



Issue Date: 03 October 2018

Case No.: 2018-STA-00032

In the Matter of:

PARIS JORDAN,

Complainant,

v.

TRUCKING EXPERTS, LLC,

Respondent.

ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
AND
ORDER OF DISMISSAL
AND
ORDER CANCELING HEARING

This case arises under the employee protection provisions of Section 31105 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, U.S. Code, Title 49, Section 31105, as amended by the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-53 (“STAA”). On October 1, 2018, the parties submitted a Confidential Settlement Agreement and General Release for review. Upon review of the settlement agreement, I find that its terms are fair, adequate, and reasonable, and do not contravene the public interest.

The settlement includes a General Release (paragraph 4) releasing claims in addition to the claim brought under the STAA. My authority to approve the settlement agreement is limited to matters that are before me – that is, to approve the settlement agreement only insofar as it resolves Ms. Jordan’s complaints under the STAA. My approval should not be construed as approving the resolution of any claims brought under any other federal statute or under state law. This reservation is not intended to address the effectiveness of the settlement or release with respect to other claims, and the parties are not precluded from raising the settlement agreement in the course of other proceedings, if any arise.

I construe paragraph 13, stating that the agreement “shall be governed and conformed in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois without regard to its conflict of laws provision,” as not limiting the authority of the Secretary of Labor or any Federal court, which shall be governed in all respects by the laws and regulations of the United States.

The parties agree that the terms of the settlement agreement shall be kept confidential (*see* paragraph 10). The parties state their understanding that this binds only the parties, and does not bind the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) or prohibit disclosures made by DOL pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). FOIA requires federal agencies to disclose requested documents unless they are exempt from disclosure. *Faust v. Chemical Leaman Tank Lines, Inc.*, Case Nos. 92-SWD-2 and 93-STA-15, ARB Final Order Approving Settlement and Dismissing Complaint, March 31, 1998. In the event the Agreement is disclosed pursuant to FOIA, such disclosure is not a violation of the agreement.

Accordingly, with the reservations noted above and limiting my approval to the complaints brought under STAA, **IT IS ORDERED:**

1. The settlement agreement between the parties submitted on October 1, 2018, is **APPROVED**.
2. This matter is **DISMISSED** with prejudice.
3. The formal hearing in this matter scheduled for October 25-26, 2018, in Chicago, Illinois, is **CANCELED**.

SO ORDERED.

MONICA MARKLEY
Administrative Law Judge

MM/jcb
Newport News, VA