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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MONTEREY

RATI GANDHALE, an individual, on
behalf of herself and on behalf of all
persons similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

SELECT REHABILITATION LLC, a
Limited Liability Company and DOES 1
through 50, Inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: **20CV002240**

(Consolidated with Case No. 21CV000740)

DECLARATION OF KYLE NORDREHAUG
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
SETTLEMENT

Hearing Date: June 10, 2022

Hearing Time: 8:30 a.m.

Dept: 14

Judge: Hon. Carrie M. Panetta

Action Filed: August 25, 2020

Trial Date: Not Set

1 I, Kyle Nordrehaug, declare as follows:

2 1. I am a partner of the law firm of Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP,
3 counsel of record for Rati Gandhale ("Plaintiff") in this matter. As such, I am fully familiar with
4 the facts, pleadings and history of this matter. The following facts are within my own personal
5 knowledge, and if called as a witness, I could testify competently to the matters stated herein.

6 2. This declaration is being submitted in support of the motion for preliminary approval
7 of the proposed class action settlement with Defendant Select Rehabilitation, LLC ("Defendant"),
8 and seeks entry of an order: (1) preliminarily approving the proposed settlement of this class action
9 with Defendant; (2) for settlement purposes only, conditionally certifying the Class, which is
10 comprised of "all individuals who are or previously were employed by Defendant in California in
11 one or more of the Covered Positions during Class Period [August 25, 2016 through December 28,
12 2021]"; (3) provisionally appointing Plaintiff as the representative of the Class; (4) provisionally
13 appointing Norman B. Blumenthal, Kyle R. Nordrehaug, Aparajit Bhowmik of Blumenthal
14 Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP as Class Counsel for the Class; (5) approving the form and
15 method for providing class-wide notice; (6) directing that notice of the proposed settlement be
16 given to the class; (7) appointing Simpluris as Settlement Administrator; and, (8) scheduling a final
17 approval hearing date to consider Plaintiff's motion for final approval of the settlement and entry of
18 the Judgment, and Plaintiff's motion for approval of attorneys' fees and expenses. Attached hereto
19 as Exhibit #1 is a copy of the fully executed Class Action Settlement Agreement ("Agreement")
20 along with exhibits thereto. This Declaration incorporates by reference the definitions in the
21 Agreement, and all terms defined therein shall have the same meaning as set forth in the
22 Agreement.

23
24 Fairness of Settlement

25 3. As consideration for this Settlement, the Gross Settlement Amount is One Million
26 Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,850,000) to be paid by Defendant, as set forth in the
27 Agreement. The Gross Settlement Amount is all-inclusive of all payments contemplated in this
28 resolution, excluding any employer-side payroll taxes on the portion of the settlement payments

1 allocated to wages which shall be separately paid by Defendant to the Settlement Administrator.

2 The Settlement is all-in with no reversion to Defendant and no need to submit a claim form.

3 4. The relief provided in the Settlement will benefit all members of the Class. The
4 Settlement does not grant preferential treatment to Plaintiff or segments of the Class in any way.
5 Payments to the Class Members are all determined under a neutral methodology. Each
6 Participating Class Member will receive the same opportunity to participate in and receive payment
7 through a neutral formula that is based upon the weeks worked by that individual.

8 5. On September 14, 2021, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided
9 over by David A. Rotman, a respected mediator of wage and hour representative and class actions.
10 In preparation for the mediation, Defendant provided Class Counsel with necessary information for
11 the members of the Class, including time data, payroll data and data concerning the composition of
12 the Class. Class Counsel analyzed the data with the assistance of damages expert, Berger
13 Consulting, and prepared and submitted a mediation brief and damage valuation to the Mediator.
14 At the conclusion of the all-day mediation, the Parties agreed to this Settlement. The final
15 settlement terms were negotiated and set forth in the Agreement now presented for this Court's
16 approval. Importantly, Plaintiff and Class Counsel believe that this Settlement is fair, reasonable
17 and adequate.

18 6. For the 1,702 Class Members who worked 82,178 work weeks, the Gross Settlement
19 Amount provides an average value of \$1,086 per Class Member and \$22 per workweek, and after
20 deductions, the Net Settlement Amount provides an average recovery of \$671 per Class Member
21 and \$13.91 per work week.¹ The calculations to compensate for the amount due to the Class
22 Members at the time this Settlement was negotiated were calculated by Plaintiff's expert, Berger
23

24 ¹ The final figures for Class Members (1,702) and work weeks (82,178) in the Class have been
25 verified by a Declaration provided by the Defendant as required by the Agreement. The final figures
26 for work weeks are less than what was estimated for mediation and the settlement, which means that
27 the valuations for damages based upon the work weeks significantly overstate the damages as they were
28 based upon 150,360 work weeks. Thus, the estimated damages would be reduced by 40% as compared
to what was calculated for mediation. The increase in the number of class members, with a decrease
in work weeks, does not change this reduction as damages and penalties are based primarily on the
weeks worked.

1 Consulting, in advance of mediation. For the individuals whose claims are at issue in this Actions,
2 Plaintiff analyzed the data for putative class members and determined the potential maximum
3 damages for the class claims. For the Class, Plaintiff determined that the maximum potential
4 unpaid overtime due to the alleged miscalculation of the regular rate was \$47,215, the potential off-
5 the-clock damages were \$2,850,384 for an alleged 30 min each week, the maximum potential meal
6 period damages were estimated to be \$7.2 million, after deducting premiums actually paid by
7 Defendant, the maximum rest period damages were estimated to be \$7.66 million, and the
8 maximum damages for unreimbursed expenses were estimated to be \$187,950 based upon \$5 per
9 month for cell phone usage. In total, the damages for the Class were calculated to have a maximum
10 total value of \$17,945,549. In addition, Plaintiff calculated that the maximum value of the waiting
11 time penalties were between \$395,247 and \$3,582,996 depending on the predicate violation giving
12 rise to the penalties, and the maximum value of the wage statement penalties were \$4,925,300,
13 however, these wage statement and waiting time penalties claims potentially have a much smaller
14 value, even if damages were awarded, to the extent that they are only derivative of the meal and rest
15 break claims.² Consequently, the Gross Settlement Amount represents more than 10% of the value
16 of the potential maximum damages at issue for the Class in this case, assuming these amounts could
17 all be proven in full at trial.³ The above maximum calculations should then be adjusted in
18 consideration for both the risk of certification and the risk of establishing class-wide liability on all
19 claims, as well as a 40% reduction for the over estimate of applicable workweeks. Thus, I would

20
21 ² While Plaintiff alleged claims for statutory penalties pursuant to Labor Code Sections 203 and
22 226, Plaintiff recognized that these derivative claims were subject to additional defenses asserted by
23 Defendant, including, but not limited to, a good faith dispute defense as to whether any premium wages
24 for meal or rest periods or other wages were owed given Defendant's position that Plaintiffs were
25 properly compensated. *See Nordstrom Commission Cases*, 186 Cal. App. 4th 576, 584 (2010) ("There
26 is no willful failure to pay wages if the employer and employee have a good faith dispute as to whether
27 and when the wages were due."). Additionally, Courts have held that violations of the meal and rest
28 period regulations, which require payment of a "premium wage" for each improper meal period, do **not**
give rise to claims under sections 203 and 226. *See Ling v. P.F. Chang's China Bisto, Inc.*, 245 Cal.
App. 4th 1242, 1261 (2016) and *Maldonado v. Epsilon Plastics, Inc.*, 22 Cal. App. 5th 1308, 1336
(2018). As a result, the viability of Plaintiff's claims on these theories is uncertain.

³ Because the PAGA claim does not provide a recovery to the Class, Plaintiff has not included the
PAGA claim in this discussion. The PAGA claim is addressed in the Decl. Nordrehaug at ¶ 33.

1 reduce the \$17,945,549 valuation by 40% for the reduction in work weeks, by 50% for the risk of
2 class certification, and 50% for the risk of establishing liability at trial, resulting in a more realistic
3 estimated recovery of \$1,794,445. Given the amount of the Settlement as compared to the potential
4 value of the claims, the Settlement is most certainly fair and reasonable.

5
6 Procedural History of the Litigation

7 7. On August 25, 2020, Plaintiff filed a class action Complaint against Defendant in the
8 Superior Court of the State of California, County of Monterey. Plaintiff asserted class claims that
9 Defendant: (1) unfair competition in violation of Cal. Bus & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.; (2)
10 failure to pay overtime wages in violation of Cal. Labor Code § 510; (3) failure to provide required
11 meal in violation of Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512; (4) failure to provide rest periods in
12 violation of Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512; (5) failure to provide accurate itemized wage
13 statements in violation of Cal. Labor Code § 226; (6) failure to provide expense reimbursement in
14 violation of Cal. Labor Code § 2802; (7) failure to provide all wages when due at termination in
15 violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 201, 202, and 203; and, (8) two individual claims wrongful
16 termination and violation of Government Code § 12940. On October 13, 2020, Defendant filed a
17 general denial along with 36 affirmative defenses to the class action complaint.

18 8. On March 9, 2021, Plaintiff filed a Representative Action Complaint against
19 Defendant in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Monterey alleging a single
20 cause of action for recovery of civil penalties under the Private Attorney General's Action, *Labor*
21 *Code* §§ 2699, et seq ("Gandhale PAGA Action"). On April 12, 2021, Defendant filed a general
22 denial along with 36 affirmative defenses to the *Gandhale* PAGA Action.

23 9. As part of this Settlement, the Parties agree to enter into a Stipulation to Consolidate
24 the *Gandhale* PAGA Action with the first-filed *Gandhale* Class Action as the lead case number,
25 which Stipulation was submitted on April 12, 2022.

26 10. Over the course of litigation, the Parties engaged in the investigation of the claims,
27 including the production of documents, class data, and other information, allowing for the full and
28 complete analysis of liabilities and defenses to the claims in the Action. The information for

1 mediation obtained by Plaintiff included: (1) data showing employees and their weeks worked; (2)
2 Payroll data for employees; (3) Defendant's employee wage and hour policies; (4) time punch
3 records for 17,914 shifts; (5) the employment files for the Plaintiff; and, (7) samples of wage
4 statements provided by Defendant. Plaintiff and Defendant agreed to discuss resolution of the
5 Action through a mediation.

6 11. Prior to mediation, the Parties engaged in the above investigation and the exchange
7 of documents and information in connection with the Action. On September 14, 2021, the Parties
8 participated in an all-day mediation presided over by David A. Rotman, Esq., a respected and
9 experienced mediator of wage and hour class actions. At the conclusion of the all-day mediation,
10 with the assistance of the mediator, each side, represented by its respective counsel, agreed to settle
11 the Action based on a mediator's proposal which was memorialized in the form of a Memorandum
12 of Understanding. At all times, the negotiations were arm's length and contentious.

13 12. The Parties continued to negotiate the terms of the settlement and prepared the final
14 Agreement which was signed by the Parties and is now presented to this Court for preliminary
15 approval. Accordingly, for purposes of this Settlement, the "Class" is defined as "all individuals
16 who are or previously were employed by Defendant in California in one or more of the Covered
17 Positions during Class Period." (Agreement at ¶ I(3).) Cover Position is defined as "Cluster
18 Program Manager (OT); Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant; Occupational Therapist;
19 Program Assistant; Program Director—OT; Program Director—PT; Program Manager; Program
20 Manager Backup—COTA; Program Manager Backup—OT; Program Manager Backup—PT;
21 Program Manager Backup—PTA; Program Manager Backup—Rehab Tech; Program Manager
22 Backup—RT; Program Manager Backup—SLP; Program Manager—COTA; Program
23 Manager—OT; Program Manager—PT; Program Manager—PTA; Program Manager—SLP;
24 Physical Therapist; Physical Therapist Assistant; Rehab Technician; Speech Language Pathology;
25 Wellness Coordinator ". (Agreement at ¶ I(2). The Class Period is from August 25, 2016 through
26 December 28, 2021. (Agreement at ¶ I(10).)

27 13. Although a settlement has been reached, Defendant denies any liability or
28 wrongdoing of any kind associated with the claims alleged in the Action and further deny that, for

1 any purpose other than settlement, the Action are appropriate for class treatment. Defendant
2 contends, among other things, that it has correctly compensated the Class Members and complied at
3 all times with the California Labor Code, applicable Wage Order, and all other laws and
4 regulations. Further, Defendant contends that class certification would be inappropriate for any
5 reason other than for settlement. Plaintiff contends that Defendant violated California wage and
6 hour laws. Plaintiff further contends that the Action is appropriate for class certification on the
7 basis that the claims meet the requisites for class certification. Without admitting that class
8 certification is proper, Defendants have stipulated that the above Class may be certified for
9 settlement purposes only. (Agreement at ¶ II(34).) The Parties agree that certification for
10 settlement purposes is not an admission that class certification would be proper if the class
11 certification issue were litigated. Further, the Agreement is not admissible in this or any other
12 proceeding as evidence that the Class could be certified absent a settlement. Solely for purposes of
13 settling the Actions, the Parties stipulate and agree that the requisites for establishing class
14 certification with respect to the Class are satisfied.

15 14. Class Counsel has conducted a thorough investigation into the facts of the class
16 action. Over the course of more than a year, Class Counsel has diligently evaluated the Class
17 Members' claims against Defendant. Prior to the settlement negotiations, counsel for Defendant
18 provided Class Counsel with access to necessary information for the Class. In addition, Class
19 Counsel previously negotiated settlements with other employers in actions involving nearly
20 identical issues and analogous defenses. Based on the foregoing data and their own independent
21 investigation, evaluation and experience, Class Counsel believes that the settlement with Defendant
22 on the terms set forth in the Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interest of
23 the Class in light of all known facts and circumstances, including the risk of significant delay,
24 defenses asserted by Defendant, and potential appellate issues.

25
26 Settlement Terms and Plan of Allocation

27 15. The Gross Settlement Amount is One Million Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars
28 (\$1,850,000.00) (Agreement at ¶II(39).) Under the Settlement, the Gross Settlement Amount

1 includes all Settlement Shares to Participating Class Members, all Settlement Administration
2 Expenses, Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, PAGA
3 Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payments. (Agreement at ¶ III(39)-(40).) The
4 Gross Settlement Amount does not include Defendant's share of payroll taxes. (Agreement at ¶
5 III(39).) The Gross Settlement Amount shall be all-in with no reversion to Defendant. (Agreement
6 at ¶ III(39).)

7 16. Defendant shall fund the Gross Settlement Amount and the amount necessary to pay
8 Defendant's share of payroll taxes within fifteen (15) days of the Effective Date. (Agreement at ¶
9 III(44)(i).) Within fifteen (15) days after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the
10 Settlement Administrator will pay the Settlement Shares to Participating Class Members, Class
11 Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs, the PAGA Payment, the Class Representative Service Payment,
12 and employer and employee tax withholdings applicable to the Net Settlement Amount allocated to
13 wages. (Agreement at ¶ III(44)(i).)

14 17. The Net Settlement Amount shall equal the Gross Settlement Amount less the Court-
15 approved Class Representative Service Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel
16 Litigation Expenses Payment, the PAGA Payment, and the Settlement Administration Expenses.
17 (Agreement at ¶ I(21).) The Net Settlement Amount will be distributed as the Settlement Shares to
18 each Participating Class Member defined at ¶II(24) as a Class Member who does not timely exclude
19 himself or herself from the Settlement and will therefore receive his or her share of the Net
20 Settlement Amount automatically without the need to return a claim form. (Agreement at ¶ III(42).)
21 The Settlement Shares for Class Members will be calculated as follows: the Settlement
22 Administrator shall divide the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of weeks included in the
23 dates of employment to determine a dollar amount per week ("Weekly Rate"); and (iii) the
24 Settlement Administrator shall then take the number of weeks worked by each Participating Class
25 Member and multiply it by the Weekly Rate to calculate their Settlement Share. (Agreement at ¶
26 III(42)(b).) Workweeks will be based on Defendant's records, however Class Members will have the
27 right to challenge their workweeks.

28 18. Class Members may choose to opt-out of the Settlement by following the directions

1 in the Class Notice. (Agreement at ¶ III(44)(c), Ex. A.) All Class Members who do not "opt out"
2 will be deemed Participating Class Members who will be bound by the Settlement and will be
3 entitled to receive an Settlement Share. Finally, the Class Notice will also advise the Class
4 Members of their right to object to the Settlement and/or dispute their workweeks. (Agreement at ¶
5 III(44)(c), Ex. A.)

6 19. A Participating Class Member must cash his or her Settlement Share check within
7 180 days after it is mailed. (Agreement at ¶III(44)(j).) The Settlement Administrator will send a
8 reminder to Participating Class Members who have not cashed their checks within 120 days after its
9 last mailing to the affected individual. (Agreement at ¶ III(44)(j).) Any settlement checks not
10 cashed within 180 days will be voided and any the funds from such uncashed checks will be paid to
11 the California State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of and for the benefit of the
12 individual who did not cash their check. (Agreement at ¶ III(44)(j).)

13 20. The Parties have agreed to use Simpluris as the Settlement Administrator.
14 (Agreement at ¶ III(43).) From the Gross Settlement Amount, the Settlement Administrator shall be
15 paid for the expenses of administering the Settlement in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.
16 (Agreement at ¶ III(40)(d).)

17 21. Subject to Court approval, the Agreement provides for Class Counsel to be awarded
18 a sum not to exceed one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount, as the Class Counsel Fees
19 Payment. (Agreement at ¶ III(40)(b).) Class Counsel will also be allowed to apply separately for
20 an award of Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.
21 (Agreement at ¶ III(44)(b).) Subject to Court approval, the Agreement provides for a payment of no
22 more than \$10,000 to the Plaintiff as the Class Representative Service Payment. (Agreement at ¶
23 III(44)(a).)

24 22. The Parties will seek approval from the Court for the PAGA Payment of \$40,000 out
25 of the Gross Settlement Amount, which shall be allocated 75% (\$30,000) to the LWDA as the
26 LWDA's share of the PAGA Payment pursuant to PAGA and 25% (\$10,000) will be distributed to
27 the Aggrieved Employees based on their respective pay periods worked during the PAGA Period.
28 (Agreement at ¶ III(40)(c).) All Aggrieved Employees will be sent their share of the PAGA

1 Payment and will be subject to the release of the PAGA claims, whether or not they opt out of the
2 Settlement. (Agreement at ¶ III(40)(c).) As set forth in the accompanying proof of service, the
3 LWDA has been served with this motion and the Agreement.

4
5 Risks of Continued Litigation and Standards for Approval

6 23. Plaintiff and Class Counsel recognize the expense and length of continuing to litigate
7 and trying these Action against Defendant through possible appeals which could take several years.
8 Class Counsel has also taken into account the uncertain outcome and risk of litigation, especially in
9 complex class actions such as these Action. Class Counsel is also mindful of and recognize the
10 inherent problems of proof under, and alleged defenses to, the claims asserted in the Action. Based
11 upon their evaluation, Plaintiff and Class Counsel have determined that the Settlement set forth in
12 the Agreement is in the best interest of the Class Members.

13 24. Here, a number of defenses asserted by Defendant present serious threats to the
14 claims of the Plaintiff and the other Class Members. Defendant asserted that Defendant's practices
15 complied with all applicable Labor laws. Defendant argued that all work time was recorded and
16 paid, and that there was no miscalculation of the regular rate. Defendant contended that its meal
17 and rest period policies fully complied with California law, that Defendant's timekeeping system
18 recorded meal periods, and that all meal periods were provided. Defendant paid some meal
19 premiums and could therefore argue that any missed meals were compensated. Further, Defendant
20 argued that Defendant was not required to record rest periods and that there was no evidence that
21 rest periods were not provided given the facially lawful policies. Finally, Defendant could argue
22 that the Supreme Court decision in *Brinker v. Superior Court*, 53 Cal. 4th 1004 (2012), weakens
23 Plaintiff's claims, on liability, value, and class certifiability as to the meal and rest period claims.
24 Defendant also argues that based on its facially lawful practices, it acted in good faith and without
25 willfulness, which if accepted would negate the claims for waiting time penalties and/or inaccurate
26 wage statements. In fact, under the current state of the law, it is questionable whether these
27 penalties could be awarded at all based upon the alleged meal and rest period violations. If
28 successful, Defendant's defenses could eliminate or substantially reduce any recovery to the Class.

1 While Plaintiff believes that these defenses could be overcome, Defendant maintains these defenses
2 have merit and therefore present a serious risk to recovery by the Class.

3 25. There was also a significant risk that, if the Actions were not settled, Plaintiff would
4 be unable to obtain class certification and thereby not recover on behalf of any employees other
5 than herself. Defendant argued that the individual experience of each putative class member varied
6 with respect to the claims. Defendant could also contest class certification by arguing injury and
7 good faith were case by case determinations that precluded class certification. Plaintiff is aware of
8 cases where class certification of similar claims was denied. *See e.g. Cacho v. Eurostar, Inc.*, 43
9 Cal. App. 5th 885, 256 Cal. Rptr. 3d 547 (2019) (denying certification of meal and rest break
10 claims). Defendant also contended that individual differences in work experiences not only
11 impacted damages but would also impact certification. Finally, even if class certification was
12 successful, as demonstrated by the California Supreme Court decision in *Duran v. U.S. Bank*
13 *National Assn.*, 59 Cal. 4th 1 (2014), there are significant hurdles to overcome for a class wide
14 recovery even where the class has been certified. While other cases have approved class
15 certification in wage and hour claims, class certification in this action would have been hotly
16 disputed and was by no means a foregone conclusion.

17 26. This settlement is therefore certainly entitled to preliminary approval. Were this
18 case to go to trial, the Plaintiff and the other class members would need to prove, among other
19 things, that wages were owed on a class-wide basis. This was and is a substantial risk.

