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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

MIGUEL ATENCIO, FRANCISCO
NOGUERA, NICOLE LABRUCHERIE,
and EMIR LOUDHABACHI, on behalf
of themselves and all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

STACHS LLC, a Limited Liability
Company; EAZE TECHNOLOGIES,
INC., a Corporation; and DOES 1
through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Lead Case No. **CGC-21-594434**

**DECLARATION OF NICOLE
LABRUCHERIE IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS SETTLEMENT**

Hearing Date: June 4, 2024

Hearing Time: 9:30 a.m.

Judge: Hon. Richard B. Ulmer

Courtroom: 302

Action Filed: August 11, 2021

Trial Date: Not Set

1 I, Nicole LaBrucherie, declare as follows:

2 1. I am over the age of eighteen, a Plaintiff and a proposed Class Representative in the
3 above-entitled matter. I submit this declaration in support of the Motion for Preliminary Approval
4 of Class Settlement and in support of my application for a Class Representative Service Payment.
5

6 2. I have personal knowledge of all the facts stated herein. I could and would competently
7 testify under oath to these facts in court if requested to do so.

8 3. I began working for the defendants ("Stachs") in California in April of 2020 and Stachs
9 classified me as a non-exempt, hourly paid employee.
10

11 4. I retained my attorneys who are experienced in both class action and representative action
12 litigation and claims against employers for violations of the California Labor Code. I have no
13 personal relationship or family ties to my attorneys or any officer of the Court. I am not aware of
14 having any actual or potential conflicts of interest with another class member in this case nor am I
15 aware of having any actual or potential conflicts of interest with ILYM Group, Inc., the settlement
16 administrator. I am not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be
17 extinguished or adversely affected by this settlement.
18

19 5. I decided to pursue this action and be a plaintiff/class representative because I felt
20 that my legal rights as an employee and others like me were violated. For example, I often did
21 not receive compliant meal and rest breaks which were often late, short or missed entirely – and
22 when these break violations occurred I did not receive all the meal or rest break penalty payments
23 I was entitled to. I was also not paid for all time worked, such as when I had to work while
24 clocked out during my meal breaks. Also, my pay stubs were inaccurate for multiple reasons,
25 including not stating the total amount of hours I worked.
26

27 6. I spoke to my attorneys several times and discussed how Stachs implemented
28

1 its company policies and procedures. I also assisted my attorneys in their investigation into my
2 claims by providing them documents and answering their questions. I reviewed the amended
3 complaint before it was filed and was given access to an electronic file sharing program that
4 alerted me via email when important documents were filed so that I could review them and keep
5 up with the developments in the case which I understood was one of my duties as a class
6 representative. I could also access court filings from this case on my attorney's law firm website.

7
8 7. Even though this action is in the process of settling, I was and remain prepared to
9 perform all the duties of a class representative. I understand that as a class representative I have
10 assumed a fiduciary responsibility to prosecute this class action on behalf of the absent class
11 members. I have understood that as a fiduciary, I have a duty to prosecute this action for the
12 benefit of the class members and surrender any right to compromise the group action for an
13 individual gain.
14

15 8. I understood that being a plaintiff/class representative in this case meant that I was
16 seeking damages not only for myself but also other individuals working for Stachs in California
17 who make up the class. I felt that these individuals were not aware of their labor law rights and
18 even if they were they would probably be apprehensive about speaking up or even simply because
19 of the time, effort and risk involved in filing a class action lawsuit.
20

21 9. I understood that being a part of this lawsuit involved risks. For example, my
22 attorneys explained to me that if the case went to trial and we lost, I could be held responsible to
23 pay for all or part of the attorney fees and costs paid by Stachs to defend this lawsuit. Also, I knew
24 there was a risk that future employers, if they ever find out about this lawsuit, could hold it against
25 me or downgrade me as a potential hire. Since I am a plaintiff in this case which is in the public
26 record, it would not be difficult for a future employer to become aware that I sued an employer for
27 labor law violations. Ultimately I decided these risks were worth it and decided to fight for my
28

1 rights and the rights of others regardless of the risks, time and effort I spent on this case.

2 10. During the lawsuit I stayed in touch with my attorneys by phone and email. I also
3 kept up to date on important developments by reviewing court filings that were made available to
4 me electronically as I described above.

5 11. A mediation took place on October 12, 2023 with Lynn Frank, a well-respected and
6 experienced mediator of wage and hour class actions. Following the mediation the parties were
7 able to reach an agreement to settle the action based on a mediator's proposal. I communicated
8 with my attorneys regarding the terms of the settlement which was reached between the parties and
9 understood that I was representing absent class members and therefore wanted the best possible
10 result to be obtained for the class members and I believe a very positive result was in fact achieved
11 via settlement.
12

13
14 12. I have been actively involved with this lawsuit performing the duties described above.
15 Although I did not keep time records, I was in regular contact with my attorneys, reviewed court
16 filings and spent a significant amount of time on the issues presented during the lawsuit and in the
17 settlement process. I estimate that I spent approximately 20-30 hours working on this case up
18 until this point. I believe I have been diligent and have done what is expected of a plaintiff and a
19 proposed class representative to date, and will continue to do so. I have and always will maintain
20 the best interest of the class members.
21

22 13. My attorneys explained to me that the settlement process involves a two-step review
23 by the Court to determine whether the settlement is fair before approving the settlement. I know
24 this process also involves notifying all class members of the settlement terms and of their rights to
25 make a claim for their settlement share, to opt out of the settlement or to object to the settlement.
26

27 14. I believe I did the right thing by filing this case on behalf of the class members who,
28 subject to court approval, are in line to receive monetary payments as a result of this case and

1 settlement. This is money they may never have ever gotten if I did not pursue this action on their
2 behalf. I feel significant personal satisfaction to know that I played a role in the class members
3 being entitled to monetary payments as a result of the filing of this lawsuit. I also believe that the
4 requested Class Representative Service Payment of \$12,000 from the settlement is fair
5 compensation for the work I performed and the risks I undertook.

6
7 15. As part of the settlement it was necessary for me to sign a general release of all claims I
8 may have against Stachs. I believe the Class Representative Service Payment I have requested
9 provides me with some compensation for this agreed release.

10
11 16. In light of all the time and effort I have spent on this case, the risk I undertook by
12 suing my employer, the exposure to being responsible for paying for the defendants' costs in the
13 event we did not win the case, the reputational risk that future employers may hold this lawsuit
14 against me, the general release and in light of the size of the settlement, I believe the request for
15 \$12,000 as a Class Representative Service Payment is fair and reasonable.

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

18 Executed on Apr 27, 2024, at Los angeles CA.
19 (city, state)

20 

21 Nicole LaBrucherie (Apr 27, 2024 06:52 PDT)

22 Nicole LaBrucherie