

PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: Rigoberto Perez, et al.
 DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: AC&A LLC

CASE NUMBER:
 30-2018-01018729-CU-OE-CXC

**PROOF OF SERVICE BY FIRST-CLASS MAIL
 NOTICE OF ENTRY OF JUDGMENT OR ORDER**

(NOTE: You cannot serve the Notice of Entry of Judgment or Order if you are a party in the action. The person who served the notice must complete this proof of service.)

1. I am at least 18 years old and **not a party to this action**. I am a resident of or employed in the county where the mailing took place, and my residence or business address is (*specify*):

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PROOF OF SERVICE.

2. I served a copy of the *Notice of Entry of Judgment or Order* by enclosing it in a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid and (*check one*):

- a. ☐ deposited the sealed envelope with the United States Postal Service.
 b. ☐ placed the sealed envelope for collection and processing for mailing, following this business's usual practices, with which I am readily familiar. On the same day correspondence is placed for collection and mailing, it is deposited in the ordinary course of business with the United States Postal Service.

3. The *Notice of Entry of Judgment or Order* was mailed:

- a. on (*date*):
 b. from (*city and state*):

4. The envelope was addressed and mailed as follows:

- a. Name of person served:

Street address:

City:

State and zip code:

- b. Name of person served:

Street address:

City:

State and zip code:

- c. Name of person served:

Street address:

City:

State and zip code:

- d. Name of person served:

Street address:

City:

State and zip code:

☐ Names and addresses of additional persons served are attached. (*You may use form POS-030(P).*)

5. Number of pages attached:

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: July 31, 2025

Isabel Yang

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF DECLARANT)



Isabel Yang

(SIGNATURE OF DECLARANT)

EXHIBIT A

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE – CIVIL COMPLEX CENTER

RIGOBERTO PEREZ, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general public similarly situated; JEANNETTE BELLO, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general public similarly situated and on behalf of other aggrieved employees pursuant to the California Private Attorneys General Act;

Plaintiffs,

v.

AC&A LLC, an unknown business entity; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 30-2018-01018729-CU-OE-CXC

Honorable Layne H. Melzer
Department CX102

CLASS ACTION

FINAL APPROVAL ORDER AND JUDGMENT

Date: July 17, 2025
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Department: CX102

Complaint Filed: September 14, 2018
FAC Filed: August 13, 2020
Trial Date: None Set

1 This matter has come before the Honorable Layne H. Melzer in Department CX102 of
2 the above-entitled Court, located at 751 West Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, California 92701, on
3 Plaintiffs Rigoberto Perez and Jeannette Bello (together, “Plaintiffs”) Motion for Final Approval
4 of Class Action Settlement, Attorneys’ Fees, Costs, and Enhancement Awards which was filed
5 on May 2, 2025 (ROA 252-262) (“Motion for Final Approval”). Lawyers for Justice, PC
6 appeared as counsel for Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated and
7 the State of California with respect to other aggrieved employees and Jeffer Mangels Butler &
8 Mitchell LLP appeared as counsel for Defendant AC&A Enterprises, LLC (“Defendant”).

9 On November 27, 2024, the Court entered the Order Granting Preliminary Approval of
10 Class Action and PAGA Settlement (“Preliminary Approval Order”) (ROA 244), thereby
11 preliminarily approving the settlement of the above-entitled action in accordance with the Joint
12 Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement, Amendment No.1 to Joint Stipulation of
13 Class Action and PAGA Settlement, and Amendment No.2 to Joint Stipulation of Class Action
14 and PAGA Settlement (collectively, “Settlement,” “Agreement,” or “Settlement Agreement”),
15 attached as “EXHIBIT A” to the Declaration of Brian J. St. John in Support of Plaintiffs’ Motion
16 for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement (ROA 182), “EXHIBIT C” to the Further
17 Supplemental Declaration of Brian J. St. John in Support of Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary
18 Approval of Class Action Settlement (ROA 228), and “EXHIBIT B” to the Second Further
19 Supplemental Declaration of Brian J. St. John in Support of Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary
20 Approval of Class Action Settlement (ROA 235), respectively, which, together with the exhibits
21 annexed thereto, set forth the terms and conditions for settlement of the Action.

22 On May 21, 2025, the Court issued a Tentative Ruling on Plaintiffs’ Motion for Final
23 Approval (“May 21, 2025 Tentative Ruling”), by which it raised multiple points of inquiry with
24 regards to the Motion for Final Approval and requested additional information and/or revised
25 papers in support of the Motion for Final Approval. On May 22, 2025, after all Parties had
26 submitted on the May 21, 2025 Tentative Ruling, the Court issued a Minute Order (ROA # 268)
27 (“May 22, 2025 Minute Order”), thereby adopting the May 21, 2025 Tentative Ruling as its
28 order, continuing the hearing on the Motion for Final Approval to July 17, 2025 at 2:00 p.m., and

1 setting a deadline of July 3, 2025 for the submission of supplemental papers in support of the
2 Motion for Final Approval.