20 27. Plaintiff will apply to the Court for a Class Representative Service Payment in
21 consideration for the service and for the risks undertaken on behalf of the class. (Agreement at ¶
22 III(40)(1).) Plaintiffs performed their duty admirably by working with Class Counsel. Decl.
23 Nordrehaug at ¶27. At this stage, the requested service award of \$10,000 is well within the
24 accepted range of awards for purposes of preliminary approval. Plaintiffs in class action lawsuits
25 are routinely awarded service awards to compensate them for the time and effort expended on the
26 lawsuit, for the risk of litigation, for the fear of suing an employer and potential retaliation
27 therefrom, and to serve as an incentive to vindicate the statutory rights of all employees. *Glass v.*
28 *UBS Fin. Servs.*, 2007 WL 221862, *16-17 (N.D.Cal. 2007) (awarding \$25,000 service award in

1 overtime class action and a pool of \$100,000 in enhancements). At this stage, the requested
2 service award of \$10,000 is well within the accepted range of awards for purposes of preliminary
3 approval. See e.g. *Mathein v. Pier 1 Imps. (U.S.), Inc.*, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 71386 (E.D. Cal.
4 2018) (awarding \$12,500 where average class member payment was \$351); *Holman v. Experian*
5 *Info. Solutions, Inc.*, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 173698 (N.D. Cal. 2014) (approving \$10,000 service
6 award where class member recovery was \$375); *Louie v. Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.*,
7 2008 WL 4473183, *7 (S.D.Cal. 2008) (awarding \$25,000 service award to each of six plaintiffs in
8 overtime class action). Further, Plaintiffs performed their duties admirably by working with Class
9 Counsel and achieving this Settlement. As such, the requested service awards are reasonable based
10 on the time and effort Plaintiff has expended on behalf of the Class, the risks Plaintiff faced as a
11 result of bringing this Action, the fact that Plaintiff put the interests of the Class ahead of their own,
12 and the substantial benefit conferred on behalf of the Class as a result of Plaintiff's actions. The
13 Declaration of the Plaintiff will be submitted at final approval to support the requested award.

14 28. The stage of the proceedings at which this Settlement was reached also militates in
15 favor of preliminary approval and ultimately, final approval of the Settlement. Class Counsel has
16 conducted a thorough investigation into the facts of the class action. Class Counsel began
17 investigating the Class Members' claims before the Action was filed. Class Counsel conducted a
18 review and analysis of the relevant documents and data. Class Counsel was also experienced with
19 the claims at issue here, as Class Counsel previously litigated and settled similar claims in other
20 actions. Accordingly, the agreement to settle did not occur until Class Counsel possessed sufficient
21 information to make an informed judgment regarding the likelihood of success on the merits and the
22 results that could be obtained through further litigation.

23 29. Based on the foregoing data and their own independent investigation and evaluation,
24 Class Counsel is of the opinion that the Settlement with Defendant for the consideration and on the
25 terms set forth in the Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interest of the
26 Class in light of all known facts and circumstances, including the risk of significant delay, defenses
27 asserted by Defendant, and numerous potential appellate issues. There can be no doubt that
28 Counsel for both parties possessed sufficient information to make an informed judgment regarding

1 the likelihood of success on the merits and the results that could be obtained through further
2 litigation.

3
4 Class Certification Issues

5 30. Plaintiff contends that the proposed settlement meet all of the requirements for class
6 certification under California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 as demonstrated below, and therefore,
7 the Court may appropriately approve the Class as defined in the Agreement. This Court should
8 conditionally certify the Class for settlement purposes only, defined as follows:

9 All individuals who are or previously were employed by Defendant in California in
10 one or more of the Covered Positions during Class Period.

11 (Agreement at ¶ I(3).)

12 The “Covered Positions” are the following job positions: Cluster Program Manager (OT); Certified
13 Occupational Therapy Assistant; Occupational Therapist; Program Assistant; Program
14 Director—OT; Program Director—PT; Program Manager; Program Manager Backup—COTA;
15 Program Manager Backup—OT; Program Manager Backup—PT; Program Manager
16 Backup—PTA; Program Manager Backup—Rehab Tech; Program Manager Backup—RT; Program
17 Manager Backup—SLP; Program Manager—COTA; Program Manager—OT; Program
18 Manager—PT; Program Manager—PTA; Program Manager—SLP; Physical Therapist; Physical
19 Therapist Assistant; Rehab Technician; Speech Language Pathology; Wellness Coordinator.

20 (Agreement at ¶ I(2).) The “Class Period” is from August 25, 2016 through December 28, 2021.

21 (Agreement at ¶ I(10).)

22 a. **Numerosity** - Here, the 1,702 current and former employees that comprise
23 the Class can be identified based on Defendant’s records and are sufficiently numerous for class
24 certification.

25 b. **Common Issues Predominate** - Here, Plaintiff contends that common
26 questions of law and fact are present, and specifically the common questions of whether Defendant
27 properly compensated for overtime, whether the Defendant failed to provide meal and rest periods,
28 whether class members were lawfully compensated for all hours worked, whether Defendant failed

1 to provide required expense reimbursement for cell phone usage, and whether Class Members are
2 entitled to damages and penalties as a result of these practices.

3 c. **Typicality** - In the instant case, Plaintiff contends that there can be little
4 doubt that the typicality requirement is satisfied. The Plaintiff, like every other member of the
5 Class, worked for Defendant in a Covered Position during the Class Period. Plaintiff contends that,
6 like every other member of the Class, they were subject to the same practices and policies of
7 Defendant and are subject to the same defenses. Thus, Plaintiff assert that the claims of the Plaintiff
8 and the Class Members arise from the same course of conduct by the Defendant, involve the same
9 employment policies and practices of Defendant, and are based on the same legal theories.

10 d. **Adequacy** - Plaintiff contends that the Class Members are adequately
11 represented here because Plaintiff and representing counsel (a) do not have any conflicts of interest
12 with other class members, and (b) will prosecute the case vigorously on behalf of the class. This
13 requirement is met here. First, Plaintiff are well aware of her duties as the representative and has
14 actively participated in the prosecution of this case to date. She effectively communicated with
15 counsel, provided documents to counsel and participated in the investigation and negotiations in the
16 Action. Second, Plaintiff retained competent counsel who are experienced in employment class
17 actions and who have no conflicts. Third, there is no antagonism between the interests of the
18 Plaintiff and those of the Class. Both the Plaintiff and the Class Members seek monetary relief
19 under the same set of facts and legal theories.

20 31. Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP is experienced in prosecuting
21 class action lawsuits and can competently represent the Class. Other lawyers at my firm and I have
22 extensive class litigation experience. We have handled a number of class actions and complex
23 cases and have acted both as counsel and as lead and co-lead counsel in a variety of these matters.
24 We have successfully prosecuted and obtained significant recoveries in numerous class action
25 lawsuits and other lawsuits involving complex issues of law and fact. My firm is particularly
26 experienced in wage and hour employment law class actions, including claims for misclassification,
27 overtime, expense reimbursement, unlawful deduction of wages, and missed rest and meal periods.
28 Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP has been involved as class counsel in over

1 hundreds of wage and hour class actions. Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP has
2 been found to be adequate counsel by the courts throughout California. We have been approved as
3 experienced class counsel by both state and federal courts in California in contested class
4 certification proceedings. A true and correct copy of the resume of my firm is attached hereto as
5 Exhibit #2. Thus, the adequacy requirement is satisfied.

6 32. The Class Notice, drafted jointly and agreed upon by the Parties through their
7 respective counsel and to be approved by the Court, includes all relevant information. (See Exhibit
8 "A" to the Agreement.) The Class Notice will include, among other information: (i) information
9 regarding the Action; (ii) the impact on the rights of the Class Members if they do not opt out; (iii)
10 information to the Class Members regarding how to opt out and how to object to the Settlement;
11 (iv) the estimated Settlement Share for each of the Class Members; (iii) the amount of attorneys'
12 fees and expenses to be sought; (v) the amount of the Plaintiff's service award request; and (vi) the
13 anticipated expenses of the Settlement Administrator. The Parties agree that the Class Notice
14 Packet will also include a Spanish translation of the Class Notice. The Class Notice will state that
15 the Class Members shall have sixty (60) days from the date that the Class Notice is mailed to them
16 to request exclusion (opt-out) or to submit a written objection. (Agreement at ¶ III(44)(c).) In the
17 event of a re-mailing, the response deadline will be extended by an additional 15 days. (Agreement
18 at ¶ III(44)(c).) Class Members shall be given the opportunity to object to the Settlement and/or
19 requests for attorneys' fees and expenses and to appear at the Final Approval Hearing. (Agreement
20 at ¶ III(44)(c)(i).) Class Members who do not submit a timely and proper request to opt-out will
21 automatically receive a payment of their Settlement Share. This notice program was designed to
22 meaningfully reach the Class Members and it advises them of all pertinent information concerning
23 the Settlement. The mailing and distribution of the Class Notice satisfies the requirements of due
24 process, and is the best notice practicable under the circumstances and constitutes due and sufficient
25 notice to all persons entitled thereto.

26
27 33. The PAGA Claim -

28 a. **Approval of PAGA Settlements.** The decision in *O'Connor v. Uber*, 201

1 F.Supp.3d 1110, 1133 (N.D. Cal. 2016), and the LWDA's Response therein is illustrative. The
2 LWDA first states that "when viewing the monetary relief allocated to PAGA claims under a
3 settlement, the LWDA recognizes that the PAGA sum need not necessarily be viewed through the
4 same lens as the relief obtained by absent class members on other claims (i.e., the percentage of
5 recovery-to-exposure on the PAGA claims need not necessarily equal the percentage of recovery on
6 the other claims)." (LWDA Response at p.3). The LWDA also indicated that the payment of
7 money to the aggrieved employees furthers the purposes of PAGA and that the Court considers that
8 primary consideration. "The LWDA recognizes that this Court does not review the PAGA
9 allocation in isolation, but rather reviews the settlement as a whole, to determine whether it is
10 fundamentally fair, reasonable and adequate, with primary consideration for the interests of absent
11 class members." (LWDA Response at p.4).

12 **b. Valuation of the PAGA Claim.**

13 For mediation, Plaintiff calculated the value of the alleged PAGA claim as to the Aggrieved
14 Employees for civil penalties to be between \$2,495,600 and \$4,991,200 for a single violation in
15 every one of the 49,912 pay periods at issue in the PAGA Period, depending on whether the
16 violation was \$50 per pay period as in the case of Labor Code § 558(a)(1) or the standard amount of
17 \$100 per pay period for violation of Labor Code § 1198. Importantly, this maximum valuation is
18 likely overstated by 40% in light of the over estimate of work weeks, which would impact pay
19 periods in the same manner (2 work weeks equal on pay period). This valuation assumed that
20 PAGA civil penalties would be awarded at the maximum rate per pay period but without stacking.
21 The PAGA allocation in the Settlement is the amount of \$40,000. This allocation is justified by
22 several important considerations. First, the PAGA claim was subject to the same risks as the
23 underlying class claims. Second, Defendant asserted additional defenses to the PAGA claim, not
24 only as to liability but also as to the amount of the penalties. Defendant could also argue that no
25 penalties prior to the PAGA notification should be awarded, and I am aware of one Court which has
26 so ruled. These additional defenses present a risk to the PAGA claim and the potential that some or
27 all of the PAGA penalties sought may not be awarded. Third, civil penalties may not be awarded at
28 the maximum rate. In *Carrington v. Starbucks Corp.*, 30 Cal. App. 5th 504 (2018), the court

1 affirmed a judgment which only provided for a PAGA penalty of \$5 per violation. Therefore, at
2 trial, any PAGA penalties awarded could be significantly less than Plaintiffs' calculation even
3 where Plaintiffs prevailed on the PAGA claim. Even if we assume that violations for 49,912 pay
4 periods were established, using the valuation from *Carrington* results in a more realistic recovery of
5 \$249,560 under PAGA. This means that the \$40,000 PAGA allocation is a reasonable percentage
6 of this potential PAGA recovery, particularly when considering that the work week reduction could
7 reduce this valuation by 40%. Fourth, the interests of PAGA are also served by the Class recovery
8 under the reasoning of the LWDA in *O'Connor v. Uber*.

9 c. **Similar PAGA Settlements.** In reaching the settlement of the PAGA claim,
10 Class Counsel was also aware of what allocations other Courts have approved for similar PAGA
11 settlements as compared to the total settlement amount. A class settlement that allocates
12 approximately 2% of the total settlement value to resolve the PAGA claims applicable to the class
13 is also supported by what has been approved in other wage-and-hour class settlements. Indeed,
14 Courts typically approve PAGA settlement amounts in the range of between .27 to 1.7 percent of
15 the total settlement. See *Davis v. Brown Shoe Co.*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 149010 (E.D. Cal. 2015)
16 (PAGA Payment of \$5,000 in a \$1.5 million class settlement); *Zamora v. Ryder Integrated*
17 *Logistics, Inc.*, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 184096 (S.D. Cal. 2014) (\$7,500 payment to LWDA for
18 PAGA on a \$1.5 million class settlement); *Lusby v. Gamestop Inc.*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 42637
19 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (PAGA Payment of \$5,000 in a \$500,000 class settlement); *Cruz v. Sky Chefs,*
20 *Inc.*, 2014 U.S. Dist Lexis 17693 (N.D. Cal. 2014) (approving payment of \$10,000 to the LWDA
21 for PAGA out of \$1,750,000 class settlement); *Chu v. Wells Fargo Investments, LLC*, 2011 WL
22 672645, *1 (N.D. Cal. 2011) (approving PAGA payment of \$7,500 to the LWDA out of \$6.9
23 million common-fund settlement); *Franco v. Ruiz Food Products, Inc.*, 2012 WL 5941801, *13
24 (E.D. Cal. 2012) (approving PAGA payment of \$7,500 to the LWDA out of \$2.5 million
25 common-fund settlement); *Hopson v. Hanesbrands Inc.*, 2009 WL 928133, *9 (N.D. Cal. 2009)
26 (approving PAGA allocation that was .49% of \$408,420.32 gross settlement); *Garcia v. Gordon*
27 *Trucking, Inc.*, 10-cv-00324-AWI-SKO, Dkt. 149-3, 165 (E.D. Cal.) (approving a class settlement
28 of \$3,700,000, with \$10,000 allocated to the PAGA claim); *McKenzie v. Federal Express Corp.*,

CV 10-02420 GAF (PLAx), Dkt. 139 & 141 (C.D. Cal.) (court approved a settlement in an amount of \$8.25 million, with \$82,500 allotted to the PAGA claim); *DeStefan v Frito-Lay*, 8:10-cv-00112-DOC (C.D. Cal.) (court approved a class settlement of \$2 million, with \$10,000 allocated to PAGA); *Martino v. Ecolab Inc.*, No. 3:14CV04358 (N.D. Cal. 2017) (\$100,000 allotted as PAGA penalties or 0.48% of \$21,000,000 settlement amount); *East v. Comprehensive Educational Services Inc.*, Fresno Superior Court Case No. 11-CECG-04226 (2015) (\$10,000 allotted as PAGA penalties or 0.13% of \$7,595,846 settlement amount); *Bararsani v. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Company*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC495767 (2016) (\$10,000 allotted as PAGA penalties or 0.22% of \$4,500,000 settlement amount); *Moppin v. Los Robles Medical Center*, No. 5:15CV01551 (C.D. Cal. 2017) (\$15,000 allotted as PAGA penalties or 0.40% of \$3,775,000 settlement amount); *Scott-George v. PVH Corporation*, No., 2:13CV00441 (E.D. Cal. 2017) (\$15,000 allotted as PAGA penalties or 0.46% of \$3,250,000 settlement amount); *Nehrlich v. RPM Mortgage Inc.*, Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2013-00666783-CU-OE-CXC (2017) (\$10,000 allotted as PAGA penalties or 0.40% of \$2,500,000 settlement amount); *Rubio v. KTI Incorporated*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS-14-06132 (2015) (\$1,000 allotted as PAGA penalties or 0.18% of \$550,000 settlement amount); *Gray v. Mountain View Child Care Inc.*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS-14-02285 (2016) (\$2,500 allotted as PAGA penalties or 0.37% of \$675,000 settlement amount); *Perez v. West Coast Liquidators Inc. d/b/a Big Lots*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS-14-17863 (2016) (\$3,000 allotted as PAGA penalties or 0.33% of \$900,000 settlement amount); *Penaloza vs. PPG Industries Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court No. BC471369 (2013) (\$5,000 allotted as PAGA penalties or 0.38% of \$1,300,000 settlement amount); *Mejia v. DHL Express (USA) Inc.*, No. 2:15CV00890 (C.D. Cal. 2017) (\$5,000 allotted as PAGA penalties or 0.34% of \$1,450,000 settlement amount).

34. Attorneys' Fees - The Class Counsel Fees Payment is capped at one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount. A fee award that is capped at one-third of the common fund is fair and reasonable, and at the time of final approval, my firm will present lodestar to further support the reasonableness of the requested fee award. My firm has been regularly awarded attorney's fees

1 equal to one-third of the common fund in Court-approved wage and hour class settlements. Some
2 of the class action awards obtained by Class Counsel in similar employment actions throughout the
3 state bear out the reasonableness of a fee and costs award equivalent to one-third (1/3) of the total
4 settlement value: On June 14, 2017, in *Smith v. Space Exploration* (Los Angeles Superior Court
5 Case No. BC554258), Judge Elihu Berle awarded Class Counsel a 1/3 fee award in a wage and hour
6 class settlement. On March 23, 2018, in *Bailey v. Redfin*, (Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No.
7 BC512191, the Court awarded a 1/3 fee award in a wage and hour class settlement. On July 10,
8 2018, in *Zirpolo v. UAG Stevens Creek II* (Santa Clara Superior Court Case No. 17CV313457,
9 Judge Brian Walsh awarded Class Counsel a one-third fee award in a wage and hour class
10 settlement. On July 19, 2018, in *Metrow v. Liberty Mutual*, (U.S.D.C. Central District of California
11 Case No. EDCV 16-01133-JGB), the District Court awarded Class Counsel a one-third fee award in
12 a wage and hour class settlement. On December 4, 2018, in *Panda Express Wage and Hour Cases*
13 (Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. JCCP 4919) Judge Carolyn Kuhl awarded Class Counsel a
14 one-third fee award in a wage and hour class settlement. On February 1, 2019, in *Solarcity Wage*
15 *and Hour Cases* (San Mateo Superior Court, Case No. JCCP 4945) Judge Marie Weiner awarded
16 Class Counsel a one-third fee award in a wage and hour class settlement. On July 30, 2019, in
17 *Erickson v. John Muir Health*, (Contra Costa Superior Court Case No. MSC18-00307) Judge
18 Edward Weil awarded Class Counsel a one-third fee award in a wage and hour class settlement. On
19 December 18, 2019, in *Velasco v. Lemonade Restaurant Group*, (Los Angeles Superior Court Case
20 No. BC672235) Judge William Highberger awarded Class Counsel a one-third fee award in a wage
21 and hour class settlement. On January 31, 2020, in *El Pollo Loco Wage and Hour Cases* (Orange
22 County Superior Court Case No. JCCP 4957) Judge William Claster awarded Class Counsel a one-
23 third award in a wage and hour class settlement. On February 11, 2020, in *Singh v. Total Renal*
24 *Care* (San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CGC-16-550847) Judge Ethan Schulman awarded
25 Class Counsel a one-third award in a wage and hour class settlement. On October 23, 2020, in
26 *Ontiveros v. Baker Concrete*, (Santa Clara Superior Court Case No. 18CV328679) Judge Brian
27 Walsh awarded Class Counsel a one-third fee award in a wage and hour class settlement. On
28 December 3, 2020, in *Blackshear v. California Fine Wine & Spirits* (Sacramento Superior Court

1 Case No. 34-2018-00245842) Judge Christopher Krueger awarded BNBD a one-third fee award in a
2 wage and hour class settlement. On June 2, 2021, in *Pacia v. CIM Group, L.P.* (Los Angeles
3 Superior Court Case No. BC709666), Judge Amy D. Hogue awarded Class Counsel a one-third fee
4 award in a wage and hour class settlement. On November 8, 2021, in *Securitas Wage and Hour*
5 *Cases* (Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. JCCP4837) Judge David Cunningham awarded a one-
6 third fee award in a wage and hour class settlement. On November 17, 2021, in *Leon v. Sierra*
7 *Aluminum Company* (San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS2010856) Judge David Cohn
8 awarded a one-third fee award in a wage and hour class settlement. On March 17, 2022, in *See's*
9 *Candies Wage and Hour Cases* (Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. JCCP5004) Judge Maren
10 Nelson awarded a one-third fee award in a wage and hour class action settlement. A fee award
11 equal to one-third of the common fund is therefore reasonable in light of the fees that have been
12 awarded in other similar cases.

13 35. Class Representative Service Payment - The reasonableness of the requested service
14 award is also established by reference to the amounts that other California courts have found to be
15 reasonable in wage and hour class action settlements: *Zamora v. Balboa Life & Casualty, LLC*,
16 Case No. BC360036, Los Angeles County Superior Court (Mar. 7, 2013)(awarding \$25,000 service
17 award); *Aguiar v. Cingular Wireless, LLC*, Case No. CV 06-8197 DDP (AJWx)(C.D. Cal. Mar. 17,
18 2011)(awarding \$14,767 service award); *Magee v. American Residential Services, LLC*, Case No.
19 BC423798, Los Angeles County Superior Court (Apr. 21, 2011)(awarding \$15,000 service award);
20 *Mares v. BFS Retail & Commercial Operations, LLC*, Case No. BC375967, Los Angeles County
21 Superior Court (June 24, 2010)(awarding \$15,000 service award); *Baker v. L.A. Fitness Int'l, LLC*,
22 Case No. BC438654, L.A. County Superior Court (Dec. 12, 2012)(awarding \$10,000 service
23 awards to three named plaintiffs); *Blue v. Coldwell banker Residential Brokerage Co.*, Case No.
24 BC417335, Los Angeles County Superior Court (Mar. 21, 2011)(awarding \$10,000 service award);
25 *Buckmire v. Jo-Ann Stores, Inc.*, Case No. BC394795, Los Angeles County Superior Court (June,
26 11, 2010)(awarding \$10,000 service awards); *Coleman v. Estes Express Lines, Inc.*, Case No.
27 BC429042, Los Angeles County Superior Court (Oct. 3, 2013)(awarding \$10,000 service award);
28 *Ethridge v. Universal Health Services, Inc.*, Case No. BC391958, Los Angeles County Superior

1 Court (May 27, 2011)(awarding \$10,000 service award); *Hickson v. South Coast Auto Ins.*
2 *Marketing, Inc.*, Case No. BC390395, Los Angeles County Superior Court (Mar. 27,
3 2012)(awarding \$10,000 service award); *Hill v. sunglass Hut Int'l, Inc.*, Case No. BC422934, Los
4 Angeles County Superior Court (July 2, 2012)(awarding \$10,000 service award); *Kambamba v.*
5 *Victoria's Secret Stores, LLC*, Case No. BC368528, Los Angeles County Superior Court, (Aug. 19,
6 2011)(awarding \$10,000 service award together with additional compensation for their general
7 release); *Nevarez v. Trader Joe's Co.*, Case No. BC373910, Los Angeles County Superior Court
8 (Jan. 29, 2010)(awarding \$10,000 service award); *Ordaz v. Rose Hills Mortuary, L.P.*, Case No.
9 BC386500, Los Angeles County Superior Court, (Mar. 19, 2010)(awarding \$10,000 service award);
10 *Sheldon v. AHMC Monterey Park Hosp. LP*, Case No. BC440282, Los Angeles County Superior
11 Court (Feb. 22, 2013)(awarding \$10,000 service award); *Silva v. Catholic Mortuary Services, Inc.*,
12 Case No. BC408054, Los Angeles County Superior Court (Feb. 8, 2011)(awarding \$10,000
13 enhancement award); *Weisbarth v. Banc West Investment Services, Inc.*, Case No. BC422202, Los
14 Angeles County Superior Court (May 24, 2013)(awarding \$10,000 service award); *Lazar v. Kaiser*
15 *Foundation Health Plan*, Case No. 14-cv-273289, Santa Clara County Superior Court (Dec. 28,
16 2015) (awarding \$10,000 service award); *Acheson v. Express, LLC*, Case No. 109CV135335, Santa
17 Clara County Superior Court (Sept. 13, 2011)(awarding \$10,000 service award); *Bejarano v.*
18 *Amerisave Mortgage Corp.*, Case No. EDCV 08-00599 SGL (Opx)(C.D. Cal. June 22,
19 2010)(awarding \$10,000 service award); *Carbajal v. Sally Beauty Supply LLC*, Case No. CIVVS
20 1004307, San Bernardino County Superior Court (Aug. 6, 2012)(awarding \$10,000 service award);
21 *Contreras v. Serco Inc.*, Case No. 10-cv-04526-CAS-JEMx (C.D. Cal. Sep. 10, 2012)(awarding
22 \$10,000 service award); *Guerro v. R.R. Donnelley & Sons Co.*, Case No. RIC 10005196, Riverside
23 County Superior Court (July 16, 2013)(awarding \$10,000 service award); *Kisliuk v. ADT Security*
24 *Services Inc.*, Case No. CV08-03241 DSF (RZx)(C.D. Cal. Jan. 10, 2011)(awarding \$10,000
25 service award); *Morales v. BCBG Maxazria Int'l Holdings, Inc.*, Case No. JCCP 4582, Orange
26 County Superior Court (Jan. 24, 2013)(awarding \$10,000 service award); *Barrett v. Doyon Security*
27 *Services, LLC*, Case No. BS900199, BS900517, San Bernardino County Superior Court (Apr. 23,
28 2010)(awarding \$10,000 service award); *Zirpolo v. UAG Stevens Creek II*, Santa Clara Superior

1 Court Case no. 17CV313457 (July 10, 2018) (awarding \$10,000 service award); *Taylor v. TIC - The*
2 *Inductrial Complany*, U.S.D.C. Central District of California Case No. EDCV 16-186-VAP (Aug.
3 1, 2018) (awarding \$10,000 service award).

