



# State of Arkansas Bureau of Legislative Research

Marty Garrity, Director

Kevin Anderson, Assistant Director for Fiscal Services

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Matthew Miller, Assistant Director for Legal Services

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### **State Agency Litigation Notification Form**

### **Dear Agency Director:**

Arkansas Code § 10-3-312 requires that any agency or institution that is not represented by the Attorney General shall notify the Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research of pending litigation so that the appropriate legislative committee may "determine the action that may be deemed necessary to protect the interests of the General Assembly and the State of Arkansas in that matter."

In order to submit a report regarding pending litigation pursuant to Arkansas Code § 10-3-312, please complete the following form for each pending lawsuit, along with a cover letter to the Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research, and submit to <a href="mailto:desikans@blr.arkansas.gov">desikans@blr.arkansas.gov</a>.

omano (co,co	m.urkunous.gov.				
DATE RE	DATE REPORTING:				
Agency:	Arkansas Department of Corrections/Division of Community	Phone:	501-682-3849		
E-mail:	Bilenda.Harris-Ritter@arkansas.gov	Contact:	Bilenda Harris-Ritter		
1. STYLE	1. STYLE OF THE CASE BEING LITIGATED				
Demario I	Demario Moss v. Arkansas Department of Corrections/Division of Community Correction, Case No. 4:21-CV-485KGB				
2. IDENTITY OF THE TRIBUNAL BEFORE WHICH THE MATTER HAS BEEN FILED (COURT)					
United Sta	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas				
3. BRIEF	3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED				
Mr. Moss is a current employee of ACC. He alleged that ACC failed to promote him based on his race (African-American) in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Mr. Moss also alleged that ACC retaliated against based on his race when it disciplined him and the disciplinary was later reversed.					

3A. OTHER DESCRIPTION INFORMATION			
Docket Number	4:21-CV-485KGB		
Date Filed	June 3, 2021		
Defendant	Arkansas Department of Corrections/Division of Community Correction		
Defendant Attorney	Senior Assistant Attorney General Maryna Jackson		
Plaintiff	Demario Moss		
Plaintiff Attorney	Austin Porter, Jr.,		

### 4. ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

n/a

4A. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION		
Case History	The case was litigated and discovery was completed. The case is settlted.	
Relief Sought	Compensatory damages, emotion al distress, and attorney's fees.	
Current Status	The case was settled.	



### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS CENTRAL DIVISION

JUN 03 2021

JAMES W. McCORMACK, CLERK
By: DEP CLERK

**DEMARRIO MOSS** 

**PLAINTIFF** 

VS.

CASE NO. 4:21-CV-485-KGB

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION/ DIVISION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTION

DEFENDANT

**COMPLAINT** 

This case assigned to District Judge Baker and to Magistrate Judge Ervin

Introduction

This is a civil rights action brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C.S. § 2000 et seq. (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended), in order to recover damages against the defendant for the unlawful employment practices that the plaintiff **Demarrio Moss** has been subjected to on account of his race. After complaining about discrimination, the plaintiff was subjected to retaliation, which will be plead at a later date. This is also an action for declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C.S. § 2201 to declare the rights and other legal relations between the parties. The plaintiff is also seeking equitable relief and injunctive relief as well.

I.

### Jurisdiction

- Jurisdiction and venue of this Court are invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331,
   1343, 1391, 42 U.S.C.S. § 2000e et seq. (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended).
- 2. The unlawful employment practices alleged to have been committed against the plaintiff, were committed in the State of Arkansas, and in Pulaski County, Arkansas.

II.

