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8 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

9 **COUNTY OF KERN**

10 LILIANA ANDERSON, on behalf of herself)
11 and on behalf of all persons similarly)
12 situated,)

13 Plaintiff,

14 vs.

15 RAMM HOSPITALITY, INC., a California)
16 Corporation; PRIME HOSPITALITY)
17 SERVICES, LLC, a California Limited Liability)
Company; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,)

18 Defendants.

Case No. BCV-21-101048

**DECLARATION OF LILIANA
ANDERSON IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS
SETTLEMENT**

Hearing Date: August 1, 2023

Hearing Time: 8:30 a.m.

Judge: Eric Bradshaw

Div.: J

Date Action Filed: May 10, 2021

Trial date: Not set

1 I, Liliana Anderson, 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
4 Approval of Class Settlement and in support of my application for a Class Representative
5 Service Payment.
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7 2. I have personal knowledge of all the facts stated herein. I could and would competently
8 testify under oath to these facts in court if requested to do so.

9 3. I worked for the defendants ("Ramm Hospitality") in California from January of 2020 to
10 March 13, 2020 and was classified by Ramm Hospitality as an hourly, non-exempt employee
11 during that time period.
12

13 4. I retained my attorneys who are experienced in both class action and PAGA
14 representative action litigation and claims against employers for violations of the California
15 Labor Code. I have no personal relationship or family ties to my attorneys or any officer of the
16 Court. I am not aware of having any actual or potential conflicts of interest with another class
17 member in this case nor am I aware of having any actual or potential conflicts of interest with
18 ILYM, the settlement administrator. I am not aware of any other pending matter or action
19 asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by this settlement.
20

21 5. I decided to file this class action lawsuit and be a plaintiff/class representative because
22 I felt that my legal rights as an employee and others like me were violated. For example, I was
23 regularly unable to take compliant meal and rest breaks which were often late, interrupted or
24 missed entirely, and I did not receive all the meal and rest break premium payments I was
25 entitled to when these violations occurred. Also, I often had to work during my meal periods but
26 did not get paid any wages for this time I spent working. In addition, I had to use my personal
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1 cell phone for work-related purposes but was not reimbursed by Ramm Hospitality for the
2 reasonable costs I incurred.

3 6. Before the complaint was filed I spoke to my attorneys several times and discussed how
4 Ramm Hospitality implemented its company policies and procedures. I also assisted my
5 attorneys in their investigation into my claims by providing them documents and answering their
6 questions. I reviewed the complaint before it was filed and after it was filed I was given access
7 to an electronic file sharing program that alerted me via email when important documents were
8 filed so that I could review them and keep up with the developments in the case which I
9 understood was one of my duties as a class representative. I would also contact my attorneys
10 from time to time if I had any questions about the case. I also assisted my attorneys respond to
11 written discovery requests by Ramm Hospitality including interrogatories, requests for
12 production of documents and requests for admissions.
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15 7. Even though this action is in the process of settling, I was and remain prepared to
16 perform all the duties of a class representative. I understand that as a class representative I have
17 assumed a fiduciary responsibility to prosecute this class action on behalf of the absent class
18 members. I have understood that as a fiduciary, I have a duty to prosecute this action for the
19 benefit of the class members and surrender any right to compromise the group action for an
20 individual gain.
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22 8. I understood that being a plaintiff/class representative in this case meant that I
23 was seeking damages not only for myself but also other current and/or former hourly, non-
24 exempt employees working for Ramm Hospitality in California. I felt that these individuals
25 were not aware of their labor law rights and even if they were they would probably be
26 apprehensive about speaking up or even simply because of the time, effort and risk involved in
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1 filing a class action lawsuit.

2 9. I understood that being a part of this lawsuit involved risks. For example, my
3 attorneys explained to me that if the case went to trial and we lost, I could be held responsible to
4 pay for all or part of the attorney fees and costs paid by Ramm Hospitality to defend this lawsuit.
5 Also, I knew there was a risk that future employers, if they ever found out about this lawsuit,
6 could hold it against me or downgrade me as a potential hire. As the only named Plaintiff in this
7 case it would not be difficult for a future employer to become aware that I sued a former
8 employer for labor law violations. Ultimately I decided these risks were worth it and decided to
9 fight for my rights and the rights of others regardless of the risks, time and effort I spent on this
10 case.
11

12 10. During the lawsuit I stayed in touch with my attorneys by phone and email. I also
13 kept up to date on important developments by reviewing court filings that were made available to
14 me electronically as I described above.
15

16 11. A mediation took place on September 22, 2022 with Jeffrey Krivis, a well-
17 respected and experienced mediator of wage and hour class actions. The parties were unable to
18 reach a settlement at mediation but continued settlement negotiations through the mediator for
19 several months and in February of 2023 the parties reached an agreement to settle the action
20 based on a mediator's proposal. I communicated with my attorneys regarding the terms of the
21 settlement which was reached between the parties and understood that I was representing absent
22 class members and therefore wanted the best possible result to be obtained for the class members
23 and I believe a very positive result was in fact achieved via settlement. I reviewed and signed the
24 Memorandum of Understanding on February 16, 2023 and when the final settlement papers were
25 ready, I closely reviewed the Settlement Agreement which I signed on April 27, 2023.
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1 12. I have been actively involved with this lawsuit performing the duties described above.
2 Although I did not keep time records, I was in regular contact with my attorneys, reviewed court
3 filings, and spent a significant amount of time on the issues presented during the lawsuit and in
4 the settlement process. I estimate that I spent approximately 40-50 hours working on this case
5 up until this point. I believe I have been diligent and have done what is expected of a named
6 plaintiff and a proposed class representative to date, and will continue to do so. I have and
7 always will maintain the best interest of the class members.
8

9 13. My attorneys explained to me that the settlement process involves a two-step
10 review by the Court to determine whether the settlement is fair before approving the settlement.
11 I know this process also involves notifying all class members of the settlement terms and of their
12 rights to make a claim for their settlement share, to opt out of the settlement or to object to the
13 settlement.
14

15 14. I believe I did the right thing by filing this case on behalf of the class members who,
16 subject to court approval, are in line to receive monetary payments as a result of this case and
17 settlement. This is money they may never have ever gotten if I did not pursue this action on their
18 behalf. I feel significant personal satisfaction to know that I played a role in the class members
19 being entitled to monetary payments as a result of the filing of this lawsuit. I also believe that
20 the requested Class Representative Service Payment of \$10,000 from the settlement is fair
21 compensation for the work I performed and the risks I undertook.
22

23 15. As part of the settlement it was necessary for me to sign a general release of all
24 claims I may have against Ramm Hospitality. I believe the Class Representative Service
25 Payment I have requested provides me with some compensation for this agreed release.
26

27 16. In light of all the time and effort I have spent on this case, the risk I undertook by
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1 suing a former employer, the exposure to being responsible for paying Ramm Hospitality's costs
2 in the event we did not win the case, the reputational risk that future employers may hold this
3 lawsuit against me, the general release, and in light of the size of the settlement, I believe the
4 request for \$10,000 as a Class Representative service payment is fair and reasonable.

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

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8 Executed on Jul 6, 2023, at Las Vegas, Nevada.
(city, state)

9 *Liliana E. Anderson*
10 Liliana E. Anderson (Jul 6, 2023 06:13 PDT)

11 Liliana Anderson
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