4 36. Settlement Administration - The estimate from Simpluris was selected by the Parties,
5 as it provides for capped estimate of \$15,000 to perform the settlement administration for a class
6 size of 1,702 individuals. A true and correct copy of the estimate from Simpluris is attached hereto
7 as Exhibit #3. I have used Simpluris successfully as the administrator in more than twenty class
8 settlements in the last several years and know them to be competent and experienced.

9
10 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing
11 is true and correct. Executed this 10th day of May, 2022, at La Jolla, California.

12
13 By: /s/ Kyle Nordrehaug
14 Kyle Nordrehaug
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CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Class Action Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between plaintiff Rati Gandhale (“Plaintiff”) and defendant Select Rehabilitation, LLC (“Defendant”). Plaintiff and Defendant collectively are referred to in this Agreement as the “Parties.”

I. DEFINITIONS

In addition to other terms defined in this Agreement, the terms below have the following meaning in this Agreement:

1. “Action” means the Class Action Complaint that was filed in California state court and any amendments thereto, which is captioned *Gandhale v. Select Rehabilitation, LLC*, Case No. 20CV002240, pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Monterey.
2. “Aggrieved Employees” means as all individuals who are or previously were employed by Defendant in California in one or more of the following job positions: Cluster Program Manager (OT); Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant; Occupational Therapist; Program Assistant; Program Director—OT; Program Director—PT; Program Manager; Program Manager Backup—COTA; Program Manager Backup—OT; Program Manager Backup—PT; Program Manager Backup—PTA; Program Manager Backup—Rehab Tech; Program Manager Backup—RT; Program Manager Backup—SLP; Program Manager—COTA; Program Manager—OT; Program Manager—PT; Program Manager—PTA; Program Manager—SLP; Physical Therapist; Physical Therapist Assistant; Rehab Technician; Speech Language Pathology; Wellness Coordinator (the “Covered Positions”) during the PAGA Period.
3. “Class” means all individuals who are or previously were employed by Defendant in California in one or more of the Covered Positions during Class Period.
4. “Class Counsel” means Norman B. Blumenthal, Kyle R. Nordrehaug, Aparajit Bhowmik, Christine T. LeVu and Andrew G. Ronan of Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP.
5. “Class Counsel Fees Payment” and “Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment” mean the amounts to be paid to Class Counsel for fees and expenses, respectively, as approved by the Court, to compensate Class Counsel for their legal work in connection with the Action, including their pre-filing investigation, their filing of the Action, all related litigation activities, all Settlement work, all post-Settlement compliance procedures, and related litigation expenses billed in connection with the Action.
6. “Class Data” means, for each Class Member, his or her name; last-known mailing address; Social Security number; his or her employee identification number; his or her email address (if known and available to Defendant); and his or her dates of employment and/or weeks worked during the Class Period as a Class Member and pay periods worked during the PAGA Period.

7. “Class Member” is a member of the Class.
8. “Class Notice” means the Notice of Proposed Settlement of Class Action and Hearing Date for Final Court Approval substantively in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A to this Agreement and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.
9. “Class Notice Packet” means the Class Notice to be provided to the Class Members by the Settlement Administrator in the form set forth as Exhibit A to this Agreement (other than formatting changes to facilitate printing by the Settlement Administrator) along with a Spanish translation of the Class Notice.
10. “Class Period” means the period of time from August 25, 2016 through December 28, 2021.
11. “Class Representative Service Payment” means the service payment made to the Plaintiff in her capacity as Class Representative in order to compensate her for initiating the Action, performing work in support of the Action, undertaking the risk of liability for Defendant’s expenses in the event Plaintiff was unsuccessful in the prosecution of the Action, and for the general release of all claims by the Plaintiff.
12. “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of Monterey.
13. “Defendant” means Select Rehabilitation, LLC.
14. “Defendant’s Counsel” means Krista M. Cabrera, David B. Goroff, and Kevin Jackson Foley & Lardner, LLP; and Diane G. Walker and Kristen W. Roberts of Walker Morton LLP.
15. “Effective Date” means the date by which all of the following have occurred:
 1. This Agreement is approved by the Court; and
 2. The Judgment becomes Final as defined in Section I(17) of this Agreement.
16. “Election Not to Participate in Settlement” means the written request by a Class Member to exclude himself or herself from the Settlement submitted in accordance with the instructions in the Class Notice.
17. “Final” means the last of the following dates, as applicable:
 1. If no objection to the Settlement is made, the date the Judgment is entered.
 2. If an objection to the Settlement is made and Judgment is entered, but no appeal is filed, the last date on which a notice of appeal from the Judgment may be filed and none is filed.
 3. If Judgment is entered and a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed, the date the Judgment is affirmed and is no longer subject to appeal.

18. “Final Approval Hearing” means the hearing to be conducted by the Court to determine whether to approve finally and implement the terms of this Agreement and enter the Judgment.
19. “Gross Settlement Amount” means One Million Eight Hundred Thousand Fifty Dollars (\$1,850,000) to be paid by Defendant as provided by this Agreement. This Gross Settlement Amount is an all-in amount without any reversion to Defendant and shall be inclusive of all payments of Settlement Shares to the Participating Class Members, Settlement Administration Expenses, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, Class Representative Service Payment, and the PAGA Payment, and excluding any employer payroll taxes, if any, due on the portion of the Settlement Shares allocated to wages which shall not be paid from the Gross Settlement and shall be the separate additional obligation of Defendant. The Gross Settlement Amount is all in with no reversion to Defendant and shall be paid without the need to submit a claim form.
20. “Judgment” means the Final Approval Order and Judgment entered by the Court substantially in the forms attached hereto as Exhibit C to this Agreement and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.
21. “Net Settlement Amount” means the Gross Settlement Amount less the Court-approved amounts for the Class Representative Service Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, the PAGA Payment, and the Settlement Administration Expenses.
22. “Non-Participating Class Member” means a Class Member who submits a valid and timely Election Not to Participate in Settlement.
23. “PAGA Period” means the period of time June 18, 2019 to December 28, 2021.
24. “Participating Class Member” means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Election Not to Participate in Settlement.
25. “Preliminary Approval of the Settlement” means the Court’s Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit B to this Agreement and incorporated by this reference herein.
26. “Released Parties” collectively mean: the Defendant, and its past and present officers, members, directors, shareholders, managers, employees, agents, principals, heirs, representatives, accountants, auditors, consultants, and its respective successors and predecessors in interest, subsidiaries, affiliates, parents and attorneys.
27. “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action and all related claims effectuated by this Agreement.
28. “Settlement Administrator” means the third party settlement administrator proposed by the Parties, as approved by the Court.
29. “Settlement Share” means each Participating Class Member’s share of the Net Settlement Amount as provided by this Agreement.

II. RECITALS

30. On August 25, 2020, Plaintiff filed a Class Action Complaint against Defendant in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Monterey (“*Gandhale* Class Action”). Plaintiff asserted claims that Defendant:
 - a. Violated California Business and Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*;
 - b. Failed to pay overtime wages in violation of California Labor Code § 510, *et seq.*;
 - c. Failed to provide required meal periods in violation of California Labor Code §§ 226.7 & 512 and the applicable IWC Wage Order;
 - d. Failed to provide required rest periods in violation of California Labor Code §§ 226.7 & 512 and the applicable IWC Wage Order;
 - e. Failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements in violation of California Labor Code § 226;
 - f. Failed to reimburse employees for required expenses in violation of California Labor Code § 2802; and,
 - g. Failed to provide wages when due in violation of California Labor Code §§ 201, 202 and 203;
 - h. Wrongfully terminated her in violation of public policy; and,
 - i. Violated Government Code § 12940.
31. On March 9, 2021, Plaintiff filed a Representative Action Complaint against Defendant in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Monterey alleging a single cause of action for recovery of civil penalties under the Private Attorney General’s Action, *Labor Code* §§ 2699, *et seq* (“*Gandhale* PAGA Action”).
32. On September 14, 2021, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by David A. Rotman, a respected mediator of wage and hour representative and class actions. Following the mediation, each side, represented by its respective counsel, were able to agree to settle the Action based upon a mediator’s proposal which was memorialized in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding. This Agreement replaces and supersedes the Memorandum of Understanding and any other agreements, understandings, or representations between the Parties
33. As part of this Settlement, the Parties agree to enter into a Stipulation to Consolidate the *Gandhale* PAGA Action with the first-filed *Gandhale* Class Action as the lead case number.
34. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or will be construed as an

admission by Defendant that the claims in the Action of Plaintiff or the Class have merit or that Defendant bears any liability to Plaintiff or the Class on those claims or any other claims, or as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendant's defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree to certification of the Class for purposes of this Settlement only. If for any reason the settlement does not become effective, Defendant reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reason and reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action.

Based on these Recitals that are a part of this Agreement, the Parties agree as follows:

III. SETTLEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

39. **Gross Settlement Amount.** Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Gross Settlement Amount that Defendant will pay under this Settlement is One Million Eight Hundred Thousand Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,850,000). This amount is all-inclusive of all payments contemplated in this resolution, excluding any employer-side payroll taxes on the portion of the Settlement Shares allocated to wages which shall be separately paid by Defendant to the Settlement Administrator. All of the Gross Settlement Amount will be disbursed pursuant to this Agreement without the need to submit a claim form and none of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant.
40. **Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount.** Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Settlement Administrator will make the following payments out of the Gross Settlement Amount:
- a. **Class Representative Service Payment:** In addition to the Settlement Shares to be paid to Plaintiff, Plaintiff will apply to the Court for an award of not more than \$10,000 as a Class Representative Service Payment. Defendant will not oppose the Class Representative Service Payment of no more than \$10,000 for Plaintiff. The Settlement Administrator will pay the Class Representative Service Payment approved by the Court out of the Gross Settlement Amount. If the Court approves a Class Representative Service Payment of less than \$10,000 for Plaintiff, the remainder will be retained in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members. Payroll tax withholding and deductions will not be taken from the Class Representative Service Payment and instead a Form 1099 will be issued to each of the Plaintiff with respect to the payments who will assume full responsibility and liability for the taxes due on their Class Representative Service Payment.
 - b. **Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment:** Class Counsel will apply to the Court for an award of not more than One-Third of the Gross Settlement Amount, which is presently \$616,666.67, as their Class Counsel Fees Payment and an amount not more than \$25,000 for all expenses incurred as documented in Class Counsel's billing records as their Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. Defendant will not oppose their request for a Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment consistent with this Agreement and approved by the Court. The Settlement

Administrator will pay the amounts approved by the Court out of the Gross Settlement Amount. If the Court approves a Class Counsel Fees Payment or a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of less than these amounts, which are presently \$616,666.67 and \$25,000, respectively, the remainder will be retained in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members. Payroll tax withholding and deductions, if any, will not be taken from the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and instead one or more Forms 1099 will be issued to Class Counsel with respect to those payments. The payment of the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment shall be made to Class Counsel.

- c. **PAGA Payment.** The Parties will seek approval from the Court for the PAGA Payment of \$40,000 out of the Gross Settlement Amount, which shall be allocated 75% (\$30,000) to the LWDA as the LWDA's share of the settlement of civil penalties paid under this Agreement pursuant to the PAGA and 25% (\$10,000) will be distributed to the Aggrieved Employees based on a pro-rata basis in proportion to the number of pay periods each Aggrieved Employee worked during the PAGA Period. All Aggrieved Employees will be sent their share of the PAGA Payment and will be subject to the release of the Released PAGA Claims as set forth below, whether or not they opt out of the Settlement. One hundred percent (100%) of the PAGA Payment is in settlement of claims for penalties and not be subject to wage withholdings, and shall be reported on IRS Form 1099.
 - d. **Settlement Administration Expenses.** The Settlement Administrator will pay out of the Gross Settlement Amount to itself its reasonable fees and expenses that are documented and approved by the Court in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 ("Settlement Administration Expenses"). To the extent the Settlement Administration Expenses that are documented and approved by the Court are less than \$15,000, the remainder will be retained in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members.
41. **Plaintiff:** In addition to the Gross Settlement Amount, Defendant has agreed to separately settle the Plaintiff's individual claims, which are unrelated to the class claims settled herein, in accordance with the terms of the Confidential Individual Settlement Agreement in exchange for a general release for Plaintiff's individual claims, which general release includes a Civil Code section 1542 waiver of all known and unknown claims. If the Court requires the Parties to submit the terms of the Plaintiff's Confidential Individual Settlement Agreement to obtain approval of the Settlement, such information will only be submitted under seal or in camera to insure that the Confidential Individual Settlement Agreement is not publically disclosed. Payment under this Confidential Individual Settlement Agreement is conditioned upon the Effective Date occurring in this Action.
42. **Payments From the Net Settlement Amount.** The Net Settlement Amount shall include the following payments after the deductions have been made from the

Gross Settlement Amount as described in this Agreement. The Net Settlement Amount shall include the following:

- a. **Settlement Share.** Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Settlement Administrator will pay a Settlement Share from the Net Settlement Amount to each Participating Class Member. The submission of a claim form is not required to be paid.
- b. **Calculation.** Each Participating Class Member will be entitled, provisionally, to a share or shares of the Net Settlement Amount. The Settlement Share for each Participating Class Member will be calculated as follows: (i) Defendant shall provide the Settlement Administrator with the Class Data; (ii) the Settlement Administrator shall then divide the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of weeks included in the dates of employment to determine a dollar amount per week (“Weekly Rate”); and (iii) the Settlement Administrator shall then take the number of weeks worked by each Participating Class Member and multiply it by the Weekly Rate to calculate their Settlement Share.
- c. **Withholding.**
 - i. Subject to approval by the Court, 75% of each Participating Class Member’s Settlement Share is in settlement of wage claims (the “Wage Portion”). Accordingly, the Wage Portion is subject to wage withholdings, and shall be reported on IRS Form W-2 and shall be paid for from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for remitting to the tax authorities employees’ and employer’s share of all payroll taxes on the Wage Portion.
 - ii. Subject to approval by the Court, 25% of each Participating Class Member’s Settlement Share is in settlement of claims for interest and claims for penalties allegedly due to employees (collectively the “Non-Wage Portion”). The Non-Wage Portion shall not be subject to wage withholdings, and shall be reported on IRS Form 1099.
- d. **Effect of Non-Participating Class Members.** Non-Participating Class Members will receive no Settlement Share, and their Election Not to Participate in Settlement will reduce neither the Gross Settlement Amount nor the Net Settlement Amount. Their respective Settlement Shares will remain a part of the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members on a *pro rata* basis relative to their Settlement Shares.
- e. **Class Size Modification.** Defendant has represented that the class consists of an estimated total of 1,413 Class Members who were employed for 150,360 workweeks and worked at any time from August 25, 2016 through August 19, 2021. In regard hereto, Defendant will provide a declaration under oath prior to the filing of the motion for preliminary

approval as to the number of Class Members during the Class Period. If the number of workweeks during the Class Period is more than 10% greater than this figure (i.e., if there are 165,396 or more workweeks) as of the date the Class Period ends, Defendant agrees to increase the Gross Settlement Amount on a proportional basis by the amount by which it exceeds 10% (i.e., if there was 11% increase in the number workweeks during the Class Period, Defendant would agree to increase the Gross Settlement Amount by 1%). Alternatively, Defendant has the option of the release going through the date the 10% increase is met rather than through the earlier of December 21, 2021, in which case Defendant will not be required to pay the additional amounts. Once the Settlement Administrator has the class data, it will inform the parties of its calculation of workweeks for the Class Period at which point, if the 10% increase was met, Defendant may decide whether it prefers to shorten the release period or pay the additional amount.

43. **Appointment of Settlement Administrator.** After obtaining a quote from mutually acceptable and qualified settlement administrators, the Parties have mutually agreed to ask the Court to appoint Simpluris as the qualified administrator, to serve as the Settlement Administrator, which, as a condition of appointment, will agree to be bound by this Agreement with respect to the performance of its duties and its compensation. The Settlement Administrator's duties will include preparing, printing, and mailing the Class Notice Packet to all Class Members; conducting a National Change of Address search to update Class Member addresses before mailing the Class Notice Packets; re-mailing Class Notice Packets that are returned to the Class Member's new address; setting up a toll-free telephone number to receive calls from Class Members; receiving and reviewing for validity completed Elections Not to Participate in Settlement; providing the Parties with weekly status reports about the delivery of Class Notice Packets and receipt of completed Elections Not to Participate in Settlement; calculating Settlement Shares; issuing the checks to effectuate the payments due under the Settlement; issuing the tax reports required under this Settlement; and otherwise administering the Settlement pursuant to this Agreement. The Settlement Administrator will have the authority to resolve all disputes concerning the calculation of a Participating Class Member's Settlement Share, subject to the dollar limitations and calculations set forth in this Agreement. The Settlement Administration Expenses, including the cost of printing and mailing the Class Notice Packet, will be paid out of the Gross Settlement Amount.

The Settlement Administrator shall have its own Employer Identification Number under Internal Revenue Service Form W-9 and shall use its own Employer Identification Number in calculating payroll withholdings for taxes and shall transmit the required employers' and employees' share of the withholdings to the appropriate state and federal tax authorities. The Settlement Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1.

44. **Procedure for Approving Settlement.**

a. **Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement by the Court.**

- i. After Execution of this Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff will file a Preliminary Approval Motion with the Court for an order giving Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, setting a date for the Final Approval Hearing, and approving the Class Notice (the “Motion for Preliminary Approval”). Any disagreement among the Parties concerning the Class Notice, the proposed orders, or other documents necessary to implement the Settlement will be referred to the mediator for resolution.
- ii. At the hearing on the Motion for Preliminary Approval, the Parties will jointly appear, support the granting of the motion, and submit an Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement substantially in the form evidenced by Exhibit B to this Agreement and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.
- iii. Should the Court decline to preliminarily approve material aspects of the Settlement (including but not limited to the scope of release to be granted by Participating Class Members or the binding effect of the Settlement on Participating Class Members), the Parties shall work together in good faith to address any concerns raised by the Court and propose a revised Settlement for the Court’s approval.

b. **Notice to Class Members.** After the Court enters an Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, every Class Member will be sent the Class Notice Packet (which will include the Class Notice completed to reflect the Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement and showing the Class Member’s Settlement Share) as follows:

- i. No later than 30 days after the Court enters an Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendant will provide to the Settlement Administrator an electronic database containing each Class Member’s Class Data. If any or all of the Class Data is unavailable to Defendant, Defendant will so inform Class Counsel and the Parties will make their best efforts to reconstruct or otherwise agree upon the Class Data prior to when it must be submitted to the Settlement Administrator. This information will otherwise remain confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone, except as required to applicable taxing authorities, in order to carry out the reasonable efforts described in section III.E.2.c., or pursuant to Defendant’s express written authorization or by order of the Court. All Class Data will be used for settlement notification and settlement administration and shall not be used for any other purpose by Class Counsel. This provision shall not be construed to impede Class Counsel’s ability to discharge their fiduciary duties to the Class, and if additional disclosures are

necessary, Class Counsel will obtain written authorization of Defendant and/or an order from the Court.

- ii. The Settlement Administrator shall update the Class Data using the National Change of Address database prior to mailing the Class Notice Packets. Using best efforts to mail it as soon as possible, and in no event later than 14 days after receiving the Class Data, the Settlement Administrator will mail the Class Notice Packets to all Class Members via first-class regular U.S. Mail using the mailing address information provided by Defendant, unless modified by any updated address information that the Settlement Administrator obtains in the course of administration of the Settlement. The Class Notice, and any email containing the re-mailed Class Notice, shall include a Spanish translation. The envelope of the Class Notice Packet shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A and shall include an advisory about the content in both English and Spanish.
- iii. If a Class Notice Packet is returned because of an incorrect address, the Settlement Administrator will promptly re-mail the Class Notice Packet to the Class Member no later than seven (7) business days after the receipt of the undelivered Class Notice. The Settlement Administrator will also email a copy of the re-mailed Class Notice to the Class Member if there is an available email address in the Class Data. The Settlement Administrator will use the Class Data and otherwise work with Defendant to find a more current address. The Settlement Administrator will be responsible for taking reasonable steps, consistent with its agreed-upon job parameters, Court orders, and fee, as agreed to with Class Counsel and according to the following deadlines, to trace the mailing address of any Class Member for whom a Class Notice Packet is returned by the U.S. Postal Service as undeliverable. These reasonable steps shall include, at a minimum, the tracking of all undelivered mail; performing address searches for all mail returned without a forwarding address using available email addresses, phone numbers, social security numbers, credit reports, LinkedIn, and Facebook; and promptly re-mailing to Class Members for whom new addresses are found. If the Class Notice Packet is re-mailed, the response date for written objections, disputes and opt-outs will be extended an additional 15 days, this extended response date will be set forth in the re-mailed Class Notice, and the Settlement Administrator will note for its own records and notify Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel of the date and address of each such re-mailing as part of a weekly status report provided to the Parties.
- iv. As part of its weekly status report, the Settlement Administrator will inform Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel of the number of Elections Not to Participate in Settlement it receives (including

the numbers of valid and deficient), and number of objections received.