### **Parties**

- The plaintiff Demarrio Moss is an African-American male, and is a resident of the United States of America.
- 4. The Defendant Arkansas Department of Correction/Division of Community Correction (hereinafter referred to as the Division of Community Correction), is an agency of the State of Arkansas, and pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 12-27-125(a), "[t]here is established, under the supervision, control, and direction of the Board of Corrections, a Division of Community Correction." As part of its responsibilities, the Division of Community Correction "shall have management and control over all community correction services." *See* Ark. Code Ann. § 12-27-125(b)(2)(A). Also, the Division of Community Correction "[s]hall employ such officers, employees, and agents and shall secure such offices and quarters as deemed necessary to discharge the functions of the Division of Community Correction, and which are appropriately funded." *See* Ark. Code Ann. § 12-27-125(b)(3).
- The current director of the Division of Community Correction is Jerry Bradshaw,
   and the Cabinet Secretary is Solomon Graves.
- 6. The defendant Arkansas Department of Correction/Division of Community Correction is an employer within the meaning of 42 U.S.C.S. § 2000e (b), (g), and (h).

III.

### Facts

7. The plaintiff was hired by the Division of Community Correction on or about November 7, 2007.

- 8. The plaintiff is currently employed as a Parole Agent, having responsibility for supervising the parole requirements of persons released from the Arkansas Department of Correction.
- The plaintiff works within Area 8 of the Division of Community Correction, and
   Tim Warhurst is the Area Manager for District 8.
- 10. The plaintiff has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, having obtained that degree in approximately May 2005.
- The plaintiff also obtained a Master's Degree in Business Security Management in approximately May 2010.
- 12. On February 11, 2020, the Division of Community Correction advertised an Assistant Area Management position (Vacancy Announcement #2212-5067), for which the plaintiff applied
- 13. The defendant conducted interviews for this Assistant Area Management position on or about March 3, 2020.
- 14. The plaintiff was interviewed for this Assistant Area Management position on or about March 3, 2020.
- 15. Due to an alleged scoring error (the plaintiff was advised that a Caucasian male did not score as high as the defendant had wanted), the position was postponed, and the position was readvertised in June 2020.
- 16. Upon information and belief, the plaintiff obtained the highest score during the interview in March 2020.
- 17. The plaintiff did not discover that the defendant was not going to fill the Assistant Area Manager's position, until the position was readvertised during the month of June 2020.

- 18. A second round of interviews was conducted for the Assistant Area Manager's positions in June 2020.
- 19. The plaintiff was interviewed a second time for the Assistant Area Manager's position.
- 20. On August 10, 2020, the plaintiff was notified that some other person (Spencer Bennett) was selected for the position.
- Spencer Bennett is a Caucasian male employee of the Division of Community
   Correction.
- Upon information and belief, Mr. Bennett was hired by the Division of Community
   Correction in September 2013.
- 23. Shortly after being notified that he was not selected for the Assistant Area Manager's position, the plaintiff made an inquiry about the interviews that took place on or about March 3, 2020, but was told that the interview scores had been discarded.
- 24. Also, the plaintiff was told by Amber Schubert, General Counsel for the Division of Community Correction, that no such interviews were conducted on or about March 3, 2020, which is false.

# IV. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act Race Discrimination

- 25. The plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1-24 of the plaintiff's complaint, and adopts each as if set out herein word for word.
- 26. The plaintiff was denied the position of Assistant Area Manager on account of his race, after his interview on March 3, 2020.

- 27. Upon information and belief, the plaintiff was the most qualified candidate for the Assistant Area Manager's position, and received the highest score during the interviews that took place in March 2020.
- 28. The defendant was not satisfied with the fact that the plaintiff outscored the white applicant of its choice.
- 29. Once the defendant realized that the plaintiff had outscored its favored white candidate, the defendant decided to manipulate the process by tossing out the interview scores, and readvertising the position.
- 30. By tossing out the interview scores of the interviews that took place in March 2020, the defendant violated EEOC laws by not maintaining those employment records.
- 31. The defendant has refused to promote the plaintiff to the position of Assistant Area Manager, on account of his race in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended).
- 32. Furthermore, the defendant discriminated against the plaintiff on account of his race, when it denied him the Assistant Area Manager's position, when it selected a white applicant, who was significantly less qualified than the plaintiff in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended).
- 33. On December 15, 2020, the plaintiff filed a Charge of Discrimination (No. 493-2020-01902) with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), contending that he had been discriminated against based on his race, when he was denied the opportunity to be promoted to the Assistant Area Manager's position both in March and July 2020. (See Charge of Discrimination attached herein as Plaintiff's Exhibit "A").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The plaintiff made initial contact with the EEOC, but due to COVID-19 concerns, he was unable to get an appointment with representatives of the EEOC until December 15, 2020.

