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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

SHAUN GONZALES, individually, and on
behalf of other members of the general public
similarly situated and on behalf of other
aggrieved employees pursuant to the
California Private Attorneys General Act;

Plaintiff,

vs.

CHAMPION FIRE SYSTEMS, INC., a
California corporation; and DOES 1 through
100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: CIVSB2028336

Honorable David Cohn
Department S26

CLASS ACTION

**DECLARATION OF SHAUN
GONZALES IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION SETTLEMENT**

[Notice of Motion and Motion for
Preliminary Approval of Class Action
Settlement; Declaration of Proposed Class
Counsel (Annabel Blanchard); and
[Proposed] Order filed concurrently
herewith.]

Date: June 2, 2022
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Department: S26

Complaint Filed: December 28, 2020
FAC Filed: May 3, 2021
Trial Date: None Set

DECLARATION OF SHAUN GONZALES

I, **Shaun Gonzales**, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am over 18 years of age and a resident of California. I am the named plaintiff in the above-captioned case. 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 Defendant Champion Fire Systems, Inc. ("Champion Fire") in an hourly-paid, non-exempt position from approximately August 2019 to approximately December 2019. I decided to seek legal advice about my work experiences with Champion Fire 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 Champion Fire paid me and other employees what was owed to us for all hours worked and non-compliant meal and rest breaks. After speaking with the attorneys, I investigated complex wage-and-hour and class action lawsuits on my own and did some research into the leading class action and employment law firms in California for approximately 11 hours. Thereafter, I consulted with the attorneys at Lawyers *for* Justice, PC for 8 hours discussing my situation, complex wage-and-hour class actions and representative actions under the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") in general, and what it meant to be a named plaintiff and class representative.

3. I have spent over 29 hours communicating with my attorneys regarding the case and fulfilling my responsibilities as a class and PAGA representative, which included gathering documents concerning my employment with Champion Fire, reviewing documents with my attorneys, answering questions, and providing guidance regarding the duties of hourly-paid or non-exempt employees, and helping develop a strategy as to what documents and information to obtain from Champion Fire. I routinely checked in with my attorneys and their staff to make sure that they had all my most current information and any additional information that I had obtained.

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4. Throughout the case, I was available to answer any questions my attorneys had, and available to speak and meet with my attorneys whenever they needed me. I responded to them as quickly as possible and gave them as much information and identified as many documents as I could. I spent at least 26 additional hours speaking with my attorneys about the case, identifying potential witnesses, providing my attorneys with documents and information concerning the case, and also describing policies, practices, and procedures of Champion Fire.

5. As far as the settlement is concerned, I was available to review documents and answer any questions my attorneys had. I spent about 5 hours reviewing the settlement agreement and about 3 hours asking questions and discussing the potential settlement with my attorneys before signing the settlement agreement.

6. I believe that I have done everything that my attorneys have asked of me and have tried, to the best of my ability, to represent the class and seek relief for the aggrieved employees and the State of California. I think my efforts helped to get the result obtained in this case, and as a class and PAGA representative, I respectfully request that the Court award me an enhancement payment in the amount of \$12,500.00 for my active participation in this case. Taking into consideration the time that I have dedicated to this case, I believe that this amount is reasonable.

7. I am not related to anyone associated with Lawyers for Justice, PC.

8. I have not entered into any undisclosed agreements, nor have I received any undisclosed compensation in this case. The only compensation I will receive is whatever amount the Court awards me as an enhancement payment, as well as my share of the settlement fund as a class member and as an aggrieved employee.

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

Executed this ^{05/06/2022} ____ day of May 2022, at Redlands, California.

Electronically Signed: 2022-05-07 01:54:51 UTC - 174.196.196.112
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Shaun Gonzales