- v. Not later than 10 days before the date by which the Plaintiff files the motion for final approval of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will provide the Parties for filing with the Court a declaration of due diligence setting forth its compliance with its obligations under this Agreement and detailing the Elections Not to Participate in Settlement it received (including the numbers of valid and deficient Elections) and objections received. Prior to the Final Approval Hearing, the Settlement Administrator will supplement its declaration of due diligence if any material changes occur from the date of the filing of its prior declaration.

- c. **Objections to Settlement; Disputes as to Dates of Employment allocated to Class Members; Elections Not to Participate in Settlement.** Participating Class Members may submit objections to the Settlement and/or objections to the Class Counsel Fees Payment and/or Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. Class Members may also submit disputes as to workweeks allocated to them and Elections Not to Participate in Settlement pursuant to the following procedures:

- i. **Objections to Settlement.** The Class Notice will provide that only Participating Class Members who wish to object to the Settlement, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and/or the Class Representative Service Payment may object to the proposed Settlement, either in writing or orally at the Final Approval Hearing. Objections in writing must be submitted to the Settlement Administrator, postmarked not later than sixty (60) calendar days after the Settlement Administrator mails the Class Notice Packets. Written objections must set forth the grounds for the objection(s) and comply with the instructions in the Class Notice, however a written objection shall not be invalid simply because it does not contain all of the information requested. If a Class Notice Packet is re-mailed, the response date for written objections will be extended an additional 15 days. Alternatively, Class Members shall be entitled to be heard at the Final Approval Hearing (whether individually or through separate counsel) to orally object to the Settlement, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and/or the Class Representative Service Payment. Non-Participating Class Members shall have no ability to comment on or object to the Settlement.
- ii. **Disputes as to Dates of Employment.** Each Class Member shall also have sixty (60) calendar days after the Settlement Administrator mails the Class Notice Packets in which to dispute the dates of employment the Class Notice allocates to them during the Class Period. Any notice of dispute shall be directed to the Settlement Administrator. Any dispute as to this allocation shall

be resolved by the Settlement Administrator, with input and assistance from Defendant's Counsel, where applicable. If a Class Notice Packet is re-mailed, the response date for disputes will be extended an additional 15 days.

- iii. **Election Not to Participate in Settlement.** The Class Notice also will provide that Class Members who wish to exclude themselves from the Settlement must mail to the Settlement Administrator postmarked not later than forty-five (45) calendar days after the Settlement Administrator mails the Class Notice Packets, a signed Election Not to Participate in Settlement. If a Class Notice Packet is re-mailed, the response date for opt-outs will be extended an additional 15 days. To be valid, an Election Not to Participate in Settlement must be timely and should comply with the instructions in the Class Notice, however an Election Not to Participate in Settlement shall not be invalid simply because it does not contain all of the information requested. An Election Not to Participate may also be faxed or emailed to the Settlement Administrator as indicated in the Class Notice. If a question is raised about the authenticity of a signed Election Not to Participate in Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will have the right to demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity. A Non-Participating Class Member will not participate in or be bound by the Settlement and the Judgment, except that an Aggrieved Employee will still be paid their allocation of the PAGA Payment and will remain bound by the release of the Released PAGA Claims regardless of their request for exclusion. Defendant will remain free to contest any claim brought by any Class Member that would have been barred by this Agreement, and nothing in this Agreement will constitute or be construed as a waiver of any defense Defendant has or could assert against such a claim. A Class Member who does not complete and mail a timely Election Not to Participate in Settlement in the manner and by the deadline specified above and in the Class Notice will automatically become a Participating Class Member and will be bound by all terms and conditions of the Settlement, including the Released Class Claims by the Class, if the Settlement is approved by the Court, and by the Judgment, regardless of whether he or she has objected to the Settlement. Persons who submit an Election Not to Participate in Settlement shall not be permitted to file objections to the Settlement or appear at the Final Approval Hearing to voice any objections to the Settlement.

All Participating Class Members who do not submit a valid and timely Election Not to Participate in Settlement will receive a Settlement Share, without the need to file a claim form, and will be bound by all of the terms of the Settlement, including without limitation, the release of the Released Class Claims by the Participating Class Members set forth in this Agreement.

- iv. **Report.** Not later than ten (10) calendar days after the deadline for submission of Elections Not to Participate in Settlement, the Settlement Administration will provide Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel with a complete and accurate list of all Participating Class Members and all Non-Participating Class Members.
- d. **Right of Defendant to Reject Settlement.** If the number of Class Members who timely submit valid Elections Not to Participate in Settlement exceeds five percent (5%) of the Class, Defendant, at its sole discretion, shall have the right but not the obligation to revoke the Settlement. Defendant shall exercise its revocation rights, if at all, within fourteen (14) days of the deadline for submission of Elections Not to Participate in Settlement by providing written notice to Class Counsel. If Defendant exercises its revocation rights, the Parties will have no further obligations under the Settlement, including any obligation by Defendant to pay the Gross Settlement Amount, or any amounts that otherwise would have been owed under this Agreement, except that Settlement Administration Expenses as of the date that Defendant exercises the right to void the Settlement pursuant to this Paragraph will be paid by Defendant.
- e. **No Solicitation.** The Parties and their respective counsel represent that neither the Parties nor their respective counsel have or will solicit any Class Member to object to the Settlement, appeal from the Judgment, or elect not to participate in the Settlement.
- f. **Additional Briefing and Final Approval.**
 - i. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, Class Counsel will file with the Court their motion for the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and Class Representative Service Payment no later than the date Plaintiff files the Motion for Final Approval, and the application will be scheduled to be heard by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing.
 - ii. Not later than sixteen (16) court days before the Final Approval Hearing, the Plaintiff will file with the Court a motion for final approval of the Settlement, the PAGA Payment, and payment of the Settlement Administration Expenses.
 - iii. If any opposition is filed to the motion for final approval and/or the motion for the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, Class Representative Service Payment, and the PAGA Payment, then not later than five (5) court days before the Final Approval Hearing, both Parties may file a reply in support of the motion for final approval, and Plaintiff and Class Counsel may also file a reply in support of their motion for the Class Representative Service Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payments, and the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment.

- iv. If the Court does not grant final approval of the Settlement or grants final approval conditioned on any material change to the Settlement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Participating Class Members), then the Parties shall work together in good faith to address any concerns raised by the Court and propose a revised Settlement for the Court's approval. However, an award by the Court of a lesser amount than that sought by Plaintiff and Class Counsel for the PAGA Payment, Class Representative Service Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, or the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, will not constitute a material modification to the Settlement within the meaning of this paragraph.
- v. Upon final approval of the Settlement by the Court at or after the Final Approval Hearing, the Parties will present for the Court's approval and entry the Judgment substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit C. After entry of the Judgment, the Court will have continuing jurisdiction over the Action and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement, (ii) addressing settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as may be appropriate under court rules or applicable law.
- g. **Waiver of Right to Appeal.** Provided that the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, Plaintiff and Participating Class Members who did not timely submit an objection to the Settlement, Defendant, and their respective counsel hereby waive any and all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to any post-judgment proceeding and appellate proceeding, such as, but not limited to, a motion to vacate judgment, a motion for new trial, and any extraordinary writ. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose any appeal, appellate proceedings or post-judgment proceedings. If an appeal is taken from the Judgment, the time for consummation of the Settlement (including making payments under the Settlement) will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes Final.
- h. **Vacating, Reversal, or Material Modification of Judgment on Appeal or Review.** If, after a notice of appeal, a petition for review, or a petition for *certiorari*, or any other motion, petition, or application, the reviewing Court vacates, reverses, or modifies the Judgment such that there is a material modification to the Settlement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Participating Class Members), and that Court's decision is not completely reversed and the Judgment is not fully affirmed on review by a higher Court, then the Parties shall work together in good faith to address any concerns raised by the reviewing Court and propose a revised Settlement for the approval of the Court not later than fourteen days after the reviewing Court's decision vacating, reversing, or materially modifying the Judgment becomes Final. A vacation, reversal,

or modification of the Court's award of the Class Representative Service Payment or the Class Counsel Fees Payment or Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment will not constitute a vacation, reversal, or material modification of the Judgment within the meaning of this paragraph, provided that Defendant's obligation to make payments under this Settlement will remain limited by the Gross Settlement Amount.

- i. **Timing of Settlement Funding and Provision of Settlement Shares and Other Payments.** Defendant shall fund the Gross Settlement Amount by depositing the money with the Settlement Administrator. Defendant shall fund the Gross Settlement Amount and the amount necessary to pay Defendant's share of payroll taxes within fifteen (15) days of the Effective Date. Within fifteen (15) days after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Settlement Administrator will make payment of all Settlement Shares to all Participating Class Members, even if their Class Notice was undeliverable, as well as payment of Settlement Administration Expenses, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, the Class Representative Service Payment and the PAGA Payment in accordance with this Agreement.
- j. **Uncashed Settlement Checks.** Before checks are mailed, the Settlement Administrator shall update address information through the National Change of Address database. A Participating Class Member or Aggrieved Employee must cash his or her Settlement Share check within 180 days after it is mailed to him or her. If a check is returned to the Settlement Administrator or not cashed within 120 days after the last mailing, the Settlement Administrator will make all reasonable efforts to re-mail it to the affected individual at his or her correct address by use of available email addresses, phone numbers, social security numbers, credit reports, LinkedIn and Facebook. If a Participating Class Member's or Aggrieved Employee's check is not cashed within 120 days after its last mailing to the affected individual, the Settlement Administrator will also send the individual a notice informing him or her that unless the check is cashed in the next 60 days, it will expire and become non-negotiable, and offer to replace the check if it was lost or misplaced but not cashed. If the check remains uncashed by the expiration of the 60 day period after this notice, the funds from such uncashed checks will be paid to the California State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of and for the benefit of the individual who did not cash their check, and the Participating Class Member or Aggrieved Employee will remain bound by the Settlement. The Parties agree that this disposition results in no "unpaid residue" within the meaning of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 384, as the entire Net Settlement Amount will be paid out to Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees, whether or not they all cash their Settlement Share checks.
- k. **Final Report by Settlement Administrator to Court.** Within ten days after final disbursement of all funds from the Gross Settlement Amount, the Settlement Administrator will provide the Parties with a declaration

proving a final report on the disbursements of all funds from the Gross Settlement Amount.

45. **Release of Claims.**

- a. **Released Class Claims.** Upon the Effective Date, Released Parties shall receive a release from the Participating Class Members of all class claims pled or which could have been pled based on the factual allegations contained in the operative complaint which occurred during the Class Period including claims for: (a) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (b) failure to pay overtime wages owed; (c) failure to provide meal periods, or premium pay for non-compliant meal periods; (d) failure to authorize and permit rest periods, or premium pay for non-compliant rest periods; (e) failure to issue accurate, itemized wage statements; (f) failure to timely pay all wages due upon separation of employment; (g) failure to reimburse business expenses; (h) all claims for unfair business practices that could have been premised on the facts, claims, causes of action or legal theories described above (“Released Class Claims”). Claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers’ compensation, and class claims outside of the Class Period are expressly excluded from being released.
- b. **Released PAGA Claims.** Upon the Effective Date, Released Parties shall receive a release from the State of California from all PAGA claims for civil penalties under California Labor Code Sections 2698, et seq., predicated on the California Labor Code violations that are asserted in the LWDA Notice for violations of Labor Code sections §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226(a), 226.7, 351, 510, 512, 558(a)(1)-(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802, California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11070(14), Violation of Applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s) (“Released PAGA Claims”). The Released PAGA Claims exclude claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers’ compensation, PAGA claims outside of the PAGA Period, and other PAGA claims not asserted in the PAGA Notice. The release of the Released PAGA Claims shall be effective as to all Aggrieved Employees, regardless of whether an Aggrieved Employee submitted a request for an exclusion from the Class.
- c. **Plaintiff’s Released Claims.** Upon the Effective Date, Plaintiff generally, releases and discharges the Released Parties from any and all Released Class Claims between them that occurred during the Class Period and all Released PAGA Claims between them that occurred during the PAGA Period (“Plaintiff’s Released Claims”).
- d. **Plaintiff’s Other Claims.** Plaintiff represents that she does have additional individual claims against Defendant that are unrelated to the Class claims and PAGA claims. Plaintiff is separately settling the individual claims pursuant to a general release with a Civil Code 1542 waiver pursuant to a Confidential Individual Settlement Agreement.

- e. **Class Counsel.** As of the date the Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount, and except as otherwise provided by this Agreement and the Judgment, Class Counsel and any counsel associated with Class Counsel waive any claim to costs and attorneys' fees and expenses against Defendant arising from or related to the Action.
- 46. **No Effect on Other Benefits.** The Settlement Shares will not result in any additional benefit payments (such as 401(k) or bonus) beyond those provided by this Agreement to Plaintiff or Participating Class Members, and Plaintiff and Participating Class Members will be deemed to have waived all such claims, whether known or unknown by them, as part of their release of claims under this Agreement.
- 47. **Limitation on Public Statements About Settlement.** Neither Class Counsel nor Defendant's Counsel shall publicize the Settlement prior to the Court granting preliminary approval, other than filing documents with the Court. Plaintiff and Class Counsel and Defendant and Defendant's Counsel agree that they will not issue any press releases or initiate any contact with the media about the fact, amount, or terms of the Settlement. If Plaintiff or Class Counsel or Defendant or Defendant's Counsel receives an inquiry about the Settlement from the media, they may respond only after the Motion for Preliminary Approval has been filed and only by confirming the accurate terms of the Settlement. This provision shall not prohibit Class Counsel from communicating with Class Members after preliminary approval is granted for the sole purpose of administering the Settlement. This provision also does not limit Class Counsel from complying with ethical obligations or from posting court-filed documents on their website for viewing by Class Members after preliminary approval. The motions for approval, the motion for attorneys' fees and the Judgment shall be posted on a website as set forth in the Class Notice. Nothing in this provision shall prevent Defendant or Plaintiff from making any required disclosures.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS TERMS

- 47. **No Admission of Liability or Class Certification for Other Purposes.**
 - a. Defendant and the Released Parties deny that they have engaged in any unlawful activity, have failed to comply with the law in any respect, have any liability to anyone under the claims asserted in the Action, or that but for the Settlement a class should be certified in the Action. This Agreement is entered into solely for the purpose of compromising highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or will be construed as an admission of liability or wrongdoing by Defendant or the Released Parties, or an admission by Plaintiff that any of the claims were non-meritorious or any defense asserted by Defendant was meritorious. This Settlement and the fact that Plaintiff and Defendant were willing to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation (other than solely in connection with effectuating the Settlement pursuant to this Agreement). Nothing in this Agreement shall be constructed as an admission by Defendant of any liability or wrongdoing as to Plaintiff, Class Members, or any other

person, and Defendant specifically disclaim any such liability or wrongdoing. Moreover, it is not, and it should not be construed as, any admission of fact or law in this matter or any other matter that a class action is appropriate. The Parties have entered into this settlement with the intention of avoiding further disputes and litigation with the attendant inconvenience, expenses and risks. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as an admission by Plaintiff that Plaintiff's claims do not have merit or that class action is inappropriate.

- b. Whether or not the Judgment becomes Final, neither the Settlement, this Agreement, any document, statement, proceeding or conduct related to the Settlement or the Agreement, nor any reports or accounting of those matters, will be (i) construed as, offered or admitted in evidence as, received as, or deemed to be evidence for any purpose adverse to Plaintiff or Defendant or any of the Released Parties, including, but not limited to, evidence of a presumption, concession, indication or admission by any of the Released Parties of any liability, fault, wrongdoing, omission, concession or damage; or (ii) disclosed, referred to or offered in evidence against any of the Released Parties, in any further proceeding in the Action, or any other civil, criminal or administrative action or proceeding except for purposes of effectuating the Settlement pursuant to this Agreement.
- c. This section and all other provisions of this Agreement notwithstanding, any and all provisions of this Agreement may only be admitted in evidence and otherwise used in any and all proceedings for the limited purpose of enforcing any or all terms of this Agreement or defending any claims released or barred by this Agreement.

48. **Integrated Agreement.** After this Agreement is signed and delivered by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement and its exhibits will constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement, and it will then be deemed that no oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements have been made to any Party concerning this Agreement or its exhibits other than the representations, warranties, covenants, and inducements expressly stated in this Agreement and its exhibits.

49. **Attorney Authorization.** Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff and Defendant, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to effect the implementation of the Settlement. In the event the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Agreement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Agreement, the Parties will seek the assistance of the mediator for resolution.

50. **No Prior Assignments:** The Parties represent, covenant and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged in this Settlement.
51. **No Tax Advice:** Neither Class Counsel nor Defendant's Counsel intend anything contained in this Settlement to constitute advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.
52. **Modification of Agreement.** Except as set forth in section 49 hereinabove this Agreement, and any and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.
53. **Agreement Binding on Successors.** This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
54. **Applicable Law.** All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of California.
55. **Cooperation in Drafting.** The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.
56. **Fair Settlement.** The Parties and their respective counsel believe and warrant that this Agreement reflects a fair, reasonable, and adequate settlement of the Action and have arrived at this Agreement through arms-length negotiations, taking into account all relevant factors, current and potential.
57. **Use and Return of Documents and Data.** All originals, copies, and summaries of documents and data provided to Class Counsel by Defendant in connection with the mediation or other settlement negotiations in this matter may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule. Within thirty days after the Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount, Class Counsel will return or destroy and confirm in writing to Defendant the destruction of all such documents and data.
58. **Headings.** The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.
59. **Notice.** All notices, demands or other communications given under this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff and the Class:

Norman B. Blumenthal
Kyle R. Nordrehaug
Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP
2255 Calle Clara
La Jolla, CA 92037
Tel.: (858) 551-1223
Fax: (858) 551-1232
E-Mail: norm@bamlawca.com
kyle@bamlawca.com

To Defendant:

Krista M. Cabrera
Kevin Jackson
Foley & Lardner LLP
11988 El Camino Real, Suite 400
San Diego, CA 92130-2594
Tel: (858) 847-6700
Fax: (858) 792-6773
Email: kcabrera@foley.com
kjackson@foley.com

[David B. Goroff](#)
[Foley & Lardner, LLP](#)
321 North Clark Street
Suite 3000
Chicago, IL 60654
Tel: (312) 832-5160
Fax: (312) 832-4700
Email: dgoroff@foley.com

Diane Walker
Kristen Roberts
Walker Morton LLP
Two Prudential Plaza
180 North Stetson Avenue
47th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Tel: (312) 471-2901
Fax: (312) 471-6001
Email: dwalker@walkermortonllp.com
kroberts@walkermortonllp.com

60. **Execution in Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically or email which for purposes of this

Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument provided that counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

61. **Stay of Litigation.** The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process from the mediation with the David A. Rotman on September 14, 2021 until the earlier of the Effective Date or the date this Agreement shall not longer be of any force or effect.
62. **Continuing Jurisdiction.** The Court shall retain continuing jurisdiction over the Action under CCP section 664.6 to ensure the continuing implementation of this Agreement and enforcement of the Settlement until performance in full of the terms of this Settlement.

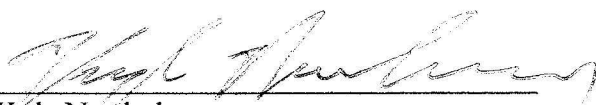
V. EXECUTION BY PARTIES AND COUNSEL

The Parties and their counsel hereby execute this Agreement.

Dated: Mar 10, 2022 
Rati Gandhale (Mar 10, 2022 12:31 PST)
Plaintiff Rati Gandhale

Dated: _____

[name]
For Defendant Select Rehabilitation, LLC

Dated: 3/10/22 
Kyle Nordrehaug
Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP
Attorney for Plaintiff Rati Gandhale

Dated: _____

Krista
M. Cabrera
Foley & Lardner LLP
Attorney for Defendant Select Rehabilitation, LLC

Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument provided that counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

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62. **Continuing Jurisdiction.** The Court shall retain continuing jurisdiction over the Action under CCP section 664.6 to ensure the continuing implementation of this Agreement and enforcement of the Settlement until performance in full of the terms of this Settlement.

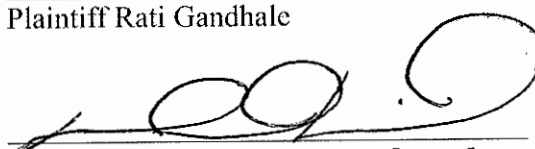
V. EXECUTION BY PARTIES AND COUNSEL

The Parties and their counsel hereby execute this Agreement.

Dated: _____

Plaintiff Rati Gandhale

Dated: 3/10/22


Michael Capstick

[name]

For Defendant Select Rehabilitation, LLC

Dated: _____

Norman Blumenthal
Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP
Attorney for Plaintiff Rati Gandhale

Dated: 3/23/2022


Krista M. Cabrera
Foley & Lardner LLP

Attorney for Defendant Select Rehabilitation, LLC

EXHIBIT A

[NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF CLASS ACTION AND HEARING DATE FOR
FINAL COURT APPROVAL]

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF CLASS ACTION
AND HEARING DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL**

**(*Gandhale v. Select Rehabilitation, LLC*, Superior Court of the State of California,
County of Monterey, Case No. 20CV002240)**

**YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED WHETHER YOU ACT OR DO NOT
ACT. PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.**

SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT:	
Do Nothing and Receive a Payment	To receive a cash payment from the Settlement, you do not have to do anything. Your estimated Settlement Share is: \$<<__>>. See the explanation in Section 5 below. If you do nothing, you will be considered a Participating Class Member and will be part of the Settlement as explained more fully below. After final approval by the Court, the payment will be mailed to you at the same address as this notice. In exchange for the Settlement Share payment, you will release the Released Class Claims as detailed in Section 4 below. If your address has changed, you must notify the Settlement Administrator as explained in Section 6 below.
Exclude Yourself	To exclude yourself, you must send a written request for exclusion to the Settlement Administrator as provided below. If you request exclusion, you will receive no money from the Settlement and you will not be bound by the Settlement. However, if you are an Aggrieved Employee who opts out, you will still be paid your allocation of the PAGA Payment and will remain bound by the release of the Released PAGA Claims regardless of whether you submit a request for exclusion. If you choose to do so, you must notify the Settlement Administrator as explained in Section 7 below.
Object	Write to the Court about why you do not agree with the settlement or appear at the Final Approval Hearing to make an oral objection. Instructions are provided in Section 8 below.