34. In response to the Plaintiff's Charge of Discrimination that he filed with the EEOC, said agency issued his a "Dismissal and Notice of Rights" letter dated March 8, 2021, which *inter alia* gave the plaintiff the right to sue the defendant within 90 days from the date he received the above-mentioned letter. (A copy of said "Notice of Right to Sue" letter is attached to this complaint and is identified as Plaintiff's Exhibit "B").

35. This cause of action is being brought within ninety (90) days of the plaintiff receiving his right-to-sue letter as referenced in paragraph 34 of this complaint.

36. Due to the above-mentioned acts of discrimination, the plaintiff has suffered mental anguish, embarrassment, lost wages, all in a manner to be proven at trial.

### JURY DEMAND

37. The plaintiff requests that this matter be tried before a jury of twelve (12) fair and impartial citizens of this state.

THEREFORE, the plaintiff is seeking the following relief for the above mentioned described unlawful employment practices:

- a. declare that the plaintiff has been subjected to unlawful discriminatory practices;
- b. promoted to the position of Assistant Area Manager's position with back pay;
- c. the cost of prosecuting this action;
- d. attorney's fees;
- e. and for all other equitable, legal, and just relief.

Respectfully submitted,

PORTER LAW FIRM
The Tower Building
323 Center Street, Suite 1035
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
Telephone: 501-244-8200

Facsimile: 501-372-5567

### Case 4:21-cv-00485-KGB Document 1 Filed 06/03/21 Page 7 of 10

Email: Aporte5640@aol.com

By:

Austin Porter Jr., No. 86145

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June 2021.

CHARGE OF DISCRIMINATION	Charge		Agency(ies) Charge No(s):
This form is affected by the Privacy Act of 1974. See enclosed Privacy Act	ÌП	FEPA	NO(5).
Statement and other information before completing this form.	X	EEOC	493-2020-0190
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That I Believe Discriminated Against Me or Others. ( <i>If more than two, list u</i>	inder PARTIC	CULARS below.)	car dovernment Agency
Name		No. Employees, Members	Phone No.
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION/ DIVISION OF	l	101 - 200	(501) 371-109
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS Street Address City, State and	d ZIR Code		
	a ZIP Code		
1302 PIKE, NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR 72114			
		No. Employees, Members	Phone No.
Name	1	No. chiployees, mellibers	Priorie No.
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EEOC Form 5 (11/09)		
CHARGE OF DISCRIMINATION	Charge Presented To:	Agency(ies) Charge No(s):
This form is affected by the Privacy Act of 1974. See enclosed Privacy Act Statement and other information before completing this form.	FEPA	
	X EEOC	493-2020-01902
		and EEOC
State or local Agency, if a	any	
Assistant Area Manager, along with several others. In after my interview. However, the position remained v 2020. After another round of interviews, it was annou promoted into the position.  I was not given a reason why the March 2020 interview was not selected for the Job.  I believe I was denied a promotion because of my race Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.	vacant and was re-pounced that a White a was scores were not co	osted in early July applicant was onsidered, or why I

I want this charge filed with both the EEOC and the State or local Agency, If any. I will advise the agencies if I change my address or phone number and I will cooperate fully with them in the processing of my charge in accordance with their procedures.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct.

