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Attorneys for Plaintiff

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

SANTIAGO GUTIERREZ, as an individual
and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

M.M.C.L., INC. dba CALIFORNIA
LANDCARE, a California corporation; and
DOES 1 through 100,

Defendants.

Case No. 30-2021-01182371-CU-OE-CXC

*[Case assigned for all purposes to the Hon.
Randall J. Sherman, Dept. CX105]*

**DECLARATION OF SUSAN J. PEREZ
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION
FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Date: October 28, 2022

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Dept.: CX105

Reservation No.: 73797124

Action Filed: February 2, 2021

Trial Date: None Set

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I, SUSAN J. PEREZ declare as follows:

1. I am an associate with Haines Law Group, APC, and counsel for the named Plaintiff Santiago Gutierrez (“Plaintiff”) in the above-captioned matter. I am a member in good standing of the bar of the State of California and am admitted to practice in this Court. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration and could testify competently to them if called upon to do so.

2. I received a Bachelor of Arts degree from UCSD in 2012, and a Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, in 2019. I was admitted to the California State Bar in December 2019. During law school, I externed for an administrative law judge at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Los Angeles, California, where I assisted with drafting decisions on motions for summary judgment and attorneys' fees petitions. I also externed for a federal bankruptcy judge, where I drafted bench memoranda on substantive bankruptcy and civil procedure issues.

3. From December 2019 to May 2021, I was an associate attorney at B&D Law Group, APLC, a law firm dedicated to the practice of Plaintiff-side personal injury law located in Los Angeles, California. From June 2021 to December 2022, I was an associate attorney at Lucas and Barba, LLP, where I focused primarily on removal defense in U.S. immigration courts. Since January 2022, I have worked as an associate at Haines Law Group, APC.

4. Although non-exhaustive, the types of tasks I have performed include: conducting client intakes, drafting complaints, attending court hearings in state and federal administrative courts, corresponding with opposing counsel, drafting and responding to written discovery, taking and defending client testimony in U.S. removal proceedings, drafting and opposing a variety of motions including motions for summary judgment, drafting mediation briefs, attending mandatory settlement conferences, drafting long-form settlement agreements, and drafting motions for preliminary and final settlement approval in class action matters.

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5. The following is a non-exhaustive list of the class action settlements in which I have been preliminarily appointed as Class Counsel: *Stephen Fiant v. Ernie Ball, Inc.*, San Luis Obispo County Superior Court, Case No. 21CV-0016.

6. I confirm that I do not have any interest or involvement in the governance or work of the proposed *cy pres* recipient, Girls Inc. of Orange County. Likewise, I am not affiliated with the proposed settlement administrator, Simpluris, Inc.

7. I confirm that I do not have any interest or involvement in the governance or work of the proposed *cy pres* recipient, Girls Inc. of Orange County. Likewise, I am not affiliated with the proposed settlement administrator, Simpluris, Inc.

8. As counsel for Plaintiff, I have been closely involved in all aspects of this litigation since I joined Haines Law Group, APC in January 2022. The details of the work completed by Plaintiff's Counsel in this case are set forth in the declaration of Matthew K. Moen, filed concurrently herewith.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the state of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on July 7, 2022, at El Segundo, California.


Susan J. Perez