Your options are further explained in this Class Notice. To exclude yourself from, or object to, the settlement you must take action by certain deadlines. If you want the Settlement as proposed, you don't need to do anything to obtain your share of the Settlement. Defendant will not retaliate against you for any actions you take with respect to the Settlement.

1. Why did I get this Notice?

A proposed class action settlement (the "Settlement") of the above-captioned action pending in the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Monterey (the "Court") has been reached between Plaintiff Rati Gandhale ("Plaintiff") and Defendant Select Rehabilitation, LLC ("Defendant") and has been granted preliminary approval by the Court. You may be entitled to receive money from this Settlement.

You have received this Class Notice because you have been identified as a member of the Class, which is defined as:

All individuals who are or previously were employed by Defendant in California in one or more of the Covered Positions during Class Period.

“Covered Positions” are the following job positions: Cluster Program Manager (OT); Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant; Occupational Therapist; Program Assistant; Program Director—OT; Program Director—PT; Program Manager; Program Manager Backup—COTA; Program Manager Backup—OT; Program Manager Backup—PT; Program Manager Backup—PTA; Program Manager Backup—Rehab Tech; Program Manager Backup—RT; Program Manager Backup—SLP; Program Manager—COTA; Program Manager—OT; Program Manager—PT; Program Manager—PTA; Program Manager—SLP; Physical Therapist; Physical Therapist Assistant; Rehab Technician; Speech Language Pathology; Wellness Coordinator.

The Class Period is August 25, 2016 through December 28, 2021.

This Class Notice explains the lawsuit, the Settlement, and your legal rights. It is important that you read this Class Notice carefully as your rights may be affected by the Settlement.

2. What is this class action lawsuit about?

On August 25, 2020, Plaintiff filed a class action complaint against Defendant in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Monterey (“*Gandhale* Class Action”), alleging the following class claims against the Defendant: unfair competition, failure to pay overtime wages, failure to provide required meal periods, failure to provide required rest periods, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, failure to reimburse employees for required expenses, and failure to timely pay wages at termination. On March 9, 2021, Plaintiff filed a Representative Action Complaint against Defendant in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Monterey alleging a single cause of action for recovery of civil penalties under the Private Attorney General’s Action, *Labor Code* §§ 2699, et seq. based upon the above alleged violations (“*Gandhale* PAGA Action”). As part of this Settlement, the Parties agree to enter into a Stipulation to Consolidate the *Gandhale* PAGA Action with the first-filed *Gandhale* Class Action as the lead case number (collectively the “Action”).

Defendant denies and disputes all such claims. Specifically, Defendant contends that Plaintiff and the Class Members were properly compensated for wages under California law; that Plaintiff and the Class Members were provided with meal and rest periods in compliance with California law; that Defendant complied with California wage statement requirements; that Defendant did not fail to reimburse for required business expenses, that Defendant is not liable for any of the penalties claimed or that could be claimed in the Action; and that this Action cannot be maintained as a class action.

The Court granted preliminary approval of the Settlement on <<INSERT PRELIMINARY APPROVAL DATE>>. At that time, the Court also preliminarily approved the Plaintiff to serve as the Class Representative, and the law firm Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP to serve as Class Counsel.

3. What are the terms of the Settlement?

Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant has agreed to pay an “all in” amount of One Million Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,850,000) (the “Gross Settlement Amount”) to fund the settlement of this Action. The Gross Settlement Amount includes all payments of Settlement Shares to Class Members, the Settlement Administration Expenses, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, Class Representative Service Payment, and the PAGA Payment for civil penalties. Any employer-side payroll taxes on the portion of the Settlement Shares allocated to wages shall be separately paid by Defendant.

Within fifteen (15) days of the Effective Date, Defendant will fund the Gross Settlement Amount by depositing the money with the Settlement Administrator. The “Effective Date” the date the Judgment is entered, or if there are objections or any appeal, the date the Judgment is no longer subject to appeal. Fifteen (15) days after the settlement is funded, the Settlement Administrator will mail checks for the Settlement Shares to Participating Class Members.

Amounts to be Paid From the Gross Settlement Amount. The proposed payments subject to Court approval will be deducted from the Gross Settlement Amount before Settlement Shares are made to Class Members who do not request exclusion (“Participating Class Members”):

- Settlement Administration Expenses. Payment to the Settlement Administrator, estimated not to exceed \$15,000, for expenses, including without limitation expenses of notifying the Class Members of the Settlement, processing opt outs, and distributing Settlement Shares and tax forms, and handling inquiries and uncashed checks.
- Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. Payment to Class Counsel of reasonable attorneys’ fees not to exceed one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount, which is presently \$616,666 and an additional amount to reimburse actual litigation costs incurred by the Plaintiff not to exceed \$25,000. Class Counsel has been prosecuting the Action on behalf of Plaintiff and the Class on a contingency fee basis (that is, without being paid any money) and has been paying all litigation costs and expenses. The amounts stated are what Class Counsel will be requesting and the final amounts to be paid will be decided at the Final Approval Hearing.
- Class Representative Service Payment. Class Representative Service Payment in an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to the Plaintiff, or such lesser amount as may be approved by the Court, to compensate her for services on behalf of the Class in initiating and prosecuting the Action, and for the risks she undertook. The amount stated is what Plaintiff will be requesting and the final amount to be paid will be decided at the Final Approval Hearing.
- PAGA Payment. A payment of \$40,000 relating to the claim for penalties under the Private Attorney Generals Act (“PAGA”), \$30,000 of which will be paid to the State of California’s Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA Payment”). The remaining \$10,000 will be distributed to the Aggrieved Employees based on a pro-rata basis in proportion to the number of pay periods each Aggrieved Employee worked during the PAGA Period (June 18, 2019 to December 28, 2021). “Aggrieved Employees” mean all individuals who are or previously were employed by Defendant in California in one or more of the following job positions: Cluster Program Manager (OT); Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant; Occupational Therapist; Program Assistant;

Program Director—OT; Program Director—PT; Program Manager; Program Manager Backup—COTA; Program Manager Backup—OT; Program Manager Backup—PT; Program Manager Backup—PTA; Program Manager Backup—Rehab Tech; Program Manager Backup—RT; Program Manager Backup—SLP; Program Manager—COTA; Program Manager—OT; Program Manager—PT; Program Manager—PTA; Program Manager—SLP; Physical Therapist; Physical Therapist Assistant; Rehab Technician; Speech Language Pathology; Wellness Coordinator (the “Covered Positions”) during the PAGA Period. All Aggrieved Employees will be sent their share of the PAGA Payment and will be subject to the release of the Released PAGA Claims as set forth below, whether or not they opt out of the Settlement.

Calculation of Payments to Class Members. After all of the payments of the Court-approved Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, the Class Representative Service Payment, the PAGA Payment, and the Settlement Administration Expenses are deducted from the Gross Settlement Amount, the remaining portion, called the “Net Settlement Amount”, shall be distributed as Settlement Shares to the Participating Class Members. The Net Settlement Amount is estimated to be at least \$1,143,334, based upon the above proposed deductions. Settlement Administrator will pay a Settlement Share from the Net Settlement Amount to each Participating Class Member, which shall be calculated as follows: (a) the Settlement Administrator shall divide the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of weeks included in the dates of employment to determine a dollar amount per week (“Weekly Rate”); and (b) the Settlement Administrator shall then take the number of weeks worked by each Participating Class Member and multiply it by the Weekly Rate to calculate their Settlement Share.

If the Settlement is approved by the Court and you do not exclude yourself, you will automatically be mailed a check for your Settlement Share to the same address as this Class Notice. You do not have to do anything to receive a payment. If your address has changed, you must contact the Settlement Administrator to inform them of your correct address to ensure you receive your payment.

Tax Matters. Seventy-five (75%) of each Participating Class Member’s Settlement Share is in settlement of wage claims (the “Wage Portion”). Accordingly, the Wage Portion is subject to wage withholdings, and shall be reported on IRS Form W-2. Twenty-five (25%) of each Participating Class Member’s Settlement Share is in settlement of claims for interest and penalties allegedly due to employees (collectively the “Non-Wage Portion”). The Non-Wage Portion shall not be subject to wage withholdings, and shall be reported on IRS Form 1099. The employee portion of all applicable income and payroll taxes will be the responsibility of the Participating Class Members. Neither Class Counsel nor Defendant’s Counsel intend anything contained in this Class Notice to constitute advice regarding taxes or taxability. The tax issues for each Participating Class Member are unique to him/her, and each Participating Class Member may wish to consult a tax advisor concerning the tax consequences of the payments received under the Settlement.

Conditions of Settlement. This Settlement is conditioned upon the Court granting final approval of the Settlement and entering the Judgment.

4. What Do I Release Under the Settlement?

Released Class Claims. Upon the Effective Date, Released Parties shall receive a release from the Participating Class Members of all class claims pled or which could have been pled based on the factual allegations contained in the operative complaint which occurred during the Class Period including claims for: (a) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (b) failure to pay overtime wages owed; (c) failure to provide meal periods, or premium pay for non-compliant meal periods; (d) failure to authorize and permit rest periods, or premium pay for non-compliant rest periods; (e) failure to issue accurate, itemized wage statements; (f) failure to timely pay all wages due upon separation of employment; (g) failure to reimburse business expenses; (h) all claims for unfair business practices that could have been premised on the facts, claims, causes of action or legal theories described above (“Released Class Claims”). Claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers’ compensation, and class claims outside of the Class Period are expressly excluded from being released.

This means that, if you do not timely exclude yourself from the settlement, you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendant and any other Released Party about Released Class Claims resolved by this Settlement. It also means that all of the Court’s orders in this Action will apply to you and legally bind you.

Released PAGA Claims. Upon the Effective Date, Released Parties shall receive a release from the State of California from all PAGA claims for civil penalties under California Labor Code Sections 2698, et seq., predicated on the California Labor Code violations that are asserted in the LWDA Notice for violations of Labor Code sections §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226(a), 226.7, 351, 510, 512, 558(a)(1)-(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802, California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11070(14), Violation of Applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s) (“Released PAGA Claims”). The Released PAGA Claims exclude claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers’ compensation, PAGA claims outside of the PAGA Period, and other PAGA claims not asserted in the PAGA Notice. The release of the Released PAGA Claims shall be effective as to all Aggrieved Employees, regardless of whether an Aggrieved Employee submitted a request for an exclusion from the Class.

5. How much will my payment be?

The Weekly Rate is estimated to be <<\$_____>>. Defendant’s records reflect that you have worked <<____>> weeks for Defendant in a Covered Position during the Class Period (August 25, 2016 through December 28, 2021).

Based on this information, your estimated Settlement Share from the Net Settlement Amount is <<____>>.

If you wish to challenge the information set forth above, then you must submit a written and signed dispute challenging the information along with supporting documents, to the Settlement Administrator at the address provided in this Class Notice no later than _____ [forty-five (45) days after the mailing of the Class Notice or 60 days after the Class Notice in the case of re-mailing].

6. How can I get a payment?

To get money from the settlement, you do not have to do anything. A check for your Settlement Share will be mailed automatically to the same address as this Class Notice. If your address is incorrect or has changed, you must notify the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator can be contacted at: _____ or (800) _____.

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing on _____, at _____ to decide whether to approve the Settlement and fix the amounts to be paid as attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel and as a service award to the Plaintiff. If the Court approves the Settlement and there are no objections or appeals, payments will be mailed approximately two months after this hearing. If there are objections or appeals, resolving them can take time, usually more than a year. Please be patient.

7. What if I don't want to be a part of the Settlement?

If you do not wish to participate in the Settlement, you may exclude yourself from the Settlement or "opt out." **If you opt out, you will not receive a Settlement Share from the Settlement, and you will not be bound by the Settlement which means you will retain the right to sue Defendant for the Released Class Claims.** However, Aggrieved Employees who opt out will still be paid their allocation of the PAGA Payment and will remain subject to the release of the Released PAGA Claims regardless whether they submit a request for exclusion.

To opt out, you must mail to the Settlement Administrator, by First Class Mail, a written, signed and dated request to opt-out postmarked no later than _____ [forty-five (45) days after the date of the Class Notice or 60 days after the Class Notice in the case of re-mailing]. The request to opt-out must be postmarked or received by the Settlement Administrator by this deadline and should: (1) contain a clear statement that you are requesting to opt out of, or be excluded from the Class and Released Class Claims in the *Gandhale v. Select Rehabilitation, LLC* lawsuit; (2) contain the name, address, and the last four digits of the Social Security Number of the person requesting exclusion; (3) state the Class Member's request to exclude himself or herself from the Settlement and to opt out of the Settlement; and (4) be signed by the Class Member or his or her lawful representative. You must include the name and number of the case, which is *Gandhale v. Select Rehabilitation, LLC*, Case No. 20CV002240. The request to opt-out must be signed by you.

The address for the Settlement Administrator is _____. Written requests for exclusion that are postmarked after _____, or are incomplete or unsigned may be rejected; and if so, those Class Members will remain bound by the Settlement and the Released Class Claims described above.

8. How do I tell the Court that I don't agree with the Settlement?

Any Class Member who has not opted out and believes that the Settlement should not be finally approved by the Court for any reason may object to the proposed Settlement, the attorneys' fees, the costs and/or the service award, either in writing or in person. Objections that are in writing should state the Class Member's name, current address, telephone number, and the dates of employment in California by Defendant, and describe why you believe the Settlement is unfair. All written objections or other correspondence should also state the name and number of the case, which is *Gandhale v. Select Rehabilitation, LLC*, in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Monterey, Case No. 20CV002240.

All written objections must be mailed to the Settlement Administrator at _____, no later than _____ [forty-five (45) days after the date of the Class Notice or 60 days after the Class Notice in the case of re-mailing].

Alternatively, Class Members may appear remotely at the Final Approval Hearing on _____ at _____ to make an oral objection without submitting a written objection or to otherwise participate in the Final Approval Hearing. Check the Court's website for the most current information concerning appearances and procedures at the Court - <https://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov/>. For assistance in making an appearance at the Final Approval Hearing, please contact Class Counsel below.

To object to the Settlement, you must not opt out, and if the Court approves the Settlement despite your objection, you will be bound by the terms of the Settlement in the same way as Class Members who do not object and you will still be mailed a check for your Settlement Share.

The addresses for Parties' counsel are as follows:

Class Counsel:

Norman Blumenthal
Kyle Nordrehaug
Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP
2255 Calle Clara
La Jolla, CA 92037
Tel: 858-551-1223 / Fax: 858-551-1232
Email: kyle@bamlawca.com
Website: www.bamlawca.com

Counsel for Defendant:

Krista M. Cabrera
Kevin Jackson
Foley & Lardner LLP
11988 El Camino Real, Suite 400
San Diego, CA 92130-2594

9. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the Settlement?

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing at _____ on _____, at the Monterey County Superior Court, located at 1200 Agualito Road, Monterey, CA 93940, in Department _____ before Judge _____. At this hearing the Court will consider whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate. The purpose of this hearing is for the Court to determine whether to grant final approval to the Settlement and to fix the amounts to be paid as attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel and as service payments to Plaintiff. If there are objections, the Court will consider them. This hearing may be rescheduled by the Court without further notice to you. If you are interested in participating in the Final Approval Hearing, you should confirm the date, time and location by contacting Class Counsel. **You are not required to attend** the Final Approval Hearing, although any Class Member is welcome to attend the hearing. If the hearing is continued, notice will be posted on Class Counsel's website at www.bamlawca.com under "Class Notices" for *Gandhale v. Select Rehabilitation*. In addition, hearing dates are posted on the Internet via the Case Search page for the California Superior Court for the County of Monterey (<https://portal.monterey.courts.ca.gov/>) and entering the Case No. 20CV002240.

10. How do I get more information about the Settlement?

You may call the Settlement Administrator at _____ or write to *Gandhale v. Select Rehabilitation* Settlement Administrator, c/o _____; or contact Class Counsel at 1-858-551-1223.

This Class Notice summarizes the proposed settlement. More details are in the Settlement Agreement. You may receive a copy of the Settlement Agreement, the Judgment, the motion for attorneys' fees, costs and service award, the motion for final approval, or other Settlement documents by going to Class Counsel's website at www.bamlawca.com under "Class Notices" for *Gandhale v. Select Rehabilitation*. You may also get more details by examining the Court's file on the Internet via the Register of Actions for the San Diego County Superior Court (<https://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/sdcourt/generalinformation/accesscourtrecords>) and entering the Case No. 20CV002240. If you wish to view the Court files in person, you must make an appointment with the Clerk's Office at the Monterey Courthouse, 1200 Aquajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE COURT ABOUT THIS NOTICE.

IMPORTANT:

- You must inform the Settlement Administrator of any change of address to ensure receipt of your settlement payment.
- Settlement checks will be null and void 180 days after issuance if not deposited or cashed, and this expiration date will be printed on the check. In such event, the Settlement Administrator shall pay all unclaimed funds to the California State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of and for the benefit of the individual who did not cash their check where the funds may be claimed.
- If your check is lost or misplaced, you should contact the Settlement Administrator immediately to request a replacement.

EXHIBIT B

[ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT]

EXHIBIT "B"

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONTEREY

RATI GANDHALE, an individual, on behalf
of herself and on behalf of all persons
similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

SELECT REHABILITATION LLC, a Limited
Liability Company and DOES 1 through 50,
Inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO.: **20CV002240**
(Consolidated with Case No. 21CV000740)

**[PROPOSED] PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL ORDER**

Hearing Date:
Hearing Time:

Judge: Hon,
Dept.:

Action Filed: August 25, 2020
Trial Date: None Set

1 This matter, having come before the Honorable _____ of the Superior Court of
2 the State of California, in and for the County Monterey, on _____[DATE], for the motion
3 by Plaintiff Rati Gandhale (“Plaintiff”) for preliminary approval of the class settlement with
4 Defendant Select Rehabilitation, LLC (“Defendant”). The Court, having considered the briefs,
5 argument of counsel and all matters presented to the Court and good cause appearing, hereby
6 GRANTS Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement.

7
8 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

9 1. The Court preliminarily approves the Class Action Settlement Agreement
10 (“Agreement”) attached as Exhibit ____ to the Declaration of Kyle Nordrehaug in Support of
11 Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement. This is based on the
12 Court’s determination that the Settlement set forth in the Agreement is within the range of possible
13 final approval, pursuant to the provisions of Section 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure
14 and California Rules of Court, rule 3.769.

15 2. This Order incorporates by reference the definitions in the Agreement, and all
16 terms defined therein shall have the same meaning in this Order as set forth in the Agreement.

17 3. The Gross Settlement Amount is One Million Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand
18 Dollars (\$1,850,000). It appears to the Court on a preliminary basis that the settlement amount
19 and terms are fair, adequate and reasonable as to all potential Class Members when balanced
20 against the probable outcome of further litigation and the significant risks relating to certification,
21 liability and damages issues. It further appears that investigation and research have been
22 conducted such that counsel for the Parties are able to reasonably evaluate their respective
23 positions. It further appears to the Court that settlement at this time will avoid substantial
24 additional costs by all Parties, as well as avoid the delay and risks that would be presented by the
25 further prosecution of the Action. It further appears that the Settlement has been reached as the
26 result of serious and non-collusive, arms-length negotiations. The Court therefore preliminarily
27 finds that the Settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable when balanced against the probable
28

1 outcome of further litigation and the significant risks relating to certification, liability, and
2 damages issues.

3 4. The Agreement specifies for an attorneys' fees award not to exceed one-third (1/3)
4 of the Gross Settlement Amount, an award of litigation expenses incurred, not to exceed \$25,000,
5 and proposed Class Representative Service Payment to the Plaintiff in an amount not to exceed
6 \$10,000. The Court will not approve the amount of attorneys' fees and costs, nor the amount of
7 any service award, until the Final Approval Hearing. Plaintiff will be required to present evidence
8 supporting these requests, including lodestar, at the time of final approval.

9 5. The Court recognizes that Plaintiff and Defendant stipulate and agree to
10 certification of a class for settlement purposes only. This stipulation will not be deemed
11 admissible in this or any other proceeding should this Settlement not become final. For settlement
12 purposes only, the Court conditionally certifies the following Class: "all individuals who are or
13 previously were employed by Defendant in California in one or more of the Covered Positions
14 during Class Period." "Covered Positions" are the following job positions: Cluster Program
15 Manager (OT); Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant; Occupational Therapist; Program
16 Assistant; Program Director—OT; Program Director—PT; Program Manager; Program Manager
17 Backup—COTA; Program Manager Backup—OT; Program Manager Backup—PT; Program
18 Manager Backup—PTA; Program Manager Backup—Rehab Tech; Program Manager Backup—
19 RT; Program Manager Backup—SLP; Program Manager—COTA; Program Manager—OT;
20 Program Manager—PT; Program Manager—PTA; Program Manager—SLP; Physical Therapist;
21 Physical Therapist Assistant; Rehab Technician; Speech Language Pathology; Wellness
22 Coordinator. The Class Period is August 25, 2016 through December 28, 2021.

23 6. The Court concludes that, for settlement purposes only, the Class meets the
24 requirements for certification under section 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure in that:
25 (a) the Class is ascertainable and so numerous that joinder of all members of the Class is
26 impracticable; (b) common questions of law and fact predominate, and there is a well-defined
27 community of interest amongst the members of the Class with respect to the subject matter of the
28

1 litigation; (c) the claims of the Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the members of the Class; (d)
2 the Plaintiff can fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class; (e) a class
3 action is superior to other available methods for the efficient resolution of this controversy; and (f)
4 counsel for the Class is qualified to act as counsel for the Class and the Plaintiff are adequate
5 representatives of the Class.

6 7. The Court provisionally appoints Plaintiff as the representative of the Class. The
7 Court provisionally appoints Norman B. Blumenthal, Kyle R. Nordrehaug, and Aparajit Bhowmik
8 of Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP as Class Counsel for the Class.

