

1 This matter came on for hearing on December July 28, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., in Department
2 76 of the above-captioned Court on Plaintiffs' Motion Preliminary Approval of Class Action
3 Settlement ("Motion").

4 Having fully reviewed the Motion, the supporting Memorandum of Points and
5 Authorities, Declaration of Adam N. Bouayad (and its exhibits), including the settlement
6 agreement ("Settlement"), and the notice attached as an Exhibit A to the Settlement, and in
7 recognition of the Court's duties (to make a preliminary determination as to the reasonableness of
8 any proposed class action settlement; to ensure proper notice is provided to all class members in
9 accordance with due process requirements; and to set a final approval hearing to consider the
10 good faith, fairness, adequacy and reasonableness of the proposed Settlement), the Court makes
11 the following determinations and orders:

12 1. The Court conditionally finds, for the purposes of approving this settlement only, the
13 proposed class meets the requirements for certification under § 382 of the California Code of
14 Civil Procedure: (a) the proposed class is ascertainable and so numerous joinder of all class
15 members is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law or fact common to the proposed class,
16 and a well-defined community of interest among members of the proposed class with respect to
17 the subject matter of the class action; (c) the claims of the class representative are typical of the
18 claims of the members of the proposed class; (d) the class representative appears to be adequate
19 to serve in that role; (e) a class action is superior to other available methods for an efficient
20 adjudication of this controversy in the context of settlement; and (f) counsel of record for the
21 Plaintiff are qualified to serve as class counsel.

22 2. The settlement classes are hereby defined and certified as follows:

23 • **“W-2 Worker Sub-Class”**: All current and former non-exempt W-2 employees who
24 worked for Defendant Walnut in California during the time period of August 19, 2017, through
25 June 21, 2022; and
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- **“Independent Contractor Sub-Class”**: All current and former individuals who worked for Walnut in California as independent contractors during the time period of August 17, 2017, through June 21, 2022.

3. The Court finds, on a preliminary basis, the Settlement, incorporated by this reference in full, and made a part of this Order, appears to be within the range of reasonableness of a settlement which could ultimately be given final approval by this Court.

4. The Court further finds, on a preliminary basis, (a) sufficient investigation, research, have been conducted such that counsel for the parties are able to reasonably evaluate their respective positions; (b) settlement at this time will avoid substantial costs, delay, and risks presented by further prosecution of the litigation; and (c) the proposed Settlement was reached through prudent and non-collusive negotiations.

5. Accordingly, good cause appearing, the Motion for Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement is GRANTED.

6. Class members are therefore defined pursuant to the terms set forth in the Settlement.

7. The Court further finds the proposed notice fairly and adequately advises class members of (a) pendency of the Settlement; (b) conditional class certification for settlement purposes only; (c) preliminary Court approval of the proposed Settlement; (d) the date, time and place of the Final Approval Hearing; (e) the terms of the proposed Settlement and the benefits available to the class under the Settlement; (f) their right to receive a proportionate share of the Net Settlement Amount without the need to return a claim form; (g) their right to request exclusion, and the procedures and deadline for doing so; (h) their right to object to the Settlement, and the procedure and deadline for doing so; and (i) their right to appear at the final approval hearing.

8. The Court further finds the proposed notice provides the best practicable notice to the Class and comports with the constitutional requirements, including those of due process. The Court further finds that mailing of the notice to the last known address of all class members with measures taken for verification of an address and skip tracing of bad addresses, as specifically described within the Settlement, constitutes an effective method of notifying class members of

1 their rights with respect to the class action and the Settlement.

2 9. Therefore, for good cause, the Court APPROVES the notice for distribution to the class
3 pursuant to the notice procedures set forth in full in the Settlement.

4 Accordingly, it is ORDERED that:

5 a. CPT Group be appointed the Administrator of the Settlement, as more specifically set
6 forth in the Settlement;

7 b. Workplace Rights Law Group, LLP be appointed as class counsel;

8 c. Plaintiffs Tien Pham and Chasity Bennett be appointed as class representatives;

9 d. All deadlines, terms, and conditions set forth in the Settlement incorporated by reference
10 into this Order shall apply and govern the notice procedure and response deadlines;

11 e. Any class member who desires to object may appear in Court at the Final Approval
12 Hearing to present oral objections;

13 f. If for any reason the Court does not execute and file an Order Granting Final Approval
14 of Class Action Settlement, or if the Effective Date, as defined in the Settlement, does not occur
15 for any reason whatsoever, the Settlement and the proposed Settlement that is the subject of this
16 Order, and all evidence and proceedings had in connection therewith, shall be restored without
17 prejudice to the status quo ante, pursuant to the terms set forth in the Settlement.
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19 10. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Final Approval Hearing and a hearing on Plaintiffs
20 Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs shall both be held before the undersigned at [hearing time]
21 on [hearing date], in this Department.

22 11. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will consider the fairness, adequacy, and
23 reasonableness of the proposed Settlement preliminarily approved in this Order and notice
24 process to be effectuated, and to consider the application for a class representative service
25 payment to the class representative, the administration expenses, attorneys' fees, and costs.

26 12. The Court reserves the right to continue the Final Approval Hearing without further
27 notice to the class. However, if written objections are submitted, class counsel is ordered to serve
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1 notice on any such objecting class member of the new date and time of the Final Approval
2 Hearing.

3 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

4 Dated: _____

5 By: _____
6 The Honorable Christopher K. Lui
7 Judge of the Superior Court
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PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am employed in the county of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is 130 North Brand Boulevard, Suite 410, Glendale, California 91203.

On **August 24, 2026**, I served the foregoing document described as
PROPOSED ORDER

on the interested parties set out as follows, by the method indicated below:

Brian M. Noh, Damien DeLaney Akerman LLP 601 West 5 th Street, Suite 300 Los Angeles, CA 90071 Tel: 213-553-5940 brian.noh@akerman.com damien.delaney@akerman.com carol.corder@akerman.com Attorneys for Defendants	
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XXX (BY EMAIL) Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Sec. 1010.6(b)(2), '(2) A person represented by counsel, who has appeared in an action or proceeding, shall accept electronic service of a notice or document that may be served by mail, express mail, overnight delivery, or facsimile transmission.'

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

Executed on **August 24, 2026**, at Glendale, California.



Geri Johnston