

ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC

Shani O. Zakay (State Bar #277924)
3990 Old Town Avenue, Suite 204
San Diego, CA 92110
Telephone: (619) 255-9047
Facsimile: (858) 404-9203
Website: www.zakaylaw.com

JCL LAW FIRM, APC

Jean-Claude Lapuyade (State Bar #248676)
3990 Old Town Avenue, Suite 204
San Diego, CA 92110
Telephone: (619) 559-8292
Facsimile: (619) 559-8291
Website: www.jcl-lawfirm.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

JESSICA BARACKMAN, an individual, on
behalf of herself and on behalf of all persons
similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

TEAZ N PLEAZ, INC., a California
Corporation dba SEDUCTIONS; and DOES 1
through 50, inclusive,

Defendant.

Case No. SC 20200179

**DECLARATION OF JEAN-CLAUDE
LAPUYADE, ESQ., IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT APPROVAL**

Date: October 8, 2021
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Dept.: 4

*[Assigned for All Purposes to Judge Michael J.
McLaughlin]*

Action Filed: December 21, 2020

I, Jean-Claude Lapuyade, declares as follows:

1. I am the owner of the JCL Law Firm, APC, and attorneys for Plaintiff JESSICA BARACKMAN ("Plaintiff") in this matter. As such, I am fully familiar with the facts, pleadings and history of this matter. I am submitting this declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action. The following facts are within my own personal knowledge, and if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently to the matters stated herein.

2. I have been personally involved in the above-captioned litigation since the onset of the case. I am personally familiar with the facts, claims, defenses and legal theories at issue. Based on my involvement in this matter, and based on my experience set forth below, I believe the

1 proposed settlement before the Court meets the criteria for approval.

2 3. For the reasons and arguments set forth in both the motion for preliminary settlement
3 approval and motion for final approval of this class action settlement, I believe that this Settlement
4 is a fair and reasonable recovery on these claims (which were subject to considerable uncertainty,
5 both as to the merits and certification). The response of the Class has been positive. Accordingly,
6 I respectfully submit that the Class Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and
7 adequate.

8 4. Plaintiffs chose qualified and experienced Class Counsel to pursue their claims. I
9 established the JCL Law Firm, APC (“Firm”), in 2010. The Firm is a boutique California plaintiff
10 firm with extensive class action experience, including in the complex area of unlawful housing class
11 actions. The Firm currently consists of myself, Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq. (Attorney/Owner),
12 Tesla Stone (Paralegal), Sara Christensen (Legal Secretary), Leilani Edmunds (Legal Secretary)
13 and Amanda De. Blouw (Client Intake Coordinator). I can, will and have adequately represented
14 Plaintiffs’ interests and the interests of the Settlement Class Members.

15 5. I have represented employees, consumers and low-income tenants in California class
16 actions, and complex multi-party product liability actions exclusively since 2007.

17 6. I have significant class counsel and collective action counsel experience. I sample
18 of my appointed class counsel and representative counsel experience is listed below in the following
19 matters:

20 a. *Salerno v. H Granados Communications, Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court
21 Case No. 19STCV13627 (February 17, 2021 – Hon. Elihu Berle approved a class
22 action and PAGA representative action settlement for, *inter alia*, improperly
23 compensated piece-rate employees and appointed the JCL Law Firm, APC, as class
24 counsel.

25 b. *Jer Vang v. Bridge Property Management*, Alameda County Superior Court,
26 Case No. RG19047434 (January 8, 2021 – Hon. Winifred Smith approved a class
27 and PAGA settlement for, *inter alia*, unpaid off the clock work. The JCL Law Firm,
28

1 APC acted as class counsel for the settlement class and as representative PAGA
2 counsel the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees.)

3 c. *Johnson v. Volt Management Corp., Inc. et al.*, Los Angeles County
4 Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV16466 (December 11, 2020 – Hon. Amy Hogue
5 approved a PAGA Settlement negotiated on behalf of the State of California and
6 the aggrieved employees by the JCL Law Firm, APC.)

7 d. *Salazar v. Frontier Auto Sales Inc., dba Frontier Toyota*, Los Angeles
8 Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV20382 (November 24, 2020 – Hon. John P.
9 Doyle appointed the JCL Law Firm, APC as class counsel and approved a class and
10 PAGA settlement for, *inter alia*, missed meal and rest periods.)

11 e. *Villalobos v. Alterra Group, LLC et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior
12 Court, Case No. 19STCV19448 (November 11, 2020 – Hon. Richard Fruin
13 approved a PAGA Settlement for, *inter alia*, unreimbursed business expenses. The
14 JCL Law Firm, APC acted as counsel for the plaintiff, the State of California and
15 the Aggrieved Employees.)

16 f. *Stevens et al., v. Bank of England*, San Diego County Superior Court Case
17 No. 37-2019-00018662-CU-OE-CTL (October 16, 2020 – Hon. John Meyer
18 appointed JCL Law Firm as Class Counsel and granted final approval of wage and
19 hour class action for, *inter alia*, off-the-clock work.)

20 g. *Frazier v. ASA Carlton, Inc.*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2019-
21 00036147 (October 9, 2020 Hon. Kenneth Medel appointed the JCL Law Firm as
22 Class Counsel and granted final approval of wage and hour class action for off-the-
23 clock work.)

