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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – STANLEY MOSK COURTHOUSE

JOSE CORTEZ, individually, and on
behalf of other aggrieved employees
pursuant to the California Private
Attorneys General Act;

Plaintiff,

vs.

B&V ENTERPRISES, INC., a
California corporation; and DOES 1
through 100, inclusive,

Defendant.

Case No. 20STCV44113

Honorable Wendy Chang
Department 36

**DECLARATION OF ZAKIYA SUN ELLIS IN
SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR COURT
APPROVAL OF PARTIES' PAGA
SETTLEMENT**

Date: August 13, 2024
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Department: 36

Complaint Filed: November 16, 2020
FAC Filed: February 19, 2021
Trial Date: None Set

DECLARATION OF ZAKIYA SUN ELLIS

I, Zakiya Sun Ellis, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am over 18 years of age and a resident of California. I am the named plaintiff in *Zakiya Sun Ellis v. B&V Enterprises, Inc. dba Super King Markets*, Los Angeles County Case No. 21GDCV00587 (“*Ellis PAGA Action*”), which is being settled along with the above-captioned action, i.e., *Jose Cortez v. B&V Enterprises, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Case No. 20STCV44113 (“*Cortez Action*”), as well as the action entitled *Carla Aguilar v. B&V Enterprises Inc.*, Los Angeles County Case No. 20STCV28012 (“*Aguilar Action*”) (collectively, the *Ellis PAGA Action*, *Cortez Action*, and *Aguilar Action* are referred to as the “*Actions*”). I have personal knowledge of the facts and statements set forth in this declaration, and if called upon to testify, I could and would competently testify thereto

2. I was employed by B&V Enterprises, Inc. dba Super King Markets (“*Defendant*”) as an hourly-paid employee from approximately November 2018 to approximately March 2020. I decided to seek legal advice about my work experiences with Defendant and about pursuing my grievances. I contacted Lawyers for Justice, PC and spoke with attorneys there. I wanted to do whatever I could to make sure Defendant was held accountable for not paying its employees for all hours worked and non-compliant meal and rest breaks. After speaking with the attorneys, I investigated class action and representative action lawsuits on my own and did some research into the leading employment law firms in California for approximately **3 hours**. Thereafter, I consulted with the attorneys at Lawyers for Justice, PC for **4 hours** discussing my situation, class actions and representative actions under the Private Attorneys General Act (“*PAGA*”) in general, and what it meant to be a named plaintiff, putative class representative, and PAGA representative.

3. I have spent over **6 hours** meeting with my attorneys regarding the cases and fulfilling my responsibilities as a PAGA representative, which included gathering documents concerning my employment with Defendant, reviewing documents with my attorneys and answering their questions, providing guidance regarding the duties of hourly-paid/non-exempt employees, and helping develop a strategy as to what documents and information to obtain from

1 Defendant. I routinely checked in with my attorneys and their staff to make sure that they had all
2 of my most current information and any additional information that I had obtained.

3 4. Throughout my involvement in the matter, I was available to answer any
4 questions my attorneys had, and available to speak and meet with my attorneys whenever they
5 needed me. I responded to them as quickly as possible and gave them as much information and
6 identified as many documents as I could. I spent at least **5 additional hours** speaking with my
7 attorneys about the cases, identifying potential witnesses, providing my attorneys with
8 documents and information concerning the cases, and also describing policies, practices, and
9 procedures of Defendant.

10 5. As far as the settlement is concerned, I was available to review documents and
11 answer any questions my attorneys had. I spent about **1 hour** reviewing the settlement
12 agreement and about **1 hour** asking questions and discussing the potential settlement with my
13 attorneys before signing the settlement agreement.

14 6. I believe that I have done everything that my attorneys have asked of me and have
15 tried, to the best of my ability, to seek relief for the aggrieved employees and the State of
16 California. I think my efforts helped to get the result obtained in this matter.

17 7. For my broader individual waiver and release of claims with a California Civil
18 Code Section 1542 waiver (set forth in Section 25 of the Settlement Agreement), the Settlement
19 provides for a General Release Payment to me in the amount of \$10,000.00, to be paid out of the
20 Gross Settlement Amount, subject to approval by the Court. I respectfully request that the Court
21 award me the General Release Payment.

22 8. I am not related to anyone associated with Lawyers *for* Justice, PC, Capstone Law
23 APC, or Lavi & Ebrahimian LLP.

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

Electronically Signed 2024-07-23 00:32:41 UTC : 50, 20, 125, 195

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**DECLARATION OF ZAKIYA SUN ELLIS IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR COURT APPROVAL OF PARTIES'
PAGA SETTLEMENT**

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 410 West Arden Avenue, Suite 203, Glendale, California 91203.

On July 23rd, 2024, I served the foregoing document(s) described as: **DECLARATION OF ZAKIYA SUN ELLIS IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR COURT APPROVAL OF PARTIES' PAGA SETTLEMENT** on interested parties in this action as follows:

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Carla Aguilar

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[X] BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE

Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure sections 1010.6(b)(1) through 1010.6(b)(4), California Rules of Court, rule 251(c)(3), and/or an agreement between the parties to serve all eligible documents electronically, I caused the above-described documents to be electronically mailed to Defendant’s counsel through the above-listed e-mail addresses.

[X] STATE

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

Executed on July 23rd, 2024, at Glendale, California.



Deven Launbaugh