#### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE

THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE ("Agreement") is made and entered into by and between Fulton County, Georgia ("FULTON COUNTY"), Sheriff Myron Freeman ("FREEMAN"), and Prison Legal News ("PLN").

#### WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, PLN filed a civil action against FULTON COUNTY and FREEMAN, in his official and individual capacity (collectively "DEFENDANTS") in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia (designated as Civil Action File 1:07-CV-2618-CAP), alleging violations of its civil rights under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and various statutory and constitutional rights secured pursuant to the United States and Georgia Constitutions based upon the conduct of the Defendants with regard to the Fulton County Jail Mail Policy;

WHEREAS, PLN, FULTON COUNTY and FREEMAN desire fully and finally to resolve all matters between them including, but not limited to, the aforementioned claims and any other matters or claims arising out of or related to Civil Action File No. 1:07-CV-2618-CAP arising at or before the date of this Agreement;

WHEREAS the District Court previously entered Orders providing for injunctive relief and, as a result, the damages claims of Prison Legal News remained unresolved;

**NOW THEREFORE,** in consideration of the promises and covenants herein contained, it is agreed as follows:

#### FIRST: NON-ADMISSION OF LIABILITY OR WRONGDOING

The parties in no way acknowledge any fault or liability to each other or to any other person or entity for damages, and this Agreement shall not in any way be construed as an

admission by any party or any other person or entity of any fault or liability to either party or any other person or entity for damages.

#### SECOND: CONSENT JUDGMENT

The Parties agree to execute and file the Consent Judgment attached hereto as Exhibit A.

The parties agree that the Consent Judgment attached shall fully and fairly resolve all issues and claims between the parties with the exception of the amount and entitlement to attorney's fees.

#### THIRD: NO FUTURE LAWSUITS OR COMPLAINTS

PLN warrants that it has not filed any other lawsuits, claims or charges against FULTON COUNTY or FREEMAN. PLN promises never to file any charge, lawsuit or any other legal proceeding with any court or government agency asserting any claim that is released by this Agreement. PLN further represents and agrees that if any agency, court or other body assumes jurisdiction of any such complaint, charge, claim or legal proceeding against FULTON COUNTY or FREEMAN based upon a claim that is released in this Agreement, PLN will request that such agency, court or other body to withdraw from and/or dismiss the matter with prejudice.

#### FOURTH: CONSIDERATION BY FULTON COUNTY and FREEMAN

FULTON COUNTY and FREEMAN agree that, provided PLN signs and returns to counsel for FULTON COUNTY and FREEMAN the original of this Agreement, the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) will be paid to PLN. The parties agree that the Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) is a gross amount and represents an amount paid in settlement of the disputed claims raised, or claims that could have been raised, in Civil Action File No. 1:07-CV-2618-CAP, as well as any other claims arising on or before the date of this Agreement, with the exception of any attorney's fees incurred by PLN in this matter.

#### FIFTH: COMPLETE RELEASE

As a material inducement to FULTON COUNTY and FREEMAN to enter into this Agreement, PLN irrevocably and unconditionally releases and forever discharges FREEMAN and FULTON COUNTY and each and all of its respective current and former employees, the Board of Commissioners, any Fulton County department and/ or department head, representatives, attorneys, insurers, or government subsidiary (collectively referred to as "FULTON COUNTY-RELATED RELEASEES"), from any and all complaints, charges, allegations, liabilities, obligations, promises, agreements, controversies, damages, actions, causes of action, suits, rights, demands, costs, losses, debts, and expenses (excluding attorneys' fees and costs actually incurred as allowed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988 and 28 U.S.C. §1920) of any nature whatsoever, known or unknown, which PLN now has or claims to have, or which PLN at any time heretofore had or claimed to have, or which PLN at any time hereafter may have or claim to have against FREEMAN and FULTON COUNTY or any of the FULTON COUNTY-RELATED RELEASEES for damages, arising out of or related to any act, omission, event, fact or other thing pertaining to the subject matter of Civil Action File No. 1:07-CV-2618-CAP, which existed or occurred on or prior to the date of PLN'S signing of this Agreement.

The claims released by PLN herein include, but are not limited to, those claims which arise from, allegedly arise from, are based on, are related to, or are connected with any and all claims, counterclaims, causes of action, damages, or demands set out or that could have been set out in Civil Action File No. 1:07-CV-2618-CAP.