Digitally signed by Demarrio Moss on 12-15-2020

1 swear or affirm that I have read the above charge and that it is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS DATE (month, day, year)

EEOC Form 161 (11/2020)

### U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS					
To: Dema	arrio A. Moss	From:	Little Rock Area Office 820 Louisiana Suite 200 Little Rock, AR 7220		
	On behalf of person(s) aggrieved whose identity is CONFIDENTIAL (29 CFR §1601.7(a))				
EEOC Charge	e No. EEOC Representative			Telephone No.	
493-2020-0	Tyrone Y. Blanks, 01902 Investigator			(501) 324-5083	
	C IS CLOSING ITS FILE ON THIS CHARGE FOR TH	HE FOLLO	WING REASON:		
	The facts alleged in the charge fail to state a claim under			EOC.	
	Your allegations did not involve a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act.				
	The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes.				
	Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your charge				
X	The EEOC issues the following determination: The EEOC will not proceed further with its investigation, and makes no determination about whether further investigation would establish violations of the statute. This does not mean the claims have no merit. This determination does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. The EEOC makes no finding as to the merits of any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge.				
	The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local	fair employn	nent practices agency that	investigated this charge.	
	Other (briefly state)				
	- NOTICE OF SU (See the additional information				
Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act: This will be the only notice of dismissal and of your right to sue that we will send you. You may file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) under federal law based on this charge in federal or state court. Your lawsuit must be filed WITHIN 90 DAYS of your receipt of this notice; or your right to sue based on this charge will be lost. (The time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be different.)					
Equal Pay Act (EPA): EPA suits must be filed in federal or state court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment. This means that backpay due for any violations that occurred more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit may not be collectible.					
On behalf of the Commission					
	win	-0		03/08/2021	
Enclosures(s)	William A. (		)	(Date Issued)	
EE AD 130	nmmy Baker EO/Grievance Officer OC 02 Pike Ave orth Little Rock, AR 72114			PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT	

Case 4:21-cv-00485-KGB Document 1-1 Filed 06/03/21 Page 1 of 2

JS 44 (Rev. 04/21)

CIVIL COVER SHEET 4:21-cv-485-KGB

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDAN	rs				
DEMARRIO MOSS			10 May 200 A 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION/				
						/		
(b) County of Residence	of First Listed Plaintiff Pulaski		County of Resider	DIVISION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTION  County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Pulaski				
a	EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		Lucione	(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF	CASES ONLY)			
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(c) Attorneys (Firm Name	Address, and Telephone Number)		Attorneys (If Know		6			
	r., PORTER LAW FIRM, 32	23 Center	Thorneys (1) Rollow	a)				
Street, Suite 10	35, Little Rock, Arkansas 7	72201	×					
	DICTION (Place an "X" in One Box (							
<u>(22-22-</u> )		Only)	CITIZENSHIP OF (For Diversity Cases Only	PRINCIPAL PAR	TIES (Place an "X" in On	e Box for Plaintiff		
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1	which you are filing 1964 (as amended)	g (Do not cite jurisdictional sta	tutes unless diversity):				
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Brief description of cause:							
VII. REQUESTED IN	Employment Discrimination							
COMPLAINT:	UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.F	SS ACTION	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES	S only if demanded in cor	mplaint:		
VIII. RELATED CASE		•		JURY DEM	AND: ×Yes	No		
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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	U	th	Austin Porter	Jr.				
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AMC	DUNT APP	LYING IFP	JUDGE	MA	.G. JUDGE			

JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 04/21)

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
  - County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below. П. United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box. Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked. Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity
- Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this III. section for each principal party.
- Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code IV. that is most applicable. Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes. V.
  - Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
  - Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing
  - Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or
  - Multidistrict Litigation Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C.
  - Multidistrict Litigation Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

WHEREAS, an action is pending in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas, styled *Demario Moss v. Arkansas Department of Corrections/Division of Community Correction*, Case No. 4:21-CV-00485 KGB (hereinafter referred to as the "Action"), and

