001)
Zachary C. Schaengold (0090953)
MARKOVITS, STOCK & DeMARCO, LLC
3825 Edwards Road, Suite 650
Cincinnati, OH 45209
Telephone: (513) 651-3700
Fax: (513) 665-0219
bmarkovits@msdlegal.com
tcoates@msdlegal.com
jwalker@msdlegal.com
zschaengold@msdlegal.com

Nathan D. Prosser (*pro hac vice*)
HELLMUTH & JOHNSON, PLLC
8050 West 78th Street
Edina, MN 55439
Telephone: (952) 941-4005
Fax: (952) 941-2337
nprosser@hjlawfirm.com

Bryan L. Bleichner (*pro hac vice*)
Jeffrey D. Bores (*pro hac vice*)
CHESTNUT CAMBRONNE, PA
100 Washington Avenue South, Suite 1700
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Telephone: (612) 339-7300
Fax: (612) 336-2940
bbleichner@chestnutcambronne.com
jbores@chestnutcambronne.com

Counsel for Plaintiff, the Class and the Subclass

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF JOINT MOTION FOR INDICATIVE RULING OF
PLAINTIFF-APPELLEE ROBERT WALKER ET AL. AND DEFENDANT-
APPELLANT NAUTILUS, INC.**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 62.1, Plaintiff Robert Walker ("Plaintiff") and Nautilus, Inc. ("Nautilus" or "Defendant") (the "Parties") jointly request an indicative ruling that the Court will, upon remand from the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ("Sixth Circuit"), evaluate a proposed class action settlement and conduct a fairness hearing.

I. AN INDICATIVE RULING IS APPROPRIATE UNDER THE FEDERAL RULES

On September 29, 2020, Nautilus filed a motion to compel arbitration or, in the alternative to dismiss or strike Plaintiff's claims. (Doc. 13, Motion). On May 28, 2021, the Court denied Nautilus' motion, and Nautilus filed a notice of appeal. (Doc. 29, Order; Doc. 30, Notice of Appeal). While on appeal, a mediation conference was scheduled with Sixth Circuit mediator John A. Minter pursuant to Sixth Circuit Rule 33. The parties engaged in multiple arms'-length mediation conferences under the guidance and supervision of Mr. Minter, beginning on June 28, 2021 and ending on September 8, 2021, as well as in continued email exchanges and discussions, among other things, between formal mediation sessions. Nautilus' appeal is currently pending in the Sixth Circuit.

Rule 23(e) governs class action settlements and mandates that the court may approve a settlement upon holding a fairness hearing and concluding that it is "fair, reasonable, and adequate." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2); Gascho v. Glob. Fitness Holdings, LLC, 822 F.3d 269, 277 (6th Cir. 2016). In 2007, the Sixth Circuit set out the factors that guide the court's inquiry:

(1) the risk of fraud or collusion; (2) the complexity, expense and likely duration of the litigation; (3) the amount of discovery engaged in by the parties; (4) the likelihood of success on the merits; (5) the opinions of class counsel and class representatives; (6) the reaction of absent class members; and (7) the public interest.

Id. at 276 citing Int'l Union, United Auto., Aerospace, & Agric. Implement Workers of Am. v. Gen. Motors Corp., 497 F.3d 615, 631 (6th Cir. 2007).

Because this case is on appeal in the Sixth Circuit, this Court does not have jurisdiction to evaluate the proposed settlement and conduct a fairness hearing. However, if a timely motion is made for relief that the district court lacks authority to grant because of a pending appeal, the district court may state in an indicative ruling that it would grant the motion or that it raises a substantial issue. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 62.1(a)(3); Wilson v. Long, No. 20-5227, 2020 U.S. App. LEXIS 37096 at 2 (6th Cir. Nov. 24, 2020). If the district court determines that it would either grant the motion or that it raises a substantial issue, the court of appeals may then remand the matter to the district court for consideration under Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 12.1. See Universal Life Church Monastery Storehouse v. Nabors, No. 19-6217, 2020 U.S. App. LEXIS 24457 at 2 (6th Cir. Aug. 3, 2020). The parties must promptly notify the circuit clerk, and "the court of appeals may remand for further proceedings but retains jurisdiction unless it expressly dismisses the appeal." Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 12.1(b); Id. Therefore, the Court should issue an indicative ruling that it would evaluate the proposed settlement and conduct a fairness hearing pursuant to Rule 23(e)(2).

II. CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, the Parties respectfully request that this Court enter the attached proposed Order indicating that it will accept the limited remand from the Court of Appeals and proceed evaluate the proposed settlement and conduct a fairness hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ D. Jeffrey Ireland

D. Jeffrey Ireland (0010443)
FARUKI PLL
110 North Main Street
Suite 1600
Dayton, OH 45402
Telephone: (937) 227-3710
Fax: (937) 227-3717
Email: djireland@ficlaw.com

Brian D. Wright (0075359)
Jason W. Palmer (0088336)
FARUKI PLL
201 East Fifth Street
Suite 1420
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Telephone: (513) 632-0314
Fax: (513) 632-0319
Email: bwright@ficlaw.com
jpalmer@ficlaw.com

Attorneys for Defendant-Appellant
Nautilus, Inc.

/s/ W.B. Markovits (per email authorization)

W.B. Markovits (0018514)
Terence R. Coates (0085579)
Justin C. Walker (080001)
Zachary C. Schaengold (0090953)
MARKOVITS, STOCK & DeMARCO, LLC
3825 Edwards Road, Suite 650
Cincinnati, OH 45209
Telephone: (513) 651-3700
Fax: (513) 665-0219
bmarkovits@msdlegal.com
tcoates@msdlegal.com
jwalker@msdlegal.com
zschaengold@msdlegal.com

Nathan D. Prosser (*pro hac vice*)
HELLMUTH & JOHNSON, PLLC
8050 West 78th Street
Edina, MN 55439
Telephone: (952) 941-4005
Fax: (952) 941-2337
nprosser@hjlawfirm.com

Bryan L. Bleichner (*pro hac vice*)
Jeffrey D. Bores (*pro hac vice*)
CHESTNUT CAMBRONNE, PA
100 Washington Avenue South, Suite 1700
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Telephone: (612) 339-7300
Fax: (612) 336-2940
bbleichner@chestnutcambronne.com
jbores@chestnutcambronne.com

Counsel for Plaintiff, the Class and the Subclass

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the 11th day of October, 2021, I electronically filed the foregoing Motion to Remand of Defendant-Appellant Nautilus, Inc. with the Clerk of Courts using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to CM/ECF participants, and I hereby certify that I have mailed by United States Postal Service the document to the non-CM/ECF participants:

Terrence R. Coates, Esq.
W.B. Markovits, Esq.
Justin Walker, Esq.
Markovits, Stock & DeMarco, LLC
3825 Edwards Road
Suite 650
Cincinnati, OH 45209
tcoates@msdlegal.com
bmarkovits@msdlegal.com
jwalker@msdlegal.com

Nathan D. Posser, Esq. (Pro Hac Vice)
HELLMUTH & JOHNSON, PLLC
8050 West 78th Street
Edina, MN 55439
nprosser@hjlawfirm.com

Bryan L. Bleichner, Esq. (Pro Hac Vice)
Jeffrey D. Bores, Esq. (Pro Hac Vice)
CHESTNUT CAMBRONNE, PA
100 Washington Avenue South
Suite 1700
Minneapolis, MN 55401
bbleichner@chestnutcambronne.com
jbores@chestnutcambronne.com

Jeffrey D. Bores, Esq.
CHESTNUT CAMBRONNE, PA
100 Washington Avenue South
Suite 1700
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Attorneys for Plaintiff, the Class, and the Subclass

/s/ D. Jeffrey Ireland

D. Jeffrey Ireland

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION (COLUMBUS)

ROBERT WALKER,	:	CASE NO. 2:20-cv-03414-EAS-EPD
Plaintiff,	:	(Judge Edmund A. Sargus)
v.	:	
NAUTILUS, INC.,	:	[PROPOSED] ORDER
Defendant.	:	GRANTING MOTION FOR
	:	INDICATIVE RULING OF
	:	PLAINTIFF-APPELLEE ROBERT
	:	WALKER AND DEFENDANT-
	:	<u>APPELLANT NAUTILUS, INC.</u>

This matter comes before the Court upon the joint motion of the parties pursuant to Rule 62.1 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, asking this Court to indicate its willingness to accept the limited remand from the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and proceed to conduct a hearing regarding the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the proposed settlement. Having considered the parties' motion and the entire record, the Court is of the opinion, and so finds, that the Parties' joint motion raises a substantial issue. IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED BY THE COURT that if this case is remanded to the District Court by the Court of Appeals, this Court will proceed to conduct a hearing regarding the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the proposed settlement pursuant to Rule 23(e)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE