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Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

IKEYEE JACKSON, as an individual and
on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

SAMUEL, SON & CO. (USA) INC., a
Delaware corporation; and DOES 1
through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: CVRI2101679

(Assigned to the Honorable Sunshine Sykes,
Dept. 6)

**DECLARATION OF KRISTEN M. AGNEW
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION
FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Date: July 13, 2022
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept.: 6

Reservation ID: 857359202946

Complaint Filed: March 30, 2021

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I, Kristen Agnew, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney at law, duly licensed to practice before all Courts in the State of Virginia, and am with the law firm Diversity Law Group, P.C., counsel of record for Plaintiff Jackson (“Plaintiff”). I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth below and if called by me I could and would do so competently.

2. From the inception of the case, Plaintiff's counsel has zealously represented the interests of the putative class. The settlement was obtained for the benefit of the putative class, as evidenced by the fact that the settlement was approved by the court and the individual Plaintiff.

3. I strongly believe that Plaintiff can prevail at trial. However, I also believe in the wisdom of the settlement, which is based on factoring in the inherent risks in drawn-out litigation and the specific risks that a class might not be certified and/or that Plaintiff could fail to establish liability, as well as the possibility of appeals.

4. After taking into account sharply disputed factual and legal issues involved in this case, the risks attending further prosecution, and the substantial benefits to be received from the compromise and settlement of the litigation, I have concluded that settlement on the terms set forth in the Stipulation of Class Action Settlement and Release (“Agreement” or “Settlement Agreement”) is appropriate and in the best interests of Plaintiff and the putative

5. Plaintiff's counsel has been approved as class counsel in a number of wage and class actions and have extensive litigation experience.

6. My qualifications are as follows: I was the 2003 recipient of the Spelman
 ntial Scholarship to Emory University School of Law. During law school, I was a summer
 te at the law firm of Sonnenschein, Nath and Rosenthal, and clerked with the Atlanta
 f the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. I received my J.D. from Emory
 sity in 2006 and was admitted to the California Bar in December 2006. Following law
 I was an associate at Sonnenschein from September 2006 to May 2009.

7. Since 2009, my primary area of practice has been employment litigation. I have

1 practiced law at two preeminent employment defense firms. From May 2009 to June 2011, I was
2 an associate at Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. I was also an associate, and then
3 senior associate, in the labor and employment practice group of Seyfarth Shaw, LLP from June
4 2011 to May 2016. At both Ogletree and Seyfarth, I represented a wide array of fortune 500
5 companies in employment litigation in both state and federal courts, as well as before
6 government agencies, including the California Department of Labor. My practice included the
7 defense of single plaintiff and multi-plaintiff lawsuits involving claims under the California Fair
8 Employment and Housing Act, the California Labor Code and the Fair Labor Standards Act. I
9 also handled a number of wage and hour class actions.

10 8. In June 2016, I joined Diversity Law Group, P.C. where I spend most of my time
11 handling employment cases. I primarily represent employees.

12 9. I served as the lead associate on a number of wage and hour class actions,
13 including *Martha Cardenas v. Gold's Gym*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No.
14 BC445112; *Nathaniel Werner v. Crown Equipment Corporation*, Los Angeles County Superior
15 Court Case No. BC439428; *Christopher Williams v. Allstate Insurance Co.*, Los Angeles County
16 Superior Court Case No. BC382577; *Hwang v. Caltech*, Los Angeles County Superior Court
17 Case No. BC464894; *Melissa Roberts v. Zale Delaware, Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case
18 No. BC523610; *Michael Oliver v. Konica Minolta Business Solutions U.S.A., Inc.*, Santa Clara
19 County Superior Court Case No. 114-CV-263183; *Tessa Hodge v. Zale Delaware, Inc., d/b/a*
20 *Piercing Pagoda*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No CIVVS1301632; *Warren v. Paychex,*
21 *Inc.*, N.D. Cal. Case No. 3:10-cv-02006; *Tapia v. Zale Delaware Inc. et al*, S.D. Cal. Case No.
22 3:13-cv-01565; and *Benjamin Burgess et al v. Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company et al*,
23 C.D. Cal. Case No. 2:10-cv-05870.

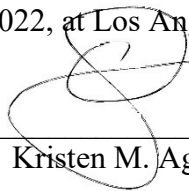
24 10. I have been approved as class counsel in a number of class actions by the Superior
25 Courts of California and United States District Courts, including: *Antonio Becerra-Mata v. PSC*
26 *Industrial Outsourcing, LP*, San Benito County Superior Court Case No. CU-15-00030; *Andrew*
27 *Vasquez v. Earthbound Farm, LLC*, San Benito County Superior Court Case No. CU-17-00171;
28 *Fransisco Pulido v. Westrock Services, Inc.*, San Benito County Superior Court Case No. CU-18-

00074; *Kosal So v. Owens-Brockway Glass Container, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC608609; *John Obiols v. Lockheed Martin Corporation*, Santa Clara County Superior Court Case No. 17CV314178; and *Eric Chavez v. Converse, Inc.*, N.D. Cal. Case No. 15-cv-03746-NC.

11. I also second chaired two jury trials where I represented the prevailing defendant. Both cases involved employees who brought claims against their former employers pursuant to the Fair Employment & Housing Act. The cases are: *Jeff Cowell v. Eaton Aerospace LLC et al*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC401543; and *Richard Gulden v. Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne Inc. et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC468909

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

Executed on this 19th day of April 2022, at Los Angeles, California.



Kristen M. Agnew