3 On July 3, 2025, Plaintiffs filed the Declaration of Joanna Ghosh in Support of Plaintiffs’
4 Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement, Attorneys’ Fees, Costs, and Enhancement
5 Awards (ROA 274) and [Revised Proposed] Final Approval Order and Judgment of Class and
6 Representative Action Settlement (ROA 272).

7 On July 17, 2025, the Court issued a tentative ruling granting the Motion for Final
8 Approval (“July 17, 2025 Tentative Ruling”) and held a hearing on the Motion for Final
9 Approval. The July 17, 2025 Tentative Ruling was adopted by the Court as its ruling.

10 Having reviewed the Settlement Agreement and duly considered the parties’ papers and
11 oral argument, and good cause appearing,

12 **THE COURT HEREBY ORDERS, ADJUDGES, AND DECREES AS FOLLOWS:**

13 1. All terms used herein shall have the same meaning as defined in the Settlement
14 Agreement and the Preliminary Approval Order.

15 2. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims of the Class Members asserted in this
16 proceeding and over all parties to the Action.

17 3. The Court finds that the applicable requirements of California Code of Civil
18 Procedure section 382 and California Rule of Court 3.769, et seq. have been satisfied with
19 respect to the Class and the Settlement. The Court hereby makes final its earlier provisional
20 certification of the Class for settlement purposes, as set forth in the Preliminary Approval Order.

21 The Class is hereby defined to include:

22 All current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees who worked for
23 Defendant within the State of California at any time during the period from
September 14, 2014 through October 31, 2023 (“Class” or “Class Members”).

24 4. The Notice of Class Action and PAGA Settlement (“Notice”) that was provided to
25 the Class Members, fully and accurately informed the Class Members of all material elements of
26 the Settlement and of their opportunity to participate in, object to, or comment on the Settlement,
27 or to seek exclusion from the Settlement as it pertains to the Released Class Claims; was the best
28 notice practicable under the circumstances; was valid, due, and sufficient notice to all Class

1 Members; and complied fully with the laws of the State of California, the United States
2 Constitution, due process and other applicable law. The Notice fairly and adequately described
3 the Settlement and provided the Class Members with adequate instructions and a variety of
4 means to obtain additional information.

5 5. Pursuant to California law, the Court hereby grants final approval of the
6 Settlement and finds that it is reasonable and adequate, and in the best interests of the Class as a
7 whole. More specifically, the Court finds that the Settlement was reached following meaningful
8 discovery and investigation conducted by Lawyers for Justice, PC (“Class Counsel”); that the
9 Settlement is the result of serious, informed, adversarial, and arms-length negotiations between
10 the parties; and that the terms of the Settlement are in all respects fair, adequate, and reasonable.
11 In so finding, the Court has considered all of the evidence presented, including evidence
12 regarding the strength of Plaintiffs’ claims; the risk, expense, and complexity of the claims
13 presented; the likely duration of further litigation; the amount offered in the Settlement; the
14 extent of investigation and discovery completed; and the experience and views of Class Counsel.
15 The Court has further considered the absence of objections to the Settlement submitted by Class
16 Members. Accordingly, the Court hereby directs that the Settlement be affected in accordance
17 with the Settlement Agreement and the following terms and conditions.

18 6. A full opportunity has been afforded to the Class Members to participate in the
19 Final Approval Hearing, and all Class Members and other persons wishing to be heard have been
20 heard. The Class Members also have had a full and fair opportunity to exclude themselves from
21 the Settlement as it pertains to the Released Class Claims. Accordingly, the Court determines
22 that all Class Members who did not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion
23 (“Participating Class Members”) are bound by the release of Released Class Claims and this
24 order and judgment (“Final Approval Order and Judgment”), and all current and former hourly-
25 paid or non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant within the State of California at any
26 time during the period from September 14, 2017 through October 31, 2023 (“PAGA Members”)
27 are bound by the release of Released PAGA Claims and this Final Approval Order and
28 Judgment.

1 7. The Court finds that no Class Members have submitted a Request for Exclusion.