9 8. The Court hereby approves, as to form and content, the Notice of Proposed
10 Settlement of Class Action and Hearing Date for Final Court Approval (“Class Notice”) attached
11 to the Agreement as Exhibit A. The Court finds that the Class Notice appears to fully and
12 accurately inform the Class of all material elements of the proposed Settlement, of the Class
13 Members’ right to be excluded from the Class by submitting a written opt-out request, and of each
14 member’s right and opportunity to object to the Settlement. The Court further finds that the
15 distribution of the Class Notice substantially in the manner and form set forth in the Agreement
16 and this Order meets the requirements of due process, is the best notice practicable under the
17 circumstances, and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto. The
18 Court orders the mailing of the Class Notice by first class mail, along with a Spanish translation of
19 the Class Notice, pursuant to the terms set forth in the Agreement.

20 9. The Court hereby appoints Simpluris as Settlement Administrator. No later than
21 thirty (30) calendar days after preliminary approval of the Settlement by the Court, Defendant
22 shall provide the Class Data to the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will
23 perform address updates and verifications as necessary prior to the mailing of the Class Notice.
24 Using best efforts to mail it as soon as possible, and in no event later than 14 days after receiving
25 the Class Data, the Settlement Administrator will mail the Class Notice to all Class Members via
26 first-class U.S. Mail.

1 10. The Court hereby preliminarily approves the proposed procedure for exclusion
2 from the Settlement. Any Class Member may individually choose to opt out of and be excluded
3 from the Class as provided in the Class Notice by following the instructions for requesting
4 exclusion from the Class that are set forth in the Class Notice. All requests for exclusion must be
5 postmarked by no later than forty-five (45) calendar days after the date of the mailing of the Class
6 Notice and received by the Settlement Administrator. If the Class Notice Packet is re-mailed, the
7 response date for requests for exclusion will be extended an additional 15 days. Any such person
8 who chooses to opt out of and be excluded from the Class will not be entitled to any recovery
9 under the Settlement and will not be bound by the Settlement or have any right to object, appeal or
10 comment thereon. Class Members who have not requested exclusion shall be bound by all
11 determinations of the Court, the Agreement and the Judgment. A request for exclusion may only
12 opt out that particular individual, and any attempt to effect an opt out of a group, class, or subclass
13 of individuals is not permitted and will be deemed invalid. Subject to the Court's final approval of
14 the Settlement, Aggrieved Employees will still be paid their allocation of the PAGA Payment and
15 will remain subject to the release of the Released PAGA Claims in the Agreement regardless of
16 their request for exclusion from the Class.

17 11. Any Class Member who has not opted out may appear at the final approval hearing
18 and may object or express the Member's views regarding the Settlement, and may present
19 evidence and file briefs or other papers that may be proper and relevant to the issues to be heard
20 and determined by the Court as provided in the Class Notice. Class Members will have forty-five
21 (45) calendar days from the date of the mailing of the Class Notices to submit their written
22 objections to the Settlement Administrator in accordance with the instructions in the Class Notice.
23 If the Class Notice Packet is re-mailed, the response date for written objections will be extended
24 an additional 15 days. Alternatively, Class Members may appear at the Final Approval Hearing to
25 make oral objections.

26 12. A Final Approval Hearing shall be held before this Court on _____
27 _____ at _____ in Department ____ at the Monterey County Superior Court to
28

1 hear the motion for final approval and the motion for attorneys' fees, and to determine all
2 necessary matters concerning the Settlement, including: whether the proposed settlement of the
3 Action on the terms and conditions provided for in the Agreement is fair, adequate and reasonable
4 and should be finally approved by the Court; whether the Final Approval Order and Judgment
5 should be entered herein; whether the plan of allocation contained in the Agreement should be
6 approved as fair, adequate and reasonable to the Class Members; and to finally approve attorneys'
7 fees and costs, the service awards, and the expenses of the Settlement Administrator. All papers in
8 support of the motion for final approval and the motion for attorneys' fees, costs and service
9 award shall be filed with the Court and served on all counsel no later than sixteen (16) court days
10 before the hearing and both motions shall be heard at the Final Approval Hearing.

11 13. Neither the Settlement nor any exhibit, document, or instrument delivered
12 thereunder shall be construed as a concession or admission by Defendant in any way that the
13 claims asserted have any merit or that this Action was properly brought as a class or representative
14 action, and shall not be used as evidence of, or used against Defendant as, an admission or
15 indication in any way, including with respect to any claim of any liability, wrongdoing, fault or
16 omission by Defendant or with respect to the truth of any allegation asserted by any person.
17 Whether or not the Settlement is finally approved, neither the Settlement, nor any exhibit,
18 document, statement, proceeding or conduct related to the Settlement, nor any reports or accounts
19 thereof, shall in any event be construed as, offered or admitted in evidence as, received as or
20 deemed to be evidence for any purpose adverse to the Defendant, including, but not limited to,
21 evidence of a presumption, concession, indication or admission by Defendant of any liability,
22 fault, wrongdoing, omission, concession or damage.

23 14. In the event the Settlement does not become effective in accordance with the terms
24 of the Agreement, or the Settlement is not finally approved, or is terminated, canceled or fails to
25 become effective for any reason, this Order shall be rendered null and void and shall be vacated,
26 and the Parties shall revert to their respective positions as of before entering into the Agreement,
27 and expressly reserve their respective rights regarding the prosecution and defense of this Action,
28

1 including all available defenses and affirmative defenses, and arguments that any claim in the
2 Action could not be certified as a class action and/or managed as a representative action. In such
3 an event, the Court's orders regarding the Settlement, including this Order, shall not be used or
4 referred to in litigation for any purpose. Nothing in this paragraph is intended to alter the terms of
5 the Agreement with respect to the effect of the Agreement if it is not approved.

6 15. The Court reserves the right to adjourn or continue the date of the final approval
7 hearing and all dates provided for in the Agreement without further notice to Class Members, and
8 retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the
9 proposed Settlement.

10 16. The Action is stayed and all trial and related pre-trial dates are vacated, subject to
11 further orders of the Court at the Final Approval Hearing.

12 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

13
14 Dated: _____

HON.
JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

EXHIBIT C

[FINAL APPROVAL ORDER AND JUDGMENT]

EXHIBIT "C"

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONTEREY

RATI GANDHALE, an individual, on behalf
of herself and on behalf of all persons
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

SELECT REHABILITATION LLC, a Limited
Liability Company and DOES 1 through 50,
Inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO.: **20CV002240**
(Consolidated with Case No. 21CV000740)

**[PROPOSED] FINAL APPROVAL
ORDER AND JUDGMENT**

Hearing Date:
Hearing Time:

Judge: Hon,
Dept.:

Action Filed: August 25, 2020
Trial Date: None Set

FINAL APPROVAL ORDER AND JUDGMENT

1 The motion of Plaintiff Rati Gandhale (“Plaintiff”) for an order finally approving the Class
2 Action Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) with Defendant Select Rehabilitation, LLC
3 (“Defendant”), and the motion for attorneys’ fees and costs, service payments, and the fees and
4 expenses of the Settlement Administrator, duly came on for hearing on _____ before
5 the Honorable _____.

6
7 **I.**
8 **FINDINGS**

9 Based on the oral and written argument and evidence presented in connection with the
10 motion, the Court makes the following findings:

- 11 1. All terms used herein shall have the same meaning as defined in the Agreement.
- 12 2. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this litigation pending before
13 the California Superior Court for the County of Monterey, and over all Parties to this litigation,
14 including the Class.
- 15 3. Based on a review of the papers submitted by Plaintiff and a review of the
16 applicable law, the Court finds that the Gross Settlement Amount of One Million Eight Hundred
17 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,850,000) and the terms set forth in the Agreement are fair, reasonable,
18 and adequate.
- 19 4. The Court further finds that the Settlement was the result of arm’s length
20 negotiations conducted after Class Counsel had adequately investigated the claims and became
21 familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of those claims. In particular, the amount the
22 Settlement, the significant risks relating to certification, liability, and damages issues, and the
23 assistance of an experienced mediator in the settlement process, among other factors, support the
24 Court’s conclusion that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate.

25 **Preliminary Approval of the Settlement**

- 26 5. On _____, the Court granted preliminary approval of the Settlement. At
27 this same time, the Court approved conditional certification of the Class for settlement purposes

1 only.

2 **Notice to the Class**

3 6. In compliance with the Preliminary Approval Order, the Class Notice was mailed
4 by first class mail to members of the Class at their last known addresses on or about
5 _____. Mailing of the Class Notice to their last known addresses was the best notice
6 option under the circumstances and was reasonably calculated to communicate actual notice of the
7 litigation and the proposed settlement to the Class. The Class Notice given to the Class Members
8 fully and accurately informed the Class Members of all material elements of the proposed
9 Settlement and of their opportunity to object to or comment thereon or to seek exclusion from the
10 Settlement; was valid, due, and sufficient notice to all Class Members; and complied fully with the
11 laws of the State of California, the United States Constitution, due process and other applicable
12 law. The Class Notice fairly and adequately described the Settlement and provided Class
13 Members adequate instructions and a variety of means to obtain additional information.

14 7. The deadline for opting out of the Class or submitting written objections to the
15 Settlement was _____, which deadline was extended fifteen (15) days for re-mailed
16 Class Notices. There was an adequate interval between notice and the deadline to permit Class
17 Members to choose what to do and act on their decision. A full opportunity has been afforded to
18 the Class Members to participate in this hearing, and all Class Members and other persons wishing
19 to be heard have been heard. Class Members also have had a full and fair opportunity to exclude
20 themselves from the proposed Settlement and Class. Accordingly, the Court determines that all
21 Class Members who did not timely and properly submit a request for exclusion are bound by the
22 Settlement and this Final Approval Order and Judgment.

23 **Fairness Of Settlement**

24 8. The Agreement is entitled to a presumption of fairness. *Dunk v. Ford Motor Co.*
25 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1801 (1996).

26 a. The settlement was reached through arm's-length bargaining between the
27 parties during an all-day mediation before David A. Rotman, a respected and experienced
28

1 mediator of wage and hour class actions. There has been no collusion between the parties in
2 reaching the proposed settlement.

3 b. Plaintiff's investigation and discovery have been sufficient to allow the
4 Court and counsel to act intelligently.

5 c. Counsel for both parties are experienced in similar employment class action
6 litigation. All counsel recommended approval of the Agreement.

7 d. The percentage of objectors and requests for exclusion is small. ____
8 objections were received. _____ requests for exclusion were received.

9 e. The participation rate was high. _____ Class Members will be mailed a
10 settlement payment, representing ____% of the overall Class.

11 9. The consideration to be given to the Class Members under the terms of the
12 Agreement is fair, reasonable and adequate considering the strengths and weaknesses of the claims
13 asserted in this action and is fair, reasonable and adequate compensation for the release of Class
14 Members' claims, given the uncertainties and significant risks of the litigation and the delays
15 which would ensue from continued prosecution of the action.

16 10. The Agreement is approved as fair, adequate and reasonable and in the best
17 interests of the Class Members.

18 **Attorneys' Fees and Costs**

19 11. An award of \$_____ for attorneys' fees, representing one-third (1/3) of
20 the Gross Settlement Amount, and \$_____ for litigation costs and expenses, is
21 reasonable, in light of the contingent nature of Class Counsel's fee, the hours worked by Class
22 Counsel, and the results achieved by Class Counsel. The requested awards have been supported
23 by Class Counsel's lodestar and billing statement.

24 **Class Representative Service Payment**

25 12. The Agreement provides for a Class Representative Service Payment of not more
26 than \$10,000 to the Plaintiff, subject to the Court's approval. The Court finds that a Class
27 Representative Service Payment in the amount of \$_____ to the Plaintiff is reasonable in light
28

1 of the risks and burdens undertaken by the Plaintiff in the litigation, for her time and effort in
2 bringing and prosecuting this matter on behalf of the Class, and for her execution of a general
3 release.

4 **Settlement Administration Expenses**

5 13. The Settlement Administrator shall calculate and administer the payment to be
6 made to the Class Members, transmit payment for attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel,
7 transmit the Class Representative Service Payment to the Plaintiff, distribute the PAGA Payment,
8 issue any required tax reporting forms, calculate withholdings and perform the other remaining
9 duties set forth in the Agreement. The Settlement Administrator has documented \$ _____ in
10 fees and expenses, and this amount is reasonable in light of the work performed by the Settlement
11 Administrator.

12 **PAGA Payment**

13 14. The Agreement provides for a PAGA Payment out of the Gross Settlement
14 Amount of \$40,000, which shall be allocated \$30,000 to the LWDA as the LWDA's 75% share of
15 the settlement of civil penalties paid pursuant to the PAGA and \$10,000 to be distributed to the
16 Aggrieved Employees based on a pro-rata basis in proportion to the number of pay periods each
17 Aggrieved Employee worked during the PAGA Period (June 18, 2019 to December 28, 2021).
18 "Aggrieved Employees" mean all individuals who are or previously were employed by Defendant
19 in California in one or more of the following job positions: Cluster Program Manager (OT);
20 Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant; Occupational Therapist; Program Assistant; Program
21 Director—OT; Program Director—PT; Program Manager; Program Manager Backup—COTA;
22 Program Manager Backup—OT; Program Manager Backup—PT; Program Manager Backup—
23 PTA; Program Manager Backup—Rehab Tech; Program Manager Backup—RT; Program
24 Manager Backup—SLP; Program Manager—COTA; Program Manager—OT; Program
25 Manager—PT; Program Manager—PTA; Program Manager—SLP; Physical Therapist; Physical
26 Therapist Assistant; Rehab Technician; Speech Language Pathology; Wellness Coordinator (the
27 "Covered Positions") during the PAGA Period. All Aggrieved Employees will be sent their share
28

1 of the PAGA Payment and will be subject to the release of the Released PAGA Claims as set forth
2 below, whether or not they opt out of the Settlement.

3
4 **II.**

5 **ORDERS**

6 Based on the foregoing findings, and good cause appearing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

7 1. The certification of the Class for the purposes of settlement is confirmed. The
8 Class is defined as follows:

9 All individuals who are or previously were employed by Defendant in California in
10 one or more of the Covered Positions during Class Period (August 25, 2016
11 through December 28, 2021). "Covered Positions" are the following job positions:
12 Cluster Program Manager (OT); Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant;
13 Occupational Therapist; Program Assistant; Program Director—OT; Program
14 Director—PT; Program Manager; Program Manager Backup—COTA; Program
15 Manager Backup—OT; Program Manager Backup—PT; Program Manager
16 Backup—PTA; Program Manager Backup—Rehab Tech; Program Manager
17 Backup—RT; Program Manager Backup—SLP; Program Manager—COTA;
18 Program Manager—OT; Program Manager—PT; Program Manager—PTA;
19 Program Manager—SLP; Physical Therapist; Physical Therapist Assistant; Rehab
20 Technician; Speech Language Pathology; Wellness Coordinator.

21 2. All persons who meet the foregoing definition are members of the Class, except for
22 those individuals who filed a valid request for exclusion ("opt out") from the Class. [INSERT
23 REFERENCE TO IDENTIFY ANY OPT OUTS].

24 3. The Agreement is hereby finally approved as fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the
25 best interest of the Class.

26 4. Class Counsel are awarded attorneys' fees in the amount of \$_____ and
27 costs in the amount of \$_____. Class Counsel shall not seek or obtain any other
28 compensation or reimbursement from Defendant, Plaintiff or members of the Class.

5. The payment of the Class Representative Service Payment in the amount of \$
_____ to the Plaintiff is approved.

6. The payment of \$_____ to the Settlement Administrator for their fees and
expenses is approved.

1 7. The PAGA Payment of \$40,000 is approved and shall be allocated in accordance
2 with the Agreement.

3 8. The Agreement and this Settlement are not an admission by Defendant, nor is this
4 Final Approval Order and Judgment a finding, of the validity of any claims in the Action or of any
5 wrongdoing by Defendant or that this Action is appropriate for class treatment (other than for
6 settlement purposes). Neither this Final Approval Order and Judgment, the Agreement, nor any
7 document referred to herein, nor any action taken to carry out the Agreement is, may be construed
8 as, or may be used as an admission by or against Defendant of any fault, wrongdoing or liability
9 whatsoever. The entering into or carrying out of the Agreement, and any negotiations or
10 proceedings related thereto, shall not in any event be construed as, or deemed to be evidence of, an
11 admission or concession with regard to the denials or defenses by Defendant. Notwithstanding
12 these restrictions, Defendant may file in the Action or in any other proceeding this Final Approval
13 Order and Judgment, the Agreement, or any other papers and records on file in the Action as
14 evidence of the Settlement to support a defense of res judicata, collateral estoppel, release, or other
15 theory of claim or issue preclusion or similar defense as to the Released Class Claims and/or the
16 Released PAGA Claims.

17 9. Notice of entry of this Final Approval Order and Judgment shall be given to all
18 Parties by Class Counsel on behalf of Plaintiff and all Class Members. The Final Approval Order
19 and Judgment shall be posted on Class Counsel's website as set forth in the Class Notice to the
20 Class. It shall not be necessary to send notice of entry of this Final Approval Order and Judgment
21 to individual Class Members.

22 10. If the Agreement does not become final and effective in accordance with the terms
23 of the Agreement, then this Final Approval Order and Judgment, and all orders entered in
24 connection herewith, shall be rendered null and void and shall be vacated, and the Parties shall
25 revert to their respective positions as of before entering into the Agreement, and expressly reserve
26 their respective rights regarding the prosecution and defense of this Action, including all available
27
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1 defenses and affirmative defenses, and arguments that any claim in the Action could not be
2 certified as a class action and/or managed as a representative action.

3
4 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDICATED AND DECREED THAT:**

5 1. Except as set forth in the Agreement and this Final Approval Order and Judgment,
6 Plaintiffs, and all members of the Class, shall take nothing in the Action.

7 2. Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6, the Court shall retain
8 jurisdiction to construe, interpret, implement and enforce the Agreement, to hear and resolve any
9 contested challenge to a claim for settlement benefits, and to supervise and adjudicate any dispute
10 arising from or in connection with the distribution of settlement benefits.

11 3. The Parties are authorized to agree to and to adopt such amendments, modifications
12 and expansions of the Agreement and all exhibits attached thereto which are consistent with this
13 Final Approval Order and Judgment and as approved by the Court.

14 4. Each party shall bear its own attorneys' fees and costs, except as otherwise
15 provided in the Agreement and in this Final Approval Order and Judgment.

16 5. Upon the Effective Date, Released Parties shall receive a release from the
17 **Participating** Class Members of all class claims pled or which could have been pled based on the
18 factual allegations contained in the operative complaint which occurred during the Class Period
19 including claims for: (a) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (b) failure to pay overtime
20 wages owed; (c) failure to provide meal periods, or premium pay for non-compliant meal periods;
21 (d) failure to authorize and permit rest periods, or premium pay for non-compliant rest periods; (e)
22 failure to issue accurate, itemized wage statements; (f) failure to timely pay all wages due upon
23 separation of employment; (g) failure to reimburse business expenses; (h) all claims for unfair
24 business practices that could have been premised on the facts, claims, causes of action or legal
25 theories described above ("Released Class Claims"). Claims for vested benefits, wrongful
26 termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, and
27 class claims outside of the Class Period are expressly excluded from being released.

1 6. Upon the Effective Date, Released Parties shall receive a release from the State of
2 California from all PAGA claims for civil penalties under California Labor Code Sections 2698, et
3 seq., predicated on the California Labor Code violations that are asserted in the LWDA Notice for
4 violations of Labor Code sections §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226(a), 226.7, 351, 510, 512,
5 558(a)(1)-(2), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802, California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section
6 11040, Subdivision 5(A)-(B), California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1 1070(14),
7 Violation of Applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s) (“Released PAGA
8 Claims”). The Released PAGA Claims exclude claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination,
9 unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers’ compensation, PAGA claims
10 outside of the PAGA Period, and other PAGA claims not asserted in the PAGA Notice. This
11 release of the Released PAGA Claims shall be effective regardless of whether an Aggrieved
12 Employee submitted a request for an exclusion from the Class.

13 7. As of the Effective Date, Plaintiff generally releases and discharges the Released
14 Parties from all of the Plaintiff’s Released Claims as set forth fully in the Agreement.

15 **LET JUDGMENT BE FORTHWITH ENTERED ACCORDINGLY. IT IS SO ORDERED.**

16
17 Dated: _____

18 _____
19 HON.
20 JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
21
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Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP

2255 Calle Clara, La Jolla, California 92037

Tel: (858) 551-1223

Fax: (858) 551-1232

FIRM RESUME

Areas of Practice: Employee, Consumer and Securities Class Actions, Wage and Hour Class Actions, Civil Litigation, Business Litigation.

ATTORNEY BIOGRAPHIES

Norman B. Blumenthal

Partner, Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP (2018 to present)

Practice Areas: Consumer and Securities Class Action, Civil Litigation, Wage and Hour Class Actions, Transactional Law

Admitted: 1973, Illinois; 1976, California

Biography: Law Clerk to Justice Thomas J. Moran, Illinois Supreme Court, 1973-1975, while on Illinois Court of Appeals. Instructor, Oil and Gas Law: California Western School of Law, 1981; University of San Diego School of Law, 1983. Sole Practitioner 1976-1987. Partner, Blumenthal & Ostroff, 1988-1995. Partner, Blumenthal, Ostroff & Markham, 1995-2001. Partner, Blumenthal & Markham, 2001-2007. Partner, Blumenthal & Nordrehaug, 2007. Partner, Blumenthal, Nordrehaug & Bhowmik, 2008-2018. Partner, Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP, 2018 - present.

Member: San Diego County, Illinois State and American Bar Associations; State Bar of California.

