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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF PLACER

MARGARET MATTHEWS, OKEEM SMITH,
TOMAS VERDUZCO ALCALA, and DARRYL
KNOX, as individuals and on behalf of all others
similarly situated, and as private attorneys general,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

UNITED NATURAL FOODS WEST, INC., a
California corporation; and DOES 1 through 50,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. S-CV-0046420

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

Date: June 29, 2023

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Department: 3

Complaint Filed: March 23, 2021

1 I, Larry W. Lee, declare as follows:

2 1. I am an attorney admitted to practice in the State of California and, with the law firm
3 Diversity Law Group, P.C., am counsel of record for Plaintiff. I make this declaration on the basis of my
4 own personal knowledge, except as to those matters stated on information and belief and, as to those
5 matters, I believe them to be true. If called as a witness, I could testify competently as to the facts stated
6 in this declaration.

7 2. The Notice of Class Action Settlement (“Class Notice”) provided Class Members with
8 my office’s contact information, where they could further seek information regarding the class
9 settlement, leave questions for the Administrator, and update their address.

10 3. There were no objections to the amount of attorneys’ fees or litigation costs that Class
11 Counsel seek in this case and for which Plaintiff asks the Court for final approval.

12 4. Class Counsel engaged in extensive factual investigation before settling, including the
13 exchange of informal discovery and class data. This allowed Plaintiff to conduct a full damage analysis.
14 The Agreement was the product of negotiation between highly able and experienced attorneys on both
15 sides who possessed the relevant data and extensive legal research which they had carefully analyzed.

16 5. The settlement in the case at bar warrants approval and carries a presumption of fairness.
17 As previously noted in the application for Preliminary Approval, this current settlement was negotiated
18 at arm’s length. I support the settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate, and in the best interest of the
19 Class Members as a whole.

20 6. My firm has a great deal of experience in wage and hour class action litigation and has
21 been approved as class counsel in a number of class actions.

22 7. I am one of the primary attorneys on this matter. My qualifications are as follows: I
23 received my J.D. from Arizona State University College of Law in 2003. During law school, I was a
24 summer associate at the law firm of Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison. I graduated cum laude from Arizona
25 State University College of Law in the top 10% of my class. While I was in law school, I was the
26 Associate Managing Editor of the Arizona State University College of Law, Law Journal. Upon
27 graduation, I practiced law as an associate at the Los Angeles County offices of Ogletree Deakins Nash
28

1 Smoak & Stewart, P.C., a national employment defense law firm that represents a significant number of
2 Fortune 500 companies, including wage and hour class actions.

3 8. My firm's primary focus is employment law. I have handled a number of wage and hour
4 matters including class actions and individual actions, on both plaintiff and defense sides. I have a
5 practice that encompasses cases throughout the State of California, including but not limited to the Los
6 Angeles Superior Courts, the Orange County Superior Courts, the San Francisco County Superior
7 Courts, the San Diego County Superior Courts, and the United States District Courts for the Central,
8 Eastern, Northern, and Southern Districts of California. I have been named as Class Counsel in a
9 number of class actions that have been granted final approval by the Superior Courts of Los Angeles
10 County, Orange County, San Francisco County, Alameda County, Contra Costa County, Monterey
11 County, San Bernardino County, Santa Clara County, Sonoma County, and the United States District
12 Court for the Central, Eastern, and Northern Districts of California.

13 9. My firm has incurred costs in the amount of \$10,741.02. The costs are all litigation
14 related costs, including filing fees and mediation fees. Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is copy of the costs
15 my firm has incurred in connection with prosecution of this lawsuit.

16 10. On December 3, 2022, Plaintiff uploaded the Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion for
17 Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement to the LWDA's website. Concurrent with the filing of
18 this motion, Plaintiff also has uploaded the final approval motion to the LWDA.

19 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is
20 true and correct. Executed this 5th day of June 2023, at Los Angeles, California.