2 8. The Court finds that payment of Settlement Administration Expenses in the
3 amount of \$9,000.00 to the Settlement Administrator, Phoenix Settlement Administrators, is
4 appropriate for the services performed and costs incurred and to be incurred for the notice and
5 settlement administration process. It is hereby ordered that the Settlement Administrator shall
6 issue payment to itself in the amount of \$9,000.00, in accordance with the terms and
7 methodology set forth in Settlement Agreement.

8 9. The Court finds that Enhancement Awards in the amount of \$5,000.00 to Plaintiff
9 Rigoberto Perez and in the amount of \$2,500.00 to Plaintiff Jeannette Bello are fair and
10 reasonable. It is hereby ordered that the Settlement Administrator issue payment in the amount
11 of \$5,000.00 to Plaintiff Rigoberto Perez and payment in the amount of \$2,500.00 to Plaintiff
12 Jeannette Bello for their Enhancement Awards, according to the terms and methodology set forth
13 in the Settlement Agreement.

14 10. The Court finds that the allocation of \$50,000.00 toward civil penalties under the
15 California Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA Payment”), is fair, reasonable, and
16 appropriate, and hereby approved. The Settlement Administrator shall distribute the PAGA
17 Payment as follows: the amount of \$37,500.00 to the California Labor and Workforce
18 Development Agency, and the amount of \$12,500.00 to PAGA Members on a pro rata basis,
19 according to the terms and methodology set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

20 11. The Court finds that the payment of attorneys’ fees in the amount of \$481,250.00
21 to Class Counsel are fair, reasonable, and appropriate, and are hereby approved. It is hereby
22 ordered that the Settlement Administrator issue payment in the amount of \$481,250.00 to Class
23 Counsel for attorneys’ fees, in accordance with the terms and methodology set forth in the
24 Settlement Agreement.

25 12. The Court finds that reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses in the amount
26 of \$16,216.43 to Class Counsel is reasonable, and hereby approved. It is hereby ordered that the
27 Settlement Administrator issue payment in the amount of \$16,216.43 to Class Counsel for
28

1 reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses, in accordance with the terms and methodology
2 set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

3 13. The Court hereby enters Judgment by which Participating Class Members shall be
4 conclusively determined to have given a release of any and all Released Class Claims against the
5 Released Parties, and all PAGA Members shall be conclusively determined to have given a
6 release of any and all Released PAGA Claims, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and
7 Notice.

8 14. It is hereby ordered that Defendant shall deposit the Settlement Fund of
9 \$1,750,000.00, plus Defendant's employer's share of taxes and contributions on the wages
10 portion of Individual Class Payments, into the qualified settlement account established by the
11 Settlement Administrator within sixty (60) calendar days of the Effective Date, in accordance
12 with the terms and methodology set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

13 15. It is hereby ordered that the Settlement Administrator shall distribute Individual
14 Class Payments to the Participating Class Members within seventy-five (75) calendar days after
15 the Effective Date, according to the methodology and terms set forth in the Settlement
16 Agreement.

17 16. It is hereby ordered that the Settlement Administrator shall distribute Individual
18 PAGA Payments to PAGA Members within seventy-five (75) calendar days after the Effective
19 Date, according to the methodology and terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

20 17. Each Individual Class Payment and Individual PAGA Payment shall be valid for
21 one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days from the date of initial issuance, and thereafter, shall
22 be canceled and said cancellation shall not affect the validity of the releases of claims provided
23 and the Participating Class Member shall be deemed to, nevertheless, be bound by the release of
24 Released Class Claims and PAGA Members shall be deemed to, nevertheless, be bound by the
25 release of Released PAGA Claims. Thereafter all remaining funds shall be transmitted by the
26 Settlement Administrator to the California State Controller's Office Unclaimed Property
27 Division, for the benefit of those Participating Class Members and PAGA Members who did not
28 cash their checks until such time that they claim their property.

1 18. After entry of this Final Approval Order and Judgment, pursuant to California
2 Code of Civil Procedure, Section 664.6, and California Rules of Court, Rule 3.769(h), the Court
3 shall retain jurisdiction to construe, interpret, implement, and enforce the Settlement Agreement
4 and this Final Approval Order and Judgment, to hear and resolve any contested challenge to a
5 claim for settlement benefits, and to supervise and adjudicate any dispute arising from or in
6 connection with the distribution of settlement benefits.

7 19. A Final Accounting Hearing is set for June 18, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. in Department
8 CX102. Class Counsel shall submit a final accounting report from the Settlement Administrator
9 no later than June 2, 2026.

10 20. Individualized notice of this Final Approval Order and Judgment is not required.
11 A copy of the Final Approval Order and Judgment shall be posted on Phoenix Settlement
12 Administrators' website for a period of at least sixty (60) calendar days after the date of entry of
13 this Final Approval Order and Judgment.

