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MESRIANI LAW GROUP, APLC

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs CHRISTOPHER ORNELAS, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, and CHRISTOPHER NIETO, on behalf of himself and all others aggrieved

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CHRISTOPHER ORNELAS, on behalf of
himself and all others similarly situated and
CHRISTOPHER NIETO, on behalf of
himself and all others aggrieved,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

TEKSYSTEMS, INC., a Maryland
Corporation; and DOES 1 through 10,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 19STCV39944

ASSIGNED FOR ALL PURPOSES TO:

The Honorable Carolyn B. Kuhl
Department 12

CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION

**DECLARATION OF RODNEY MESRIANI IN
SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR ORDER
GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT,
CONDITIONAL CERTIFICATION,
APPROVAL OF CLASS NOTICE AND
SETTING OF FINAL FAIRNESS HEARING
DATE**

Date: March 27, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Dept: SS12

Judge: Carolyn B. Kuhl

Complaint filed: November 6, 2019

Trial date: Not set

1 I, Rodney Mesriani, declare as follows:

2 1. I am an attorney duly licensed to practice law before all courts in the State of
3 California. I am the Managing Attorney of Mesriani Law Group, A Professional Law
4 Corporation and I represent Christopher Ornelas and Christopher Nieto in this action. I have
5 personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein and, if called and sworn in as a witness, could
6 and would testify competently thereto.

7 2. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from California State
8 University at Northridge in 1993. I received a law degree from Southwestern School of Law in
9 1996. In law school, I was a law clerk for Judge William J. Rea of the United States District
10 Court, Central Branch and also for the Department of Corporations.

11 3. I was admitted to the California State Bar in the fall of 1996. I am admitted to
12 practice in all state courts in California, the Central District Court of California, and the Ninth
13 Circuit.

14 4. I started Mesriani Law Group in 1997. My firm represents plaintiffs in
15 individual employment disputes as well as complex and class action litigation, including wage
16 and hour, labor and employment, consumer protection, and other public interest class actions. I
17 have handled thousands of labor and employment cases over the last two decades. For years, I
18 have been rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell and have been a member of the
19 prestigious Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum. I have been appointed Class Counsel in
20 over a dozen wage and hour class actions.

21 5. I have been appointed as Class Counsel in the following proceedings: *Tasawar*
22 *Abbas, et al. v. A-1 Security Screens, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No.
23 BC716439; *Michael Angelos, et al. v. City of Santa Monica*, Los Angeles County Superior
24 Court Case No. BC627227; *Antonio Soto Jr., et al. v. H.T.L. Automotive, Inc., et al.* Los
25 Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC636374; *Laura Rubi, et al. v. Bergen Shippers*
26 *Corp.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC715077; *Patricia Martinez v. Whaler*
27 *LLC*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC621047; *David Karayan, et al. v. Excel*
28 *Studios, LLC*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC666586; *Joseph Jun Caballero,*

1 *et al. v. MLT, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC659936; *Ashley Singer, et*
2 *al. v. M.A.C. Cosmetics, Inc.*, San Diego County Superior Court Case No. 37-2019-00033695-
3 CU-OE-CTL; *Brandon Centino, et al. v. Arrowhead Products Corporation.*, Orange County
4 Superior Court Case No. 30-2018-00988493; *Navid Bordbar, et al. v. Enterprise Rent-A-Car*
5 *Co. of San Francisco, LLC, et al.*, Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2017-00960085-
6 CU-OE-CXC; *Kevin T. Klein, et al. v. Loomis Armored US, LLC*, San Bernardino County
7 Superior Court Case No. CIVDS1704547; *Luis Lopez, et al. v. GE United Technologies, LLC*
8 *d/b/a Grassdoor*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 20STCV34691; *Dayanna*
9 *Gorosave; et al. v. CVHCare Holdings, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No.
10 21VECV01154; *Desmond Augustine, et al. v. United Parcel Service, Inc.*, Los Angeles County
11 Superior Court Case No. BC636468 consolidated with *Ddilon Cabezas; et al v. United Parcel*
12 *Service, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC705672; *Ramon Ramirez, et al.*
13 *v. J & J Snack Foods Corp. of California*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No.
14 19STCV31170, among others.