21 

22 _____
Larry W. Lee

EXHIBIT A

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DIVERSITY LAW GROUP
Slip Listing

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Selection Criteria

Slip Classification Open
Client (hand select) Include: Matthews, Margaret v United
Slip.Transaction Ty 2 - 2

Rate Info - identifies rate source and level

Slip ID		Timekeeper	Units	Rate	Slip Value
Dates and Time		Activity	DNB Time	Rate Info	
Posting Status		Client	Est. Time	Bill Status	
Description		Reference	Variance		
66176	EXP	Olympia	1	75.00	75.00
2/18/2021		Court fees			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
LWDA					
66525	EXP	Olympia	1	6.96	6.96
2/28/2021		Postage			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
Postage					
66602	EXP	Olympia	1	1478.41	1478.41
3/24/2021		Court fees			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
Placer E Filing - Complaint					
67193	EXP	Olympia	1	110.50	110.50
4/26/2021		Atty Service			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
Attorney Service - Complaint Service					
67116	EXP	Erika Mejia	1	4.25	4.25
5/4/2021		Court fees			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
Placer Superior E Filing - POS of Summons					
67763	EXP	Erika Mejia	1	4.25	4.25
7/6/2021		Court fees			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
Placer E Filing - CMS					
68173	EXP	Simon Yang	1	5.00	5.00
7/26/2021		Court fees			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
VCourt Telephonic Appearance Cancellation Fee					
68491	EXP	Olympia	6	0.25	1.50
7/31/2021		Photocopies			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
Photocopies					

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Slip ID		Timekeeper	Units	Rate	Slip Value
Dates and Time		Activity	DNB Time	Rate Info	
Posting Status		Client	Est. Time	Bill Status	
Description		Reference	Variance		
68492	EXP	Olympia	1	0.71	0.71
7/31/2021		Postage			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
Postage					
69911	EXP	Linda Lee	1	12.01	12.01
10/19/2021		Court fees			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
ACE E Filing					
69663	EXP	Olympia	1	0.53	0.53
10/31/2021		Postage			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
Postage					
69502	EXP	Simon Yang	1	94.00	94.00
11/1/2021		Court fees			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
Placer Remote Appearance					
69719	EXP	Olympia	1	24.80	24.80
11/11/2021		Court fees			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
Placer E Filing - Stip to Amend					
69750	EXP	Olympia	1	4.25	4.25
11/16/2021		Court fees			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
Placer E Filing - FAC					
69752	EXP	Olympia	1	4.25	4.25
11/17/2021		Court fees			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
Placer EFiling - NOE					
69878	EXP	Olympia	1	8250.00	8250.00
12/7/2021		Arbitrators			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
Mark S. Rudy Mediation					
71865	EXP	Simon Yang	1	71.00	71.00
5/23/2022		Court fees			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
Placer Remote Appearance					
73472	EXP	Erika Mejia	1	3.95	3.95
10/26/2022		Court fees			
WIP		Matthews, Margaret v United			
Placer E Filing - Stip and Order re SAC					

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Slip ID Dates and Time Posting Status Description	Timekeeper Activity Client Reference	Units DNB Time Est. Time Variance	Rate Rate Info Bill Status	Slip Value
73487 EXP 10/28/2022 WIP Placer E Filing - CMS	Erika Mejia Court fees Matthews, Margaret v United	1	3.95	3.95
73480 EXP 11/4/2022 WIP Placer E Filing - MPA	Olympia Court fees Matthews, Margaret v United	1	65.60	65.60
73544 EXP 11/14/2022 WIP Placer Superior Remote Appearance	Simon Yang Court fees Matthews, Margaret v United	1	71.00	71.00
73562 EXP 11/14/2022 WIP Placer E Filing - Notice of CMC	Olympia Court fees Matthews, Margaret v United	1	3.95	3.95
73630 EXP 12/1/2022 WIP Placer Superior Remote Appearance	Simon Yang Court fees Matthews, Margaret v United	1	101.00	101.00
73667 EXP 12/5/2022 WIP Placer E Filing - NOE	Olympia Court fees Matthews, Margaret v United	1	3.95	3.95
74674 EXP 3/10/2023 WIP ACE E Filing - CMS	Erika Mejia Court fees Matthews, Margaret v United	1	12.70	12.70
74734 EXP 3/27/2023 WIP Placer Superior Remote Appearance	Simon Yang Court fees Matthews, Margaret v United	1	27.50	27.50
75211 EXP 5/23/2023 WIP Filing Costs	Simon Yang Court fees Matthews, Margaret v United	1	300.00	300.00
Grand Total	Billable	0.00		10741.02

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Slip ID	Timekeeper	Units	Rate	Slip Value
Dates and Time	Activity	DNB Time	Rate Info	
Posting Status	Client	Est. Time	Bill Status	
Description	Reference	Variance		
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	Total	0.00		10741.02