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Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

SUNSHINE DEERING, as an individual
and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ROMAN EMPIRE ABA SERVICES, INC.,
a California corporation; and DOES 1
through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: RG20072383

*(Assigned for all purposes to the Hon. Brad
Seligman, Dept. 23)*

CLASS ACTION

**DECLARATION OF LARRY W. LEE IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Hearing Information

Date: May 9, 2023

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Dept.: 23

Reservation ID: 530453113646

Complaint Filed: September 2, 2020

Trial Date: Not Set

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I, Larry W. Lee, declare as follows:

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

2. I am one of the primary attorneys on this matter. From the inception of the case, Class Counsel have zealously represented the interests of the Class. I have spent significant time researching and pursuing the claims that have been alleged in this action. I have no conflict with the Class.

3. Both Class Counsel and Defendant's counsel have a great deal of experience in wage and hour class action litigation. Class Counsel have been approved as class counsel on a number of prior cases, have litigated numerous other class action cases, and are competent to represent the Class.

4. Based on my own independent investigation and evaluation, I am of the opinion that settlement for the consideration and on the terms set forth in the Joint Stipulation of Class and Representative Action Settlement Agreement (“Settlement Agreement”) is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interests of the Class, in light of all known facts and circumstances and the expenses and risks inherent in litigation.

5. I do not have a connection to or a relationship with the proposed *cy pres* recipient, Legal Aid at Work, that could reasonably create the appearance of impropriety as between the selection of the recipient of the money or thing of value and the interests of the Class.

6. I was retained based upon a contingency fee arrangement wherein Plaintiff's counsel agreed to advance all costs and receive no fee unless a recovery was accomplished. Specifically, had Plaintiff failed to prevail in this case, counsel for Plaintiff would have spent a significant amount of time, money, and other resources without any benefit or return. Class Counsel have, at their own risk, expended costs to file this instant action, effect service of process, pay mediation fees, and pay other litigation-related costs. In addition, had Plaintiff also

1 failed to prevail in the present case, Defendant would have been able to seek costs in connection
2 with their defense of the case.

3 7. My qualifications are as follows: I received my J.D. from Arizona State University
4 College of Law in 2003. During law school, I was a summer associate at the law firm of Brobeck,
5 Phleger & Harrison. I graduated cum laude from Arizona State University College of Law in the
6 top 10% of my class. While I was in law school, I was the Associate Managing Editor of the
7 Arizona State University College of Law, Law Journal. Upon graduation, I practiced law as an
8 associate at the Los Angeles County offices of Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart, P.C., a
9 national employment defense law firm that represents a significant number of Fortune 500
10 companies.

11 8. My firm's primary focus is employment law. I have handled a number of wage and
12 hour matters including class actions and multiple-plaintiff actions. I have a practice that
13 encompasses cases in the Los Angeles County Superior Court, the Orange County Superior Court,
14 Santa Clara Superior Court, Monterey County Superior Court, Sonoma County Superior Court,
15 San Francisco County Superior Court, the San Diego County Superior Court, and the United
16 States District Courts for the Central, Eastern, Southern, and Northern Districts of California.

17 9. I have been named as class counsel in a number of class actions that have been
18 granted final approval by the Superior Courts of Los Angeles County, Orange County, San
19 Francisco County, and other counties, and the United States District Court for the Central,
20 Eastern, and Northern Districts of California, including the following class actions: *Chan Lanier*
21 *v. Citigroup, Inc. et al.*, San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CGC-05-445143; *Naqvi v.*
22 *Acoustic Home Loans et al.*, Orange County Superior Court Case No. 05CC00263; *Ortega v. AIG*,
23 Central District of California Case No. CV 06-0196-RSWL (PJWx); *Universal Protection*
24 *Overtime Cases*, Orange County Superior Court, Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No.
25 4480; *Hernandez v. CVS Corp. et al.*, Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4539;
26 *Padilla v. Safeway*, San Benito County Superior Court Case No. CU-16-00182; *Valles v.*
27 *Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula*, Monterey County Superior Court Case No.
28 17CV003452; *DirecTv Wage and Hour Cases*, Santa Clara Superior Court Judicial Council

1 Coordination Proceeding No. 4850; *Perez v. Standard Drywall, Inc.*, Alameda County Superior
2 Court Case No. RG15761142; and *Davis v. Nugget Market, Inc.*, Yolo County Superior Court
3 Case No. CV-18-558.

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

6 Executed on this 17th day of April 2023, at Los Angeles, California.

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8 _____
Larry W. Lee