15 6. I continue to actively seek to develop my knowledge of California wage and
16 hour law and have taken many Continuing Legal Education classes related to wage and hour
17 law and class action law. I have been an active member of the Consumer Attorneys Association
18 of Los Angeles and the American Association for Justice, formerly the Association of Trial
19 Lawyers of America, and regularly consult with their members regarding cutting edge
20 developments in California wage and hour law.

21 7. I consider myself experienced and qualified to evaluate the Class claims and
22 viability of the defenses. Based on the history of the above-captioned case, and given my
23 experience and analysis, it is my view that the settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and
24 in the best interest of the class members. Had the litigation not reached the proposed settlement
25 set forth in the Settlement Agreement, I, along with my co-counsel, would have continued to
26 prosecute the class' claims through certification, trial and beyond.

27 8. In this litigation, the Parties attended mediation with Wynne Carvill, a well-
28 regarded and experienced wage and hour class action mediator. Based on the history of this

1 case, and given our firm's extensive experience as class action employment and wage and hour
2 litigators, and having fully participated in the mediation facilitated by mediator Wynne Carvill
3 followed by extensive post-mediation settlement negotiation, it is our view that the proposed
4 Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and in the best interest of the members of the Class.
5 This experience has allowed co-counsel and my firm to fully endorse the terms and conditions
6 of the proposed settlement.

7 9. I have devoted 51.00 hours to this action. My hourly rate is \$795.00 per hour.
8 Based on my own research and experience, this hourly rate is below the average/mean range of
9 the typical rates of a Los Angeles area law firm that practices complex litigation and is
10 consistent with, if not lower than, the prevailing rates for attorneys of similar experience, skill
11 and reputation. Attached as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of my Time Records.

12 10. For example, several courts in this district have approved fee ranges into which
13 Class Counsel's rates easily fall. In 2011, *Hartless v. Clorox Co.*, 273 F.R.D. 630, 644 (S.D. 8
14 Cal. 20 2011), the Honorable Cathy Ann Bencivengo affirmed the rate of "\$675 for an
15 experienced partner's time." *Id* at 6442.

16 11. Other California District Courts have approved even higher attorney fee rates.
17 For example, in *CLRB Hanson Indus., LLC v. Weiss & Assocs., PC*, 2012 WL20539 (N.D. Cal.
18 Jan. 5, 2012), the court found that the hourly rates of the two top billers to be reasonable at
19 \$1100 and \$850 per hour each. Case No. COS-03649, Dkt. No. 342. Even though the
20 defendants appealed the attorneys' fee award, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the district court's
21 finding that the requested fees were justified. *CLRB Hanson Indus., LLC v. Weiss & Assocs.*,
22 *PC*, 2012 WL 20539, at *1.

23 12. My firm has incurred costs in the sum of \$231.60. Attached as Exhibit B is a
24 true and correct copy of my firm's Itemization of Costs.

25 13. I declare that I am not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting
26 claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.
27
28

14. I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration is executed on Dec 7, 2023, in Los Angeles, California.

Rodney Mesriani

EXHIBIT A

MESRIANI LAW GROUP

a professional law corporation

510 ARIZONA AVENUE
SANTA MONICA, CA 90401
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F: (310) 820-1258

rodney@mesriani.com

Rodney Mesriani, Esq.
Attorney for Ornelas, et al.

Billing Invoice:
Ornelas, et al. v. Teksystems

DESCRIPTION	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
Client Consultation & Fact Gathering	2.50	\$795.00	\$1,987.50
File Review, Research, & Legal Analysis	4.50	\$795.00	\$3,577.50
Multiple Conferences with Co-Counsel re: Strategy	2.00	\$795.00	\$1,590.00
Review various Pleadings, Motions, Discovery, Correspondence, & Provide Input- Strategize with Counsel	26.00	\$795.00	\$20,670.00
Mediation Brief Review, File, Export Analysis, Preparation for Mediation & Attend Mediation	16.00	\$795.00	\$12,720.00
TOTAL:	51.00		\$40,545.00

EXHIBIT B

MESRIANI LAW GROUP

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Ornelas, et al. v. Teksystems
Case No. 19STCV39944

Payee	Details	Amount
Case Anywhere	(Inv. 228341)	\$120.00
Case Anywhere	(Inv. 188494)	\$111.60
	Total	\$231.60