SIXTH: PLN'S UNDERSTANDING; FULL RELEASE; VOLUNTARY
SIGNING; PERIOD OF CONSIDERATION; FULL AND
INDEPENDENT KNOWLEDGE

PLN hereby represents and warrants:

- (1) that it has CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND UNDERSTANDS

  THE PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT;
- (2) that it understands that this Agreement FOREVER RELEASES FULTON
  COUNTY and FREEMAN and the other FULTON COUNTY-RELATED
  RELEASEES from any legal claim to damages for matters which occurred prior to the date of execution of this Agreement;
- (3) that it is VOLUNTARILY SIGNING AND DELIVERING THIS

  AGREEMENT OF HIS OWN FREE WILL, without duress or pressure, after having taken as much time as it needs for full consideration of this Agreement and to obtain advice from an attorney regarding it; and
- (4) that it has the capacity to enter into this Agreement.

#### **SEVENTH: OWNERSHIP OF CLAIMS**

PLN represents and agrees that it has not assigned or transferred, or purported to assign or transfer, to any person or entity, any claim or any portion thereof, or interest therein against FULTON COUNTY or FREEMAN, or any of the FULTON COUNTY-RELATED RELEASEES.

### EIGHTH: NO RELIANCE ON FULTON COUNTY OR FREEMAN'S REPRESENTATIONS

PLN represents that, in signing this Agreement, it has not relied on any representation(s) or statement(s) not specifically set forth in this Agreement by FULTON COUNTY or FREEMAN, or any of the other FULTON COUNTY-RELATED RELEASEES (or by any of

their agents, representatives or attorneys) with regard to the subject matter, basis or effect of this Agreement or otherwise.

#### **NINTH:** SUCCESSORS

This Agreement shall be binding upon PLN and upon any and all of its heirs, administrators, representatives, officials, executors, successors and assigns, and shall inure to the benefit of FULTON COUNTY and FREEMAN and the other FULTON COUNTY-RELATED RELEASEES, and to their respective representatives, successors and assigns.

#### TENTH: GOVERNING LAW

This Agreement is made and entered into in the State of Georgia, and shall in all respects be interpreted, enforced and governed under the laws of the State of Georgia.

#### **ELEVENTH: PROPER CONSTRUCTION**

- (1) The language of all parts of this Agreement shall in all cases be construed as a whole according to its fair meaning, and not strictly for or against either of the parties.
- (2) As used in this Agreement, the term "or" shall be deemed to include the term "and/or" and the singular or plural number shall be deemed to include the other whenever the context so indicates or requires.
- (3) The paragraph headings used in this Agreement are intended solely for convenience of reference and shall not in any manner amplify, limit, modify or otherwise be used in the interpretation of any of the provisions hereof.

#### TWELFTH: <u>SEVERABILITY</u>

Should any of the provisions of this Agreement be declared or be determined to be illegal or invalid, the validity of the remaining parts, terms or provisions shall not be affected thereby

and said illegal or invalid part, term or provision shall be deemed not to be a part of this Agreement.

#### THIRTEENTH: ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Agreement sets forth the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and fully supersedes any and all prior agreements or understandings between the parties hereto pertaining to the subject matter hereof.

Executed this day of _	, 2009.
	"PLN"
	BY
Sworn to and subscribed to me befo Notary Public this day of	
Notary Public	
My Commission Expires [seal]	_
Executed this 28 day of _	October, 2009.
	"FULTON COUNTY and FREEMAN"
	BY: Hard like

# EXHIBIT A

#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

PRISON LEGAL NEWS,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	CIVIL ACTION FILE
v.	)	NO. 1:07-CV-2618-CAP
••	)	10. 1.0, 0. 2010 0111
FULTON COUNTY, GA and	)	
SHERIFF MYRON FREEMAN,	)	
Individually and in his official	)	
Capacity as Fulton County Sheriff	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
	_)	

#### CONSENT JUDGMENT

It having appeared to this Court that the parties have reached an agreement on the issue of liability and damages exclusive of court costs and court-awarded attorney's fees, it is hereby Ordered that the Clerk of Court enter Judgment on behalf of the Plaintiff and against the Defendants in an amount of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00).

SO	ORDERED	this	day of, 2	2009.
				•••
			Hon. Charles A. Pannell	
			United States District Court Ju	ıdge

/s/ Gerald Weber

Gerald Weber

[signed with express permission]

Post Office Box 5391

Atlanta, GA 31107

Georgia Bar No: 744878

/s/ Niki	sha L.	<i>McDonald</i>
Steven F	losenber	g
Georgia	Bar No:	614560
Nikisha	L. McDo	nald
Georgia	Bar No:	489573

Atlanta, GA 30303

/s/ Brian Spears
Brian Spears
[signed with express permission]
1126 Ponce de Leon Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30306
Georgia Bar No: 670112

## Office of the County Attorney 141 Pryor Street, Suite 4038

Attorneys for Defendant Freeman

#### Attorneys for Plaintiff