

Larry W. Lee (State Bar No. 228175)
Mai Tulyathan (State Bar No. 316704)
DIVERSITY LAW GROUP, P.C.
515 S. Figueroa St., Suite 1250
Los Angeles, CA 90071
(213) 488-6555
(213) 488-6554 facsimile

William L. Marder (State Bar No. 170131)
Polaris Law Group LLP
501 San Benito Street, Suite 200
Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 531-4214
(831) 634-0333 facsimile

Attorneys for Plaintiff, the Class, and Aggrieved Employees

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF KERN

VALERIA RODRIGUEZ, as an individual
and on behalf of all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOHN BEAN TECHNOLOGIES
CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation;
and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: BCV-20-101913-JEB

[Assigned for all purposes to the Hon. J. Eric
Bradshaw, Dept. J]

**DECLARATION OF LARRY W. LEE IN
SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR FINAL
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT**

Date: June 6, 2022

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Dept.: J

Complaint Filed: August 17, 2020

FAC Filed: August 18, 2021

Trial Date: None

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

I, Larry W. Lee, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney at law, duly licensed to practice before all Courts in the State of California, and am with the law firm Diversity Law Group, counsel of record for Named Plaintiff Valeria Rodriguez (“Plaintiff”). I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth below and if called to testify I could and would do so competently.

2. The proposed settlement meets the criteria for this Court to grant final approval of this matter on a class-wide basis, as the settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable.

3. The Settlement Agreement was the product of negotiations between highly able and experienced attorneys on both sides who possessed the relevant data and extensive legal research which they had carefully analyzed. The Parties engaged in arm's length negotiations at mediation with a highly experienced and known wage-and-hour mediation, Michael J. Loeb, Esq., and continued further negotiations facilitated by Mr. Loeb for several months.

4. Class Counsel engaged in extensive factual investigation before settling, including exchange of informal discovery before mediation. In connection with mediation, Class Counsel reviewed class data, payroll data, and information pertaining to Defendant's sick pay, shift premium pay, and wage statement policies and practices. Class Counsel subsequently engaged the services of an expert to evaluate and calculate the potential class and PAGA penalties available in this case.

5. I have spent significant time researching and pursuing the claims that have been alleged in this action. Based on my independent investigations and evaluations, I am of the opinion that the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in the best interests of the Class Members, in light of all known facts and circumstances, and the expenses and risks inherent in litigation. The settlement was negotiated at arms' length and was facilitated by an experienced and neutral mediator. Thus, this settlement should be granted final approval.

6. Any remaining monies from uncashed settlement checks will be distributed to the *cypres* recipient Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles (AAJC), a legal and civil rights non-profit organization that provides free legal aid to low-income communities with a

1 focus on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, in accordance with C.C.P. §
2 384. Plaintiff's Counsel does not have any relationship with or connection to said organization.

3 7. My qualifications are as follows: I received my JD from Arizona State University
4 College of Law in 2003. During law school, I was a summer associate at the law firm of
5 Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison. I graduated cum laude from Arizona State University College of
6 Law in the top 10% of my class. While I was in law school, I was the Associate Managing Editor
7 of the Arizona State University College of Law, Law Journal. For more than one and one-half
8 years after graduating from law school, I practiced law as an associate at the Los Angeles County
9 offices of Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart, P.C., a national employment defense law
10 firm, representing Fortune 500 companies in employment matters, including wage and hour class
11 actions.

12 8. My primary practice is employment law. I have handled a number of wage and
13 hour matters including class actions and individual actions, on both plaintiff and defense sides. I
14 have a practice that encompasses cases throughout the State of California, including but not
15 limited to the Los Angeles Superior Courts, the Orange County Superior Courts, the San
16 Francisco County Superior Courts, the San Diego County Superior Courts, and the United States
17 District Courts for the Central, Eastern, Northern, and Southern Districts of California. I have
18 been named as Class Counsel in a number of class actions that have been granted final approval
19 by the Superior Courts of Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Francisco County, Alameda
20 County, Contra Costa County, Monterey County, San Bernardino County, Santa Clara County,
21 Sonoma County, and the United States District Court for the Central, Eastern, and Northern
22 Districts of California, including but not limited to the following class actions: Chan Lanier v.
23 Citigroup, Inc. et al., San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CGC-05-445143; Naqvi v.
24 Acoustic Home Loans et al., Orange County Superior Court Case No. 05CC00263; Ortega v.
25 AIG, Central District of California Case No. CV 06-0196-RSWL (PJWx); Universal Protection
26 Overtime Cases, Orange County Superior Court Case No. JCCP 4480; Tse v. Best Buy, Los
27 Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC392717; and Hernandez v. CVS Corporation, Los Angeles
28 Superior Court Case No. JCCP 4539.

9. I have been approved as class counsel in numerous other wage/hour class actions that have been granted class certification and final approval.

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

Executed on May 12th, 2022 at Los Angeles, California.


Larry W. Lee