Educated: University of Wisconsin (B.A., 1970); Loyola University of Chicago (J.D., 1973);

Summer Intern (1971) with Harvard Voluntary Defenders

Kyle R. Nordrehaug

Partner, Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP (2018 to present)

Practice Areas: Consumer and Securities Class Actions, Wage and Hour Class Actions, Civil Litigation

Admitted: 1999, California

Biography: Associate, Blumenthal, Ostroff & Markham, 1999-2001. Associate, Blumenthal & Markham, 2001-2007. Partner, Blumenthal & Nordrehaug, 2007. Partner, Blumenthal, Nordrehaug & Bhowmik, 2008-2017

Member: State Bar of California, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Third Circuit Court of Appeals

Educated: University of California at Berkeley (B.A., 1994); University of San Diego School of Law (J.D. 1999)

Awards: Top Labor & Employment Attorney 2016; Top Appellate Reversal - Daily Journal 2015; Super Lawyer 2015-2018

Aparajit Bhowmik

Partner, Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP (2018 to present)

Practice Areas: Civil Litigation; Consumer Class Actions, Wage and Hour Class Actions

Admitted: 2006, California

Educated: University of California at San Diego (B.A., 2002); University of San Diego School of Law (J.D. 2006)

Biography: Partner, Blumenthal, Nordrehaug & Bhowmik, 2008-2017

Awards: Rising Star 2015

Nicholas J. De Blouw

Partner, Blumenthal Nordrehaug Bhowmik De Blouw LLP (2018 to present)

Practice Areas: Civil Litigation; Consumer Class Actions, Wage and Hour Class Actions

Admitted: 2011, California

Educated: Wayne State University (B.A. 2008); California Western School of Law (J.D. 2011)

Piya Mukherjee

Associate Attorney

Practice Areas: Civil Litigation; Consumer Class Actions, Wage and Hour Class Actions

Admitted: 2010, California

Educated: University of California, San Diego (B.S. 2006); University of Southern California, Gould School of Law (J.D. 2010)

Victoria Rivapalacio

Associate Attorney

Practice Areas: Civil Litigation; Consumer Class Actions, Wage and Hour Class Actions

Admitted: 2011, California

Educated: University of California at San Diego (B.A., 2003); George Washington University Law School (J.D. 2010)

Ricardo Ehmman

Associate Attorney

Practice Areas: Civil Litigation; Wage and Hour Class Actions

Admitted: 2018, California; 2004, Nevada

Educated: University of California, San Diego (B.A. 1998); Loyola Law School (J.D. 2001)

Jeffrey S. Herman

Associate Attorney

Practice Areas: Civil Litigation; Wage and Hour Class Actions

Admitted: 2011, California; 2016 Arizona

Educated: University of Michigan (B.A. 2008); California Western School of Law (J.D. 2011)

Charlotte James

Associate Attorney

Practice Areas: Civil Litigation; Wage and Hour Class Actions

Admitted: 2016, California

Educated: San Diego State University; California Western School of Law

Christine Levu

Associate Attorney

Practice Areas: Civil Litigation; Wage and Hour Class Actions

Admitted: 2012, California

Educated: University of California, Irvine; California Western School of Law

Andrew Ronan

Associate Attorney

Practice Areas: Civil Litigation; Wage and Hour Class Actions

Admitted: 2016, California

Educated: Arizona State University; University of San Diego School of Law

Scott Blumenthal

Associate Attorney

Practice Areas: Civil Litigation; Wage and Hour Class Actions

Admitted: 2020, New Mexico

Educated: University of Southern California; California Western School of Law

REPORTED CASES

Sakkab v. Luxottica Retail N. Am., Inc., 803 F.3d 425 (9th Cir. 2015) (The panel reversed the district court's order granting Luxottica Retail North America, Inc.'s motion to compel arbitration of claims and dismissing plaintiff's first amended complaint, in a putative class action raising class employment-related claims and a non-class representative claim for civil penalties under the Private Attorney General Act.);

Securitas Security Services USA, Inc. v. Superior Court, 234 Cal. App. 4th 1109 (Cal. Feb. 27, 2015) (Court of Appeal concluded the trial court correctly ruled that *Iskanian* rendered the PAGA waiver within the parties' dispute resolution agreement unenforceable. However, the Court of Appeal then ruled the trial court erred by failing to invalidate the non-severable class action waiver from the agreement and remanded the entire complaint, including class action and PAGA claims, be litigated in the Superior Court);

Sussex v. United States Dist. Court for the Dist. of Nev., 781 F.3d 1065 (9th Cir. 2015) (The panel determined that the district court clearly erred in holding that its decision to intervene mid-arbitration was justified under *Aerojet-General*. Specifically, the panel held that the district court erred in predicting that an award issued by the arbitrator would likely be vacated because of his "evident partiality" under 9 U.S.C. § 10(a)(2).);

Provost v. YourMechanic, Inc., 2020 Cal. App. Lexis 955 (Oct. 15, 2020) (Court of Appeals affirmed denial of arbitration of PAGA claim, and held in a case of first impression, that there was no additional standing rules for PAGA claim brought by independent contractor);

In re Tobacco Cases II, 41 Cal. 4th 1257 (2007); Washington Mutual Bank v. Superior Court, 24 Cal. 4th 906 (2001); Rocker v. KPMG LLP, 148 P.3d 703; 122 Nev. 1185 (2006); PCO, Inc. v. Christensen, Miller, Fink, Jacobs, Glaser, Weil & Shapiro, LLP, 150 Cal. App. 4th 384 (2007); Hall v. County of Los Angeles, 148 Cal. App. 4th 318 (2007); Coshov v. City of Escondido, 132 Cal. App. 4th 687 (2005); Daniels v. Philip Morris, 18 F.Supp 2d 1110 (S.D. Cal.1998); Gibson v. World Savings & Loan Asso., 103 Cal. App. 4th 1291 (2003); Jordan v. Department of Motor Vehicles, 75 Cal. App. 4th 445 (1999); Jordan v. Department of Motor Vehicles, 100 Cal.App. 4th 431 (2002); Norwest Mortgage, Inc. v. Superior Court, 72 Cal.App.4th 214 (1999); Hildago v. Diversified Transp. Sya, 1998 U.S. App. LEXIS 3207 (9th Cir. 1998); Kensington Capital Mgal. v. Oakley, Inc., 1999 U.S. Dist LEXIS 385; Fed.Sec.L.Rep. (CCH) P90,411 (1999 C.D. Cal.); Lister v. Oakley, Inc., 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 384; Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) P90,409 (C.D. Cal. 1999); Olszewski v. Scripps Health, 30 Cal. 4th 798 (2003); Steroid Hormone Product Cases, 181 Cal. App. 4th 145 (2010); Owen v. Macy's, Inc., 175 Cal. App. 4th 462 (2009); Taiheiyo Cement Corp. v. Superior Court, 117 Cal. App. 4th 380 (2004); Taiheiyo Cement Corp. v. Superior Court, 105 Cal.App. 4th 398 (2003); McMeans v. Scripps Health, Inc., 100 Cal. App. 4th 507 (2002); Ramos v. Countrywide Home Loans, 82 Cal.App. 4th 615 (2000); Tevssier v. City of San Diego, 81 Cal.App. 4th 685 (2000); Washington Mutual Bank v. Superior Court, 70 Cal. App. 4th 299 (1999); Silvas v. E*Trade Mortg. Corp., 514 F.3d 1001 (9th Cir. 2008); Silvas v. E*Trade Mortg. Corp., 421 F. Supp. 2d 1315 (S.D. Cal. 2006); McPhail v. First Command Fin. Planning, Inc., 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 26544 (S.D. Cal. 2009); McPhail v. First Command Fin. Planning, Inc., 251 F.R.D. 514 (S.D. Cal. 2008); McPhail v. First Command Fin. Planning, Inc., 247 F.R.D. 598 (S.D. Cal. 2007); Barcia v. Contain-A-Way, Inc., 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 17118 (S.D. Cal. 2009); Barcia v. Contain-A-Way, Inc., 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 27365 (S.D. Cal. 2008); Wise v. Cubic Def. Applications, Inc., 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 11225 (S.D. Cal. 2009); Gabisan v. Pelican Prods., 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 1391

(S.D. Cal. 2009); La Jolla Friends of the Seals v. Nat'l Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin. Nat'l Marine Fisheries Serv., 630 F. Supp. 2d 1222 (S.D. Cal. 2009); La Jolla Friends of the Seals v. Nat'l Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin. Nat'l Marine Fisheries Serv., 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 102380 (S.D. Cal. 2008); Louie v. Kaiser Found. Health Plan, Inc., 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 78314 (S.D. Cal. 2008); Weltman v. Ortho Mattress, Inc., 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 20521 (S.D. Cal. 2010); Weltman v. Ortho Mattress, Inc., 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 60344 (S.D. Cal. 2008); Curry v. CTB McGraw-Hill, LLC, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 5920; 97 A.F.T.R.2d (RIA) 1888; 37 Employee Benefits Cas. (BNA) 2390 (N.D. Cal. 2006); Reynov v. ADP Claims Servs. Group, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 94332 (N.D. Cal. 2006); Kennedy v. Natural Balance Pet Foods, Inc., 2010 U.S. App. LEXIS 248 (9th Cir. 2010); Kennedy v. Natural Balance Pet Foods, Inc., 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 38889 (S.D. Cal. 2008); Kennedy v. Natural Balance Pet Foods, Inc., 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 57766 (S.D. Cal. 2007); Sussex v. Turnberry/MGM Grand Towers, LLC, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 29503 (D. Nev. 2009); Picus v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., 256 F.R.D. 651 (D. Nev. 2009); Tull v. Stewart Title of Cal., Inc., 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 14171 (S.D. Cal. 2009); Keshishzadeh v. Gallagher, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 46805 (S.D. Cal. 2010); Keshishzadeh v. Arthur J. Gallagher Serv. Co., 2010 U.S. Dist. Lexis 116380 (S.D. Cal. 2010); In re Pet Food Prods. Liab. Litig., MDL Docket No. 1850 (All Cases), 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 94603 (D.N.J. 2008); In re Pet Food Prods. Liab. Litig., 629 F.3d 333 (3rd Cir. 2010); Puentes v. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., 160 Cal. App. 4th 638 (2008); Rezec v. Sony Pictures Entertainment, Inc., 116 Cal. App. 4th 135 (2004); Badillo v. Am. Tobacco Co., 202 F.R.D. 261 (D. Nev. 2001); La Jolla Friends of the Seals v. Nat'l Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin., 2010 U.S. App. Lexis 23025 (9th Cir. 2010); Dirienzo v. Dunbar Armored, Inc., 2011 U.S. Dist. Lexis 36650 (S.D. Cal. 2011); Rix v. Lockheed Martin Corp., 2011 U.S. Dist Lexis 25422 (S.D. Cal. 2011); Weitzke v. Costar Realty Info., Inc., 2011 U.S. Dist Lexis 20605 (S.D. Cal. 2011); Goodman v. Platinum Condo. Dev., LLC, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 36044 (D. Nev. 2011); Sussex v. Turnberry/MGM Grand Towers, LLC, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 14502 (D. Nev. 2011); Smith v. Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, Inc., 2010 U.S. Dist. Lexis 117869 (S.D. Cal. 2010); Dobrosky v. Arthur J. Gallagher Serv. Co., LLC, No. EDCV 13-0646 JGB (SPx), 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 106345 (C.D. Cal. July 30, 2014); Metrow v. Liberty Mut. Managed Care LLC - Class Certification Granted, Metrow v. Liberty Mut. Managed Care LLC, No. EDCV 16-1133 JGB (KKx), 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 73656 (C.D. Cal. May 1, 2017); Nelson v. Avon Products, Inc., Class Certification Granted, U.S. District Court for The Northern District of California, Case No. 13-cv-02276-BLF, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 51104 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 17, 2015); Orozco v. Illinois Tool Works Inc., Class Certification Granted, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 23179 (E.D. Cal. Feb. 16, 2017); Rieve v. Coventry Health Care, Summary Judgment *Sua Sponte* Granted for Plaintiff, Rieve v. Coventry Health Care, Inc., 870 F. Supp. 2d 856 (C.D. Cal. 2012)

CLASS ACTION & REPRESENTATIVE CASES

4G Wireless Wage Cases, Orange County Superior Court, JCCP No. 4736; Classic Party Rentals Wage & Hour Cases, Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. JCCP No. 4672; Abu-Arafeh v. Norco Delivery Service, Inc., San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. CGC-14-540601; Aburto v. Verizon, U.S. District Court, Southern District California, Case No. 11-cv-0088; Adkins v. Washington Mutual Bank, Class Certification Granted, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. GIC819546; Agah v. CompUSA, U.S. District Court, Central District of California, Case No. SA CV05-1087 DOC (Anx); Akers v. The San Diego Union Tribune, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No 37-2010-00088571; Altman v. SolarCity Corporation, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2014-00023450-CU-OE-CTL; Aquino v. Macy's West Stores, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2010-00395420; Baker v. Advanced Disability Management, Inc., Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2014-00160711; Barcia v. Contain-A-Way, U.S. District Court, Southern District California, Case No. 07 cv 0938; Bates v. Verengo, Inc., Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2012-00619985-CU-OE-CXC; Battle v. Charming Charlie Inc., San Diego

County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2014-00005608; Behar v. Union Bank, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2009-00317275; Bell v. John Stewart Company, Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. RG14728792; Bennett v. Custom Built Personal Training, Monterey County Superior Court, Case No. M127596; Bermant v. Bank of America, Investment Services, Inc., Los Angeles Superior Court, Civil Action No. BC342505; Bethley v. Raytheon Company, United States District Court, Central District of California, Case No. SACV10-01741; Betorina v. Randstad US, L.P., U.S. District Court Northern District of California, Case No. 3:15-cv-03646-MEJ; Beverage v. Edcoa Inc., Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 2013-00138279; Bova v. Washington Mutual Bank / JP Morgan Chase, U.S. District Court, Southern District California, Case No. 07-cv-2410; Bowden v. Sunset Parking Services, LLC & LAZ Parking California, LLC - Settled San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2012-00101751-CU-OE-CTL; Briseno v. American Savings Bank, Class Certification Granted, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 774773; Brueske v. Welk Resorts, San Diego Superior Court, Case No 37-2010-00086460; Bueche v. Fidelity National Management Services, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California, Case No. 13-cv-01114; Bunch v. Pinnacle Travel Services, LLC, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC552048; Butler v. Stericycle, Inc & Appletree Answering Services of California, Inc., Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2015-00180282; Cabral v. Creative Communication Tech., Class Certification Granted, Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. BC402239; Cardoza v. Wal-Mart Associates, Inc., U.S. District Court Northern District of California, Case No. 4:15-cv-01634-DMR; Castro v. Vivint Solar, Inc., San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2014-00031385-CU-OE-CTL; Cavazos v. Heartland Automotive Services, Inc., Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. PSC 1401759; Cohen v. Bosch Tool, San Diego Superior Court, Case No. GIC 853562; Comstock v. Washington Mutual Bank - Class Certification Granted, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. GIC820803; Conley v. Norwest, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. N73741; Connell v. Sun Microsystems, Alameda Superior Court, Case No. RG06252310; Corrente v. Luxe Valet, Inc., San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. CGC-15-545961; Cruz v. Redfin Corporation, U.S. District Court Northern District of California, Case No. 3:14-cv-05234-THE; Culley v. Lincare Inc. & Alpha Respiratory Inc., U.S. District Court eastern District of California, Case No. 2:15-cv-00081-GEB-CMK; Cunningham v. Leslie's Poolmart, Inc., U.S. District Court, Central District of California, Case No. 13-cv-02122-CAS; Curry v. California Testing Bureau/McGraw Hill, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, Case No. C-05-4003 JW; Daniels, et al. v. Philip Morris,(In Re Tobacco Cases II) – Class Certification Granted, San Diego Superior Court, Case No. JCCP 4042; Davis v. Genex Holdings Inc., Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 1-13-cv-240830; Davis v. Clear Connection, LLC, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2014-00035173-CU-OE-CTL; Day v. WDC Exploration, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2010-00433770; Dedrick v. Hollandia Diary, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2014-00004311-Cu-OE-CTL; Delmare v. Sungard Higher Education - Settled U.S. District Court, Southern District of California, Case No. 07-cv-1801; Del Rio v. Tumi Stores, Inc., San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2015-00022008-CU-OE-CTL; Dewane v. Prudential, U.S. District Court, Central District of California, Case No. SA CV 05-1031; Diesel v. Wells Fargo Bank, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2011-00441368; Dirienzo v. Dunbar Armored, U.S. District Court, Southern District of California, Case No. 09-cv-2745; Dobrosky v. Arthur J. Gallagher Service Company, LLC, Class certification Granted, No. EDCV 13-0646 JGB (Spx); Dodds v. Zaven Tootikian, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC494402; Drumheller v. Radioshack Corporation, United States District Court, Central District of California, Case No. SACV11-355; Enger v. Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, U.S. District Court, Southern District of California, Case No. 09-cv-1670; Escobar v. Silicon Valley Security & Patrol, Inc., Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 1-14-cv272514; Fierro v. Chase Manhattan - Class Certification Granted, Settled San Diego Superior Court, Case No. GIN033490; Figueroa v. Circle K Stores, Inc., San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2012-00101193-CU-OE-CTL; Finch v. Lamps Plus, (Lamps Plus Credit Transaction Cases), San Diego Superior Court, Case No. JCCP 4532; Fletcher v. Verizon, U.S. District Court, Southern

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Division, Case No. 16-CV-00906-DB; Mrazik v. C.H. Robinson Company – U.S. District Court, Central District of California, Case No. 12-CV-02067-CAS-PLA; Horn v. Rise Medical Staffing, LLC – U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California, Case No. 2:17-cv-01967-MCE-KJN; Pasallo v. GSG Protective Services CA Inc. – San Diego Superior Court, Case No. 37-2018-00037611-CU-OE-CTL; Smith v. Pacific Personnel Services, Inc. – U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, Case No. 17-cv-03594-SK; Terrado v. Accredited Debt Relief, LLC – San Diego Superior Court, Case No. 37-2018-00014181-CU-OE-CTL; Escobedo v. Pacific Western Bank – Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. BC682686; Wade v. Automobile Club of Southern California – Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2017-00960268-CU-OE-CXC; Montano v. American Automobile Association of Northern California – Contra Costa County Superior Court, Case No. CIVMSC18-01539; Perez v. Summit Interconnect, Inc. – Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2018-00995403-CU-OE-CXC; Wolleson v. Gosch Imports, Inc. – Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. RIC170356; Banuelos v. Ortho Mattress, Inc. – Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2020-01161304-CU-OE-CXC; Castellanos v. Miller Automotive Group, Inc. – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC699211; Tressler v. Spoonful Management, LLC – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC71940; Delph v. Employee Retention Services, LLC – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2018-00007885; Romero v. May Trucking Company – U.S. District Court, Central District of California, Case No. 5:17-cv-02166-JGB-SHK; Miranda v. Genex Services, LLC – San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVDS1700779; Moore v. Zirx Transportation Services, Inc. – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. CGC-18-566655; Sottile v. Motion Recruitment Partners – Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 18CV321677; Shahbazian v. Fast Auto Loans, Inc. – U.S. District Court, Central District of California, Case No. 2:18-cv-03076-ODW-KS; Salazar v. Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc. – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC702468; Conti v. L’Oreal USA S/D, Inc. – U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California, Fresno, Case No. 1:19-CV-00769-LJO-SKO; Mercado v. Security Industry Specialists, Inc. – Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 17CV320059; Vikili v. Dignity Health – San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. CGC-18-569456; Bagby v. Swissport SA, LLC – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC691058; Henry v. Motion Entertainment Group, LLC – San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. CGC18565643; Dandoy v. West Coast Convenience, LLC – Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. HG20051121; Lanuza v. AccentCare, Inc. – San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. CGC-18-565521; Thomas v. Easy Driving School, LLC – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2018-00047639-CU-OE-CTL; Erickson v. Erickson – Contra Costa County Superior Court, Case No. MSC18-00307; Martin v. Menzies Aviation (USA) Inc. – San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. CGC-18-566072; Mortimer v. Healthsouth Bakersfield Rehabilitation Hospital, LLC – Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-18-102761; Alcaraz v. Red Lion Hotels Corporation – San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. CGC-18-570310; Calhoun v. Total Transportation and Distribution, Inc. – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2018-00058681-CU-OE-CTL; Rataul v. Overton Security Services, Inc. – Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. RG18891882; Beltran v. Compass Bank – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2019-00024475-CU-OE-CTL; Kirshner v. Touchstone Golf, LLC – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2018-00028865-CU-OE-CTL; Pizarro v. The Home Depot, Inc. – U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia-Atlanta Division; Hatanaka v. Restore Rehabilitation, LLC – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2018-00034780-CU-OE-CTL; Faria v. Carriage Funeral Holdings, Inc. – Contra Costa County Superior Court, Case No. MSC18-00606; Ontiveros v. Baker Concrete Construction, Inc. – Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 18CV328679; Morales v. Redlands Automotive Services, Inc. – San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVDS1807525; Ramirez v. Carefusion Resources, LLC – U.S. District Court, Southern District of California; Amster v. Starbucks Corporation – San Bernardino Superior Court, Case No. CIVDS1922016; Kutzman v. Derrel’s Mini Storage, Inc. – U.S. District, Eastern District of California, Case No. 1:18-cv-00755-AWI-JLT; Marks v. Universal Propulsion Company, Inc. – Solano County Superior Court, Case No. FCS051608; Martinez v. Geil Enterprises,

Inc. – Fresno County Superior Court, Case No. 17CECG01480; Teniente v. Cirrus Asset Management, Inc. – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV16302; Blackshear v. California Fine Wine & Spirits LLC – Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2018-00245842; Warnick v. Golden Gate America West LLC – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC714176; Bennett v. Dnata Aviation USA, Inc. – San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. CGC-18-566911; George v. PF Stockton Fitness LLC – Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2019-00261113-CU-OE-GDS; Oshana v. Farmers and Merchants Bank of Central California – Stanislaus County Superior Court, Case No. CV-19-003427; Vasquez v. Packaging Corporation of America – U.S. District Court, California Central District, Case No. 2:19-cv-01935-PSG-PLA; Palomino v. Zara USA Inc. – Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2018-00992682-CU-OE-CXC; Simmons v. Joe & The Juice LA, LLC – San Francisco County Superior Court; Pacia v. CIM Group, L.P. – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC709666; Flores v. Plastic Express – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC71971; Madera v. William Warren Properties, Inc. – Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2019-01055704-CU-OE-CXC; Hernandez v. Quality Custom Distribution – Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2018-01010611-CU-OE-CXC; Arango v. Schlumberger Technology Corporation – Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2019-01056839-CU-OE-CXC; Dandoy v. West Coast Convenience, LLC – Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. HG20051121; Ramirez v. J E H Enterprises, Inc. – San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. CGC-19-574691; Sullen v. First Service Residential California, LLC – San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. CGC-19-575131; Valentino v. East Bay Tire Co. – Solano County Superior Court, Case No. FCS053067; Murphy v. Rockler Retail Group, Inc. – Sacramento Superior Court, Case No. 34-2019-00251220; Shahbazian v. Onewest Bank – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV23722; Bruemmer v. Tempur Retail Stores LLC – Marin County Superior Court, Case No. CIV1803646; Antonios v. Interface Rehab, Inc. – Orange County Superior, Case No. 30-2019-01067547-CU-OE-CXC; Tavallodi v. DC Auto, Inc. – San Bernardino, Case No. CIVDS1833598; Miranda v. The Lloyd Pest Control Co. – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2018-00052510-CU-OE-CTL; Soenardi v. Magnussen Imports, Inc. – Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 18CV340003; Thai v. Team Industrial Services, Inc. – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV21953; Castillo v. A.J. Kirkwood & Associates, Inc. – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV04435; Moss v. Jabil Inc. – Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. HG20050536; Billosillo, Jr. v. Crown Energy Services, Inc. – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2018-00058254-CU-OE-CTL; Tarkington v. Freetime, Inc. – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2019-00011473-CU-OE-CTL; McIntyre v. J.J.R. Enterprises, Inc. – Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2019-00251220; Bucur v. Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy, Inc. – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2019-00009409-CU-OE-CTL; Batin v. McGee Air Services, Inc. – Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 19CV347733; Terry v. McGee Air Services, Inc. – King County Superior Court of Washington, Case No. 19-2-3321-5 KNT; Weiss v. Niznik Behavioral Health Resources, Inc. – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2019-00039441-CU-OE-CTL; Cavada v. Inter-Continental Hotels Group, Inc. – U.S. District Court, Southern District of California, Case No. 3:19-cv-01675-GPC-AHG; Lesevic v. Spectraforce Technologies, Inc. – U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, Case No. 5:19-cv-03126-LHK; Mutchler v. Circle K Stores, Inc. – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2020-00016331-CU-OE-CTL; Azima v. CSI Medical Group – Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 19CV345450; Porras v. Baypointe Enterprises, LLC – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV31015; Mitchell v. Mack Trucking, Inc. – San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVDS1928334; Watts v. T.R.L. Systems, Incorporated – Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2019-01102457-CU-OE-CXC; Price v. DMSD Restaurants Inc. – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2019-00024062-CU-OE-CTL; Jacobs v. Nortek Security & Control LLC – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2019-0019735-CU-OE-CTL; Gonzalez v. Hub International Midwest – San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVDS1900463; Cisneros v. Bluepearl California, Inc. – San Mateo Superior Court, Case No. 19-

