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Attorneys for Plaintiff VERNELL BATTLE, JR., on behalf of himself and others

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE – CIVIL COMPLEX CENTER

VERNELL BATTLE, JR., on behalf of himself
and other similarly-situated employees,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SAFRAN CABIN, INC., a Delaware
Corporation; and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 30-2020-01140831-CU-OE-CXC
ASSIGNED FOR ALL PURPOSES TO:
The Honorable Peter J. Wilson
Department CX 102

CLASS ACTION

**DECLARATION OF VERNELL BATTLE,
JR. IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT**

Hearing Information

Date: September 22, 2022
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Dept: CX 102
Judge: Hon. Peter J. Wilson

Complaint filed: May 26, 2020
Trial date: Not set

1 I, Vernell Battle, Jr., declare as follows:

2 1. I am over the age of eighteen years of age. If called as a witness, I could testify to the facts
3 in this declaration based on my personal knowledge. I submit this declaration in support of the Motion
4 for Preliminary Approval of Class and PAGA Action Settlement, my adequacy to serve as a
5 representative of the Class, and my requested Class Representative Service Award.

6 2. I am not related to any attorney working on the case, I am not aware of any interests I
7 have that are averse to the interests of any class member, and I do not have any conflicts that would
8 keep me from adequately representing the class. I have been and remain committed to prosecuting this
9 case vigorously on behalf of the class. I agreed to become a representative and named plaintiff in this
10 case to represent other employees who experienced similar violations as me.

11 3. From March 2016 to February 2020, I worked for Defendant Safran Cabin in Orange
12 County at its Cypress facility. I was an hourly non-exempt technician, working primarily as an
13 installation technician in the building and fitting of aircraft interiors.

14 4. After my employment ended, I retained the law firms of Cohelan Khoury & Singer and
15 Davtyan Law Firm, Inc. to pursue this case as a proposed wage and hour Class and PAGA
16 Representative action. I contended some of Safran's policies and procedures were unlawful, including
17 not paying me all regular and overtime wages owed and not providing me with all meal and rest breaks,
18 which directly led to Safran's failure to provide me with accurate wage statements and all wages owed
19 to me upon my separation from the company.

20 5. While deciding whether to pursue a case against Safran, and since my claims were filed
21 with the Labor and Workplace Development Agency (LWDA) and in this lawsuit over two years ago,
22 I have had many calls with my attorneys, and exchanged many emails with them, and provided all the
23 documents and records they requested about my employment, including earnings statements, text
24 messages, and various other materials. I also signed documents so my attorneys could request additional
25 employment and payroll records from Safran.

26 6. I agreed to file this lawsuit to help others who were not aware of their rights, or were
27 afraid to complain for fear of losing their jobs. I understood the lawsuit could continue for well over a
28 year or two, which it has, and require my attention the entire time.

1 7. I understood by filing a class action against an employer I risked losing future jobs because
2 an internet search would show I sued a past employer.

3 8. Despite the risks, I am proud to have my name on the case and to have caused Safran to
4 pay my fellow employees a substantial amount because I filed it.

5 9. As part of my duties and responsibilities as a Class Representative, I was informed Safran
6 had the right to take my deposition. I was told my deposition preparation and deposition itself would
7 take multiple days, and that my attorneys would prepare me so that I would be comfortable when giving
8 my testimony. Although my deposition was ultimately not taken, I feel I would have been adequately
9 prepared and able to testify effectively about my experience at Safran.

10 10. To prepare for mediation, in September 2021, I discussed the case in detail with my
11 attorneys, including its potential strengths and weaknesses. I believe my thorough knowledge of
12 Safran's practices helped them to evaluate the claims, assess the potential damages, and develop
13 persuasive presentations for each mediation.

14 11. I made myself available the day of mediation. I believe my efforts helped obtain the results
15 in this case. I reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding following mediation, discussed it with my
16 attorneys, and signed it.

17 12. I have reviewed the proposed settlement agreement in this case, and after discussions with
18 my attorneys, signed it. Based on my involvement and the issues and risks involved in this case, I
19 believe the proposed settlement obtained on behalf of the Class is a good result.

20 13. I understand I am eligible for an additional payment for acting as a class representative,
21 and that this payment is subject to Court approval. Considering the risks I took, the money class
22 members will receive as part of the settlement, and the years I waited to receive anything, I believe the
23 requested award of \$7,500 is reasonable.

24 14. It is hard to determine exactly how much time I spent on this case over the past 27 months,
25 but I would estimate it's somewhere between 35 to 40 total hours, which is just over 1 hour each month.
26 Some weeks required much more time than others, particularly during the time before filing the lawsuit,
27 and the time leading up to mediation, and even more time thinking about the issues in the case and the
28 possible outcome. I know that all the time I spent on the case was time I could not spend with my family

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California the foregoing is true and correct and this declaration is executed 8/10/2022, in Los Angeles, California.

Vernell Battle, Jr.