14
15 Dated: July 30, 2025



HONORABLE LAYNE H. MELZER
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

EXHIBIT B

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF ORANGE
CIVIL COMPLEX CENTER**

MINUTE ORDER

DATE: 07/17/2025

TIME: 02:00:00 PM

DEPT: CX102

JUDICIAL OFFICER PRESIDING: Layne H. Melzer

CLERK: L. Mendez

REPORTER/ERM: None

BAILIFF/COURT ATTENDANT: A. Condaras

CASE NO: **30-2018-01018729-CU-OE-CXC** CASE INIT.DATE: 09/14/2018

CASE TITLE: **Perez vs. AC&A LLC**

CASE CATEGORY: Civil - Unlimited CASE TYPE: Other employment

EVENT ID/DOCUMENT ID: 74573525

EVENT TYPE: Motion for Final Approval

MOVING PARTY: Rigoberto Perez

CAUSAL DOCUMENT/DATE FILED: Motion - Other For Final Approval of Class Action Settlement, Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Enhancement Awards, 05/02/2025

APPEARANCES

Brian St. John, from Lawyers for Justice, PC, present for Plaintiff(s) remotely.

Taylor Burras, from Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP, present for Defendant(s) remotely.

Hearing held, all participants appearing remotely.

Tentative Ruling posted on the Internet.

The Court having fully considered the arguments of all parties, both written and oral, as well as the evidence presented, now confirms the tentative ruling as follows:

Having reviewed and considered the supplemental papers filed in support of plaintiffs' motion for final approval of a \$1,750,000 class action and PAGA settlement, the court finds the settlement is fair and reasonable and therefore GRANTS the motion and approves the following specific awards and disbursements:

- * Attorneys' fees in the amount of \$481,250 (27.5% of the GSA) to class counsel. The court finds this amount, reduced from the amount requested, to be reasonable in light of the quality of the result obtained, the work performed by class counsel, a review of the billing records provided, and the estimated lodestar. In approving this amount and examining the billing records, the court is not approving the hourly billing rates proposed by class counsel or a multiplier.

- * Litigation costs in the amount of \$16,216.43;

- * Settlement administration costs of \$9,000 awarded to Phoenix Settlement Administrators;

- * Class representative enhancement payments totaling \$7,500, with \$5,000 awarded to plaintiff Rigoberto Perez, and \$2,500 awarded to plaintiff Jeannette Bello;

- * \$37,500 remitted to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) for its share of PAGA penalties.

The Net Settlement Amount payable to all class members and aggrieved employees is \$1,198,533.57, including the \$12,500 in PAGA penalties to be distributed to the aggrieved employees in accordance with the terms of the settlement.

The Final Accounting is set for June 18, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in Department CX102. Counsel shall

submit the final report of the settlement administrator regarding the status of the settlement administration no later than sixteen (16) calendar days prior to the hearing. The final report must include all information necessary for the court to determine the total amount of the settlement funds actually paid to the class members and aggrieved employees, and the amount of unclaimed funds, if any, remitted to the State Controller's Office. If the settlement funds are not completely disbursed by the report deadline, counsel must request a continuance.

Within five (5) court days, class counsel must submit a revised proposed order consistent with the above and that corrects the first 24 pages, which reflect formatting errors. Counsel must also submit a redline showing all changes.

Plaintiff is ordered to give notice of this ruling, including to the LWDA, and file proof of service within five (5) court days after entry of the final approval order and judgment.

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is 450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900, Glendale, California 91203.

On July 31, 2025, I served the foregoing document(s) described as: **NOTICE OF ENTRY OF JUDGMENT OR ORDER** on interested parties in this action by Electronic Service as follows:

Barbra A. Arnold (*baa@jmbm.com*)
Taylor N. Burras (*TBurras@jmbm.com*)
JEFFER MANGELS BUTLER & MITCHELL, LLP
1900 Avenue of the Stars, 7th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90067

Attorneys for Defendant AC&A Enterprises, LLC (Incorrectly named AC&A LLC)

[X] BY E-MAIL

The above-referenced document was transmitted to the person(s) at the e-mail addresses listed herein at their most recent known e-mail address or e-mail of record in this action. I did not receive, within reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

State of California, Labor & Workforce Development Agency Web URL:

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/Private-Attorneys-General-Act/Private-Attorneys-General-Act.html>

[X] BY ONLINE SUBMISSION

The foregoing documents were transmitted to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency through the online system established for the submission of notices and documents, in conformity with California Labor Code section 2699(l). I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

[X] STATE

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

Executed on July 31, 2025, at Glendale, California.


Isabel Yang