24 h. *Krake et al., v. Central Valley Diner, Inc.*, Placer County Superior Court
25 Case No. SCV0041645 (September 4, 2020 – Hon. Michael Jones appointed JCL
26 Law Firm as class counsel and granted final approval of wage and hour class action
27 for meal period violations.)
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- i. *Conner v. Ascendant Marketing, LLC et al.*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2019-00026864-CU-OE-CTL (July 24, 2020 Hon. Joel Wohlfeil granted approval of PAGA Settlement for, among other things, off-the-clock work. JCL Law Firm, APC acted as lead counsel.)
- j. *Guerrero v. Estancia Operations, LLC.*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2019-00028963 (August 25, 2020 – Hon. Katherine Bacal approved PAGA Settlement for, *inter alia*, missed meal and rest periods. JCL LAW Firm, APC, acted as lead counsel.)
- k. *Moreno v. Dash Lube, et al.*, United States District Court, Southern District of California, Case No. 18cv1922 DMS (AHG) (December 13, 2019 – Granted class certification of Labor Code Section 226 claim and appointed JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel.)
- l. *Perkins et al., v. Tahiti Enterprises, Inc., et al.*, Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2016-00863095 (October 22, 2019 – Hon. Peter Wilson appointed JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel and granted final approval for an unlawful housing class action settlement arising out of Civil Code Section 1940.1.)
- m. *Hill v. Stemak Holdings, Ltd.*, San Diego Superior Court Case No., 37-2018-00000747 (January 28, 2020 – Hon. Kenneth Medel appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as class counsel and granted final approval of wage and hour class action for unpaid overtime.)
- n. *Shachno et al., v. KT Hotels, LLC, et al.* San Diego Superior Court Case No Case No. 37-2018-00043601 (May 31, 2019 – Hon, Gregory Pollack appointed JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel and granted preliminary approval for the wage and hour class action settlement involving nearly 900 current and former employees. Final approval scheduled for October 4, 2019)
- o. *Almanza v. The Express Group, Inc.*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS1722542 (April 19, 2019 – Hon. David Cohn appointed the JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel and granted final approval for a wage and hour class

1 action settlement for *inter alia*, missed meal and rest periods and independent
2 contractor misclassification.)

3 p. *Moschetto v. Pillow Global, Inc.* San Diego Superior Court, Case No. 37-
4 2017-00024031-CU-OE-CTL (April 5, 2019 – Hon. John S. Meyer appointed JCL
5 LAW Firm, APC, as Class Counsel and granted final approval for a wage and hour
6 wage class action settlement involving misclassified house cleaners.)

7 q. *Burke v. Friendship Hotel, LLC*, San Diego County Superior Court Case
8 No. 37-2017-00022517-CU-OE-CTL (March 10, 2019 – final approval granted on
9 for an unlawful housing class action arising under Civil Code Section 1940.2)

10 r. *Terrado et al., v. Accredited Debt Relief, LLC*, San Diego County Superior
11 Court Case No. 37-2018-00014181-CU-OE-CTL (February 8, 2019 – Hon.
12 Gregory W. Pollock appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and granted
13 final approval for a wage and hour class action settlement for meal and rest period
14 violations);

15 s. *Macaspac v. San Antonio Regional Hospital*, San Bernardino Superior
16 Court Case No. CIVDS1512625, (July 27, 2018 – Hon. Thomas S. Garza appointed
17 JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel and granted final approval for a wage and
18 hour class action settlement involving claims for on duty meal and rest periods.);

19 t. *Summerlin et al. v. Maplebear, Inc. dba Instacart*, Los Angeles Superior
20 Court Case No. BC603030 (2018 - certified and settled wage and hour class action.)

21 u. *Ortega v. Prime Healthcare*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2014-
22 00011240-CU-OE-CTL (2018 – Approved PAGA only settlement for on duty meal
23 and rest periods)

24 v. *Engstrom v. Bender-Rosenthal, Inc.* San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-
25 2016-00012373-CU-OE-CTL (2017 - Certified and settled class action for
26 employee misclassification);

27 w. *Crawford v. Outlook Amusements, Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case
28 No. BC617160 (2017 - Certified and settled wage and hour class action.);

1 x. *Hernandez v. Sunglass Hut Trading, LLC*, San Bernardino Superior Court
2 Case No. CIVDS1505181 (2016 - Certified and settled wage and hour class action);

3 y. *Burns v. Shalom, LLC*, San Diego Superior Court, Case No., 37-2013-
4 00058356-CU-BT-CTL (2015 - certified and settled class action for unlawful
5 housing practices arising out of Civil Code Section 1940.1);

6 7. Since 2010, I have successfully tried two (2) cases to conclusion, each resulting in
7 a favorable verdict for the firm's clients.

8 8. Finally, I have published appellate experience in *William Blanchette et al., v. The*
9 *Superior Court of Imperial County, (GHA Enterprises)*, 8 Cal.App.5th 521.

10 9. Consequently, I have been named to the prestigious Thomson Reuters, Super
11 Lawyers, Rising Star in 2015, 2016, 2017 and, again, in 2018. According to Thomson Reuters, the
12 Super Lawyers, Rising Star list recognizes the top 2.5% of eligible attorneys. (see
13 https://www.superlawyers.com/about/selection_process.html.)

14 I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
15 foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 10th day of September 2021, at San Diego, California.

16 **JCL LAW FIRM, APC**

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18 By: 
19 Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq.
20 Attorneys for Plaintiff
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