WHEREAS, the defendant in the Action, Arkansas Department of Corrections/Division of Community Correction (hereinafter "defendant") denies that it, or any officer, employee, or agent of the Arkansas Department of Corrections, have engaged in any wrongful, tortious or unlawful conduct of any kind, and

WHEREAS, the plaintiff in this action Demario Moss (hereinafter "plaintiff") and the defendant desire to compromise and settle the Action to avoid the costs and uncertainties of continued litigation;

NOW, THEREFORE, the plaintiff and the defendant agree to the following terms as full and final satisfaction of any and all claims, including any and all claims for costs and attorneys' fees, which were raised by plaintiff in the Action or could have been raised by plaintiff in the Action.

- 1. ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY DEFENDANT. Following entry of an Order dismissing the Action with prejudice, the defendant will pay a total of \$50,000 (Fifty Thousand Dollars and 00 cents) to plaintiff's undersigned attorney from which no withholdings shall be made as a 1099 will be issued.
- 2. <u>ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY PLAINTIFF.</u> The plaintiff, following final approval as required by paragraph 12, will move to dismiss the Action with prejudice.
- 3. <u>COMPLETE RELEASE AND WAIVER.</u> The plaintiff waives, releases, relinquishes and forever discharges the defendant from all claims, liens, or causes of action, known

or unknown, arising out of his employment with defendant prior to the date of signing the agreement, for damages, attorneys' fees, costs or recovery of any type against the defendant including any officers, officials, employees and agents of any defendant, in their official and individual capacities. Plaintiff also waives, releases, relinquishes and forever discharges the defendant from all causes of action that were brought or could have been brought in this case.

- 4. <u>ENTIRE AGREEMENT.</u> This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties. The plaintiff and defendant have not relied upon any promise or statement, oral or written, that is not set forth in this Agreement.
- 5. <u>MODIFICATION</u>. The plaintiff and defendant agree that this Agreement may not be modified, amended, or altered except by a written agreement executed by all parties.
- 6. <u>VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT.</u> The plaintiff and defendant acknowledge that each has read this Agreement, that each has had the opportunity to consult with legal counsel of their choosing concerning the advisability, meaning and effect of this Agreement, and that each has signed this Agreement voluntarily and without duress.
- 7. NO RESCISSION FOR MISTAKE. The plaintiff and defendant acknowledge that each has had the opportunity to investigate the facts and law relating to the claims raised in the Action and any additionally waived and released claims to the extent each deems necessary and appropriate. The plaintiff and defendant assume the risk of any mistake of fact or law and agree that any mistake of fact or law shall not be grounds for rescission or modification of any part of this Agreement.
- 8. <u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.</u> Plaintiff and defendant acknowledge that this document was agreed upon by both sides; the terms of which will not be construed against either side as the drafter.

9. <u>NO ADMISSION OF LIABLITY.</u> The plaintiff and defendant acknowledge that this Agreement is a compromise and is not an admission of liability or wrongdoing on the part of the defendant, or any officer, employee or official of any defendant or the Arkansas Department of Corrections. Plaintiff agrees that the Agreement is not admissible in any court or administrative body except as necessary to enforce its terms or as otherwise required by law.

10. <u>CHOICE OF LAW.</u> This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the substantive law of the State of Arkansas.

11. <u>SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS.</u> This Agreement shall be binding upon the plaintiff and defendant and each of their respective heirs, descendants, successors and assigns.

12. <u>EFFECTIVE DATE.</u> This Agreement shall not become effective until any necessary approvals have been obtained including by the Director of the Department of Finance & Administration and review by such Legislative Committee as may be required.

13. <u>EXECUTION</u>. The persons executing this document assert that they are authorized to do so by the party or parties on whose behalf they purport to act.

14. <u>COUNTERPARTS.</u> This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and the counterparts taken together, will have binding effect.

**PLAINTIFF** 

By Demarrio Modo

Title: Parole Agent

Date: 7-5-2023

DEFENDANT

Title: SECRETARY

Date: 30 300 = 23