CIV-05707; Garcia v. Gallagher Basset Services – San Bernardino Superior Court, Case No. CIVDS2004140; Callow v. Adventist Health System/West – Placer County Superior Court, Case No. SCV0043607; Dominguez v. Kimco Facility Services, LLC – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV37592; Searles v. Robert Heath Trucking, Inc. – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 19STCY30808; Rangel v. Pioneer Hi-Bred international, Inc. – Yolo County Superior Court, Case No. CV-19-1797; Ivon v. Sinclair Television of California, Humboldt County Superior Court, Case No. DR190699; Williams v. Henkels & McCoy, Inc. – San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVDS2003888; Cano v. Larry Green Chrysler Jeep Dodge, Inc. – Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. BLC1900184; Lopez v. Cepheid – Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 19CV358827; Hernandez v. Quick Dispense, Inc. – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV29405; Lopez v. Lacoste USA, Inc. – San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVDS1914626; Duhe v. Hospital Couriers Nevada, LLC – Contra Costa County Superior Court, Case No. MSC19-01377; Law v. Sequoia Equities, Incorporated – Contra Costa Superior Court, Case No. C19-01925; Dvorak v. Rockwell Collins, Inc. – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2019-00064397-CU-OE-CTL; Noguera v. Metal Container Corporation – Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. RIC2003235; Leon v. Miller Event Management, Inc. – San Luis Obispo Superior Court, Case No. 19CV-0435; Leon v. Miller Event Management, Inc. – San Luis Obispo County Superior Court, Case No. 19CV-0435, Camacho-Bias v. Serve U Brands Inc. – Butte County Superior Court, Case No. 20CV00603; La Pietra v. Entertainment Partners Services, LLC – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV39529; Celis v. Theatre Box - San Diego, LLC – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. ____; Ignacio v. Laboratory Corporation of America – U.S. District Court, California Central District, Case No. 2:19-cv-06079-AB-RAO; Kovnas v. Cahill Contractors LLC – Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. RG19037852; Hersh v. Mrs. Gooch's Natural Food – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV10444; Miller v. The Permanente Medical Group – Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. RG19045904; Vasquez v. Autoalert, LLC – Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2019-01114549-CU-OE-CXC; Cavanaugh v. Morton Golf, LLC – Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2019-00270176; Coley v. Monroe Operations, LLC – Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. RG20063188; Ramirez v. Sierra Aluminum Company – U.S. District Court, California Central District Court, Case No. 5:20-cv-00417-JGB-KK; Marrero v. Stat Med, P.C. – Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. HG19043214; Enriquez v. Solari Enterprises, Inc. – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV11129; Craig v. Hometown Heart – San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. CGC-20-582454; Lopez v. Hy0Lang Electric California, Inc. – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2020-00012543-CU-OE-CTL; Heuklom v. Clara Medical Group, P.C. – San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. CGC-20-585918; Dominguez v. Lifesafer of Northern California – Monterey County Superior Court, Case No. 20CV002586; Kiseleva v. Totalmed Staffing Inc. – U.S. District Court, California Northern District, Case No. 5:19-cv-06480; Vires v. Sweetgreen, Inc. – Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 20CV365918; Kim v. Wireless Vision, LLC – San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVDS2000074; Senoren v. Air Canada Corporation – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV13942; Clark v. Quest Diagnostics Incorporated – San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVDS2018707; Green v. Shipt, Inc. – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV01001; Respass v. The Scion Group LLC – Sacramento County Superior County, Case No. 34-2020-00285265; Jackson v. Decathlon USA LLC – Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. RG2003024; Avacena v. FTG Aerospace Inc. – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV28767; Perez v. Butler America, LLC – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV20218; Christensen v. Carter's Retail, Inc. – Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2020-01138792-CU-OE-CXC; Astudillo v. Torrance Health Association, Inc. – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV18424; Hansen v. Holiday AI Management Sub LLC – Contra Costa County Superior Court, Case No. CIVMSC20-00779; Almahdi v. Vitamin Shoppe Industries Inc – Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 20CV365150; Krisinda v. Loyal Source Government Services LLC – U.S. District Court, California

Southern District, Case No. 3:20-cv-879-LAB-NLS; Ettedgui v. WB Studio Enterprises Inc – U.S. District Court, California Central District, Case No. 2:20-CV-08053-MCS (MAAx); Fernandez v. Nuvision Federal Credit Union – Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2020-01161691-CU-OE-CJC; Aviles v. UPS Supply Chain Solutions, Inc. – Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. RIC2000727; Alcocer v. DSV Solutions, LLC – San Bernardino Superior Court, Case No. CIVDS2010345; Wilson v. Wholesome Harvest Baking, LLC – U.S. District Court, California Northern District, Case No. 4:20-cv-05186-YGR; Gregory v. Verio Healthcare, Inc. – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV37254; Rose v. Impact Group, LLC – Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2020-01141107-CU-OE-CXC; Monasterio v. Citibank, N.A. – San Mateo County Superior Court, Case No. 20-CIV-03650; Martinez-Lopez v. Medamerica, Inc. – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2020-00034393-CU-OE-CTL; Cox v. PRB Management, LLC – Solano County Superior Court, Case No. FCS055514; Nash v. K. Hovnanian Companies, LLC – Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. RIC2003319; Kyler v. Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc. – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2020-00015828-CU-OE-CTL; Roberts v. Solantic Corporation – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV41117; Price v. Mistras Group, Inc. – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV22485; Macias v. ABM Electrical & Lighting Solutions, Inc. – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2020-00024997-CU-OE-CTL; Basu-Kesselman v. Garuda Labs, Inc. – San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. CGC-20-585229; Armstrong v. Prometric LLC – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV29967; Ashlock v. Advantis Medical Staffing, LLC – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2020-00022305-CU-OE-CTL; Wilson v. WXI Global Solutions, LLC – Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV25007; Gandhale v. Select Rehabilitation, LLC – Monterey County Superior Court, Case No. 20CV002240; Starvoice v. G4S Secure Solutions (USA) Inc. – San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2020-00029421-CU-OE-CTL; Mbise v. Axlehire, Inc. – Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. RG20067350; Points v. C&J Services, Inc. – Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-20-102483; Marshall v. PHI Air Medical, LLC – Lassen County Superior Court, Case No. 62973; Jauregui v. Cytotec Engineered Materials, Inc. – Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2020-01164932-CU-OE-CXC



3194-C Airport Loop Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
800-779-2104 www.simpluris.com

Estimate #:	14155V3	Prepared By:	Michael Sutherland
Estimate Date:	11/23/2021	Direct Dial #	321.223.5067
		Email:	Msutherland@simpluris.com

Plaintiff Attorney
Attorney/Client: **Kyle Nordrehaug**
Firm: Blumenthal Nordrehaug & Bhowmik
Email: kyle@bamlawca.com

Defense Attorney
Attorney/Client:
Firm:
Email:

Case Name: Select Rehab: Opt Out Settlement

Anticipated Total Cost	\$15,546
Capped Fee*	\$15,000

Terms:

- 1) Capped Fees assume that Simpluris will receive data in a Single Excel file with no substantial change in class size or response rate
.2) Included is a 2021 Federal 1120 tax return to account for banking activity in 2021.

Total Possible Class Size:	1,703	Undeliverable Rate:	10%
Response Rate:	1%	Call Rate:	5%
Mailing Document Language:	English	Fund Distribution:	Simpluris
Reminder Postcard:	No	Redistribution:	One
Unclaimed Funds:	Escheat	State(s):	CA
		Tax Reporting Years	One

Case Setup

Data Compilation - Develop Case Specific Response Tracking - Error Reports

Category	Unit Value	# of Units	Total
Project Manager - Case Setup	\$125.00	5	\$625.00
Database Manager - Initial Data Analysis	\$140.00	5	\$700.00
Total			\$1,325.00

Notification

Notice Packet: 4 pg Notice - Double Sided - English

Check Cashing Deadline Reminder.

Category	Unit Value	# of Units	Total
Mail Notice Packet	\$1.00	1,703	\$1,703.00
Postage	\$0.53	1,703	\$902.59
NCOA/CASS/LACS	\$50.00	1	\$50.00
Undeliverable Processing	\$0.25	170	\$42.58
Skip Trace RUM	\$1.50	170	\$255.45
Remail Notice Packet	\$1.50	145	\$217.13
Remail Postage	\$0.58	145	\$83.96
Mailing Supervisor	\$50.00	1	\$50.00
Total			\$3,304.71

Call Center

Establish Case Specific Toll Free Number

Category	Unit Value	# of Units	Total
Customer Service Reps/Call Center Support	\$75.00	5	\$375.00



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Administration

Process Mail, Opt-Outs or Objections

Category	Unit Value	# of Units	Total
Database Manager	\$125.00	2	\$250.00
Resolving Mismatched TINs	\$75.00	1	\$75.00
Dispute/Deficiencies - Send One Cure Letter	\$2.50	17	\$42.58
Opt Out Processing	\$1.50	17	\$25.55
Data Entry	\$50.00	1	\$50.00
Project Manager	\$125.00	2	\$250.00
Weekly Reporting to Counsel	WAIVED	12 Wks of Reporting	\$0.00
Total			\$693.12

Distribution

Setup a Disbursement Account. Use of available social security numbers, emails and social media (as may be available) to reach unlocated class members and those who haven't cashed checks at 180 days. Use of available social security numbers, emails and social media (as may be available) to reach unlocated class members and those who haven't cashed checks at 180 days.

Print & Mail Checks to Class Members: W2's / 1099's - File Reports with Appropriate Federal & State Taxing Authorities

Account Management & Reconciliation

Category	Unit Value	# of Units	Total
Disbursement Data Preparation	\$140.00	4	\$560.00
Disbursement Manager - Data Validation	\$75.00	2	\$150.00
Setup Banking Account/QSF/Bank fees 24 months	\$550.00	1	\$550.00
Print & Mail Check	\$2.00	1703	\$3,406.00
Postage	\$0.53	1703	\$902.59
Process Returned Checks	\$0.50	17	\$8.52
Skip Trace Search Undeliverable Checks	\$5.00	17	\$85.15
Remail Checks (Includes Postage)	\$4.00	17	\$68.12
QSF Account Reconciliation	\$250.00	1	\$250.00
Individual Federal/State Tax Reporting	\$500.00	1	\$500.00
QSF Reporting/Declaration	\$500.00	1	\$500.00
QSF Annual Tax Preparation Fee, 2023	\$1,000.00	1	\$1,000.00
Reissuing Checks/Mailing	\$5.00	26	\$127.73
Postage	\$0.58	26	\$14.82
Escheat management-State	\$750.00	1	\$750.00
Disbursement Manager	\$125.00	4	\$500.00
Total			\$9,372.92



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Case Wrap Up

Send Final Reports to Counsel

Category	Unit Value	# of Units	Total
Data Manager-Final Reporting	\$125.00	3	\$375.00
Clerical-Clean Up Any Misc	\$50.00	2	\$100.00
Project Manager-Wrap-up Final Issues	\$125.00	3	\$375.00
Total			\$850.00

Postage \$1,889.14

Total Case Costs

\$15,545.74

All administration services to be provided by Simpluris to Client, are provided subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. **Services.** Simpluris agrees to provide Client those services set forth in the Bid (the "Services") to which these terms and conditions are attached and which has been provided to Client. As compensation for such Services, Client agrees to pay the fees for Services outlined in the Bid. However, Client such fees for Services are estimated based on the requirements provided by Client and actual fees charged by Simpluris may be greater or less than such estimate and Client will be responsible for the payment of all such fees.
2. **Billing and Payment.** Simpluris will invoice Client on a regular basis unless a specific timeframe is otherwise set forth in the Bid. Client shall pay all invoices within 30 days of receipt. Amounts unpaid after thirty (30) days are subject to a service charge at the rate of 1.5% per month or, if less, the highest rate permitted by law. Services are not provided on a contingency basis and Client shall remain liable to Simpluris for all fees for the Services, regardless of any court decisions, and/or actions by the parties, including disapproval or withdrawal of a settlement.
3. **Retention of Documents.** Unless directed otherwise in writing by the Client, Simpluris will destroy all undeliverable mail (except for undeliverable checks) on the date that it is processed and retained in Simpluris' system. Simpluris will maintain records to establish that the subject mail is undeliverable. Simpluris will retain undeliverable checks until the Qualified Settlement Fund is closed. Simpluris will also retain all other class member and putative class member correspondence (including without limitation, claims forms and opt out forms) for one year after final distribution of funds or benefits, or until the date that the disposition of the case is no longer subject to appeal or review, whichever is later. Lastly, Simpluris will retain bank & tax documents for such period of time as it determines is required to maintain compliance with various federal and state requirements.
4. **Limitation of Liability; Disclaimer of Warranties.** Simpluris warrants that it will perform the Services diligently, with competence and reasonable care. Simpluris' only obligation will be to correct any non-conformance with the foregoing warranty. In no event will Simpluris be liable for any lost profits/opportunities, business interruption or delay or, special, consequential, or incidental damages incurred by Client relating to the performance of the Services, regardless of whether Client's claim is for breach of contract, tort (including negligence and strict liability) or otherwise. Under no circumstances will Simpluris be liable to Client for any claims, losses, costs, penalties, fines, judgment or damages, including court costs and reasonable attorney's fees (collectively, "Losses"), whether direct or indirect, arising out of, related to, or in connection with Services in an amount in excess of the total fees charged or chargeable to Client for the particular portion of the Services affected by Simpluris' omission or error. THE WARRANTIES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION ARE EXCLUSIVE AND IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
5. **Force Majeure.** To the extent performance by Simpluris of any of its obligations hereunder is substantially prevented by reason of any act of God or because of any other matter beyond Simpluris' reasonable control, then such performance shall be excused and this Agreement, at Simpluris' option, be deemed suspended during the continuation of such condition and for a reasonable time thereafter.
6. **Rights in Data.** Client agrees that it will not obtain, nor does Simpluris convey, any rights of ownership in the programs, system data, or materials provided or used by Simpluris in the performance of the Services.
7. **Electronic Communications.** During the provision of the Services the parties may wish to communicate electronically with each other at a business e-mail address. However, the electronic transmission of information cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error free and such information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete or otherwise be adversely affected or unsafe to use. Accordingly, each party agrees to use commercially reasonable procedures to check for the then most commonly known viruses and to check the integrity of data before sending information to the other electronically, but each party recognizes that such procedures cannot be a guarantee that transmissions will be virus free. It remains the responsibility of the party receiving an electronic communication from the other to carry out a virus check on any attachments before launching any documents whether received on disk or otherwise.
8. **Notice.** Any notice required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall be delivered personally, by, or sent by registered mail, postage prepaid, or overnight courier and shall be deemed given when so delivered personally, or, if mailed, five days after the date of deposit in United States mail, or, if sent by courier, one business day after delivery to such courier service. Notice should be addressed to an officer or principal of Client and Simpluris, as the case may be.
9. **Waiver.** Failure or delay on the part of a party to exercise any right, power or privilege hereunder shall not operate as a waiver thereof or any of other subject, right, power or privilege.
10. **Termination.** Client may terminate the Services at anytime upon 30 days prior written notice to Simpluris. Termination of Services shall in no event relieve Client of its obligation make any payments due and payable to Simpluris in respect of Services rendered up to the effective date of Termination. Simpluris may terminate this Agreement (i) for any reason upon no less than 90 days prior written notice to the Client; or (ii) upon 15 calendar days' prior written notice, if the Client is not current in payment of fees.
11. **Jurisdiction.** The parties hereto irrevocably and unconditionally submit to the jurisdiction of the Court of the applicable case for purposes of any suit, action or proceeding to enforce any provision of, or based on any right arising out of, this Agreement. The parties hereto hereby irrevocably and unconditionally waive any objection to the laying of venue of any such suit, action or proceeding in such Court.
12. **Survival.** Any remedies for breach of this Agreement, this Section and the following Sections will survive any expiration or termination of this Agreement: Section 4 - Limitation of Liability; Disclaimer of Warranties, Section 6 – Rights in Data, and Section 12- Jurisdiction, 14 -Confidentiality, and Section 15 – Indemnification.
13. **Entire Agreement.** These Terms and Conditions and the proposal embody the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and cancels and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, and agreements related thereto, either written or oral, except to the extent they are expressly incorporated herein. No changes in, additions to, or waivers of, the terms and conditions set forth herein will be binding upon any party, unless approved in writing by such party's authorized representative.
14. **Confidentiality.** Simpluris maintains reasonable and appropriate safeguards to protect the confidentiality and security of data provided by Client to Simpluris in connection with the Services. If, pursuant to a court order or other proceeding, a third party requests that Simpluris to disclose any confidential data provided by or for Client, Simpluris will promptly notify the Client unless prohibited by applicable law. Client will then have the option to provide Simpluris with qualified legal representation at Client's expense to defend against such request. If, pursuant to a court order, Simpluris is required to disclose data, produce documents, or otherwise act in contravention of the obligation to maintain confidentiality set forth in these terms and conditions, Simpluris will not be liable for breach of said obligation.
15. **Indemnification.** Client will indemnify and hold Simpluris (and the officers, employees, affiliates and agents harmless against any Losses incurred by Simpluris, arising out of, in connection with, or related to (i) any breach of the terms by Client; (ii) the processing and handling of any payment by Simpluris in accordance with Client's instructions, including without limitation, the imposition of any stop payment or void payment on any check or the wrongful dishonor of a check by Simpluris pursuant to Client's instructions.
16. **Severability.** If any term or condition or provisions of this Agreement shall be held to be invalid, illegal, unenforceable or in conflict with the law of any jurisdiction, the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby.
17. **Database Administration.** Simpluris' database administration for Client assumes that Client will provide complete data that includes all information required to send notifications and calculate and mail settlement payments. Data must be provided in a complete, consistent, standardized electronic format. Simpluris' standardized format is Microsoft Excel, however, Simpluris may accept other formats at its discretion. Further developments or enhancements to non-standardized data will be billed to Client by Simpluris on a time and materials basis according to Simpluris' Standard Rates.

Simpluris Security Summary – White Paper

Simpluris is committed to the security and overall protection of not only our data and information but our client's data and information, as well. As a demonstration of our commitment, we maintain SOC 2 Certification which requires strict adherence to policies and procedures surrounding information security, including processing and storage of confidential customer data. Simpluris supports a comprehensive, written Information Security Program that complies with all applicable laws and regulations (e.g. HIPAA, Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, MA 201 CMR 17.00) and is designed to (a) ensure the security, privacy and confidentiality of Client and Class Member Information, (b) protect against any reasonably anticipated threats or hazards to the security or integrity of Client or Class Member Information, and (c) protect against unauthorized access to, use, deletion, or modification of Class Member Information. Simpluris has designated specific employees to be responsible for the administration of its Information Security Program. Also, Simpluris regularly and routinely monitors, tests, and updates our Information Security Program.

Simpluris uses Client and Class Member Information only for the purposes for which its' clients provide it, as described in any Agreements or Court Orders governing the provision of Simpluris' services in any particular case. Simpluris maintains a process for identifying, assessing, and mitigating the risks to Class Member Information in each relevant area of Simpluris' operations. At Simpluris, we continuously evaluate the effectiveness of the safeguards for controlling these risks to data and bank accounts. Simpluris restricts access to Class Member Information only to those employees, agents, or subcontractors who need to know the information to perform their jobs. Simpluris performs background checks of all its employees that will have access to Sensitive Personal Information, including a review of their references, employment eligibility, education, and criminal history to ensure they do not pose a risk to the security of Client or Class Member Information.

Simpluris adheres to the following industry best practices to safeguard its systems which process, store or transmit Client and Class Member Information:

- Identity and Access Management;
- Complex passwords are routinely and regularly changed;
- Role-based access control systems to limit individual employee access to network applications and systems based on their particular job role and function;
- Data Loss Prevention and Intrusion Prevention System software at multiple layers to prevent from internal and external threats of data leaks, malicious activity, and policy violations
- Encryption of Class Member Information if transmitted over public or wireless networks (e.g., via email, FTP, the Internet, etc.);
- Implementation of a Secure File Transfer system (using SSL encryption) for transmitting documents back and forth to clients;
- Encryption of servers, portable media, laptops, desktops, smartphones, mobile devices, and new technologies that store Class Member Information;
- Complex password authentication for remote access to Company's networks;
- Upon hire and annually after that, training of all employees with access to Class Member Information, (including any agents, and subcontractors with access to Class Member Information) about their obligations to implement the Information Security Program;
- Strict disciplinary measures for employees who violate the Information Security Program;
- Preventing terminated employees from accessing Class Member Information;
- Appropriately configured and updated firewall, antivirus, and spyware software;
- Prompt application of vendor-recommended security patches and updates to systems and other applications to avoid any adverse impact on Class Member Information;
- Separation of Duties;
- Infrastructure and Physical Security;
- Business Continuity Planning;
- Disaster Recovery Planning