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

KETEMA NELSON, as an individual and
on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SANTINI FOODS, INC., a Texas
corporation; and DOES 1 through 100,

Defendants.

CASE NO. RG21090890

*[Case assigned for all purposes to the Hon.
Evelio Grillo, Dept. 21]*

**DECLARATION OF PAUL K. HAINES IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION
FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Date: March 23, 2022
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Dept.: 21

Action Filed: March 4, 2021
Trial Date: None Set

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I, PAUL K. HAINES, declare as follows:

1. I am a shareholder and principal of the law firm Haines Law Group, APC and counsel for the named Plaintiff Ketema Nelson (“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 am a 2006 graduate of Pepperdine University School of Law, where I graduated *cum laude*. During law school, I worked as a law clerk for the appellate firm of Horvitz & Levy, located in Encino, California. I also spent a semester in law school working as an extern for the Honorable Edward Rafeedie, District Judge for the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

3. Since graduating from law school, my practice focused almost exclusively on employment litigation. In September 2007, I began working as an associate attorney at the international law firm of Littler Mendelson P.C., at its Los Angeles office, which according to its website is the “largest U.S.-based law firm exclusively devoted to representing management in every aspect of labor and employment law.” While at Littler Mendelson, I was primarily staffed on wage and hour class actions in both state and federal courts, and I also worked on a number of single and multi-plaintiff wage and hour matters as well.

4. During my employment at Littler Mendelson, I played a significant role in the class actions that I was staffed on, as I was often the only associate staffed on such cases. In particular, I received a wide array of wage and hour class action experience performing the following types of tasks: drafting demurrers and motions to strike and/or dismiss; removing actions from state court to federal court; drafting and responding to written discovery; drafting and opposing discovery related motions; arguing discovery related motions; drafting motions to consolidate related matters; interviewing putative class members and obtaining declarations in connection with class certification; drafting oppositions to motions for class certification; drafting motions for decertification following class certification; conducting exposure analyses to assess

1 the strengths and weaknesses of asserted claims, the likelihood of prevailing at class certification,
2 and potential damages resulting from such claims; drafting mediation briefs; serving as the
3 primary contact to in-house counsel; deposing named plaintiffs and putative class members;
4 deposing retained expert witnesses; and defending the depositions of corporate witnesses. In
5 short, I played an integral role in all aspects of litigation from the inception of a matter through
6 and beyond class certification. I also supervised the work of several junior attorneys who were
7 staffed on the same wage and hour class actions.

8 5. In June 2011, I voluntarily resigned from Littler Mendelson in order to accept an
9 associate attorney position with the international law firm of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, at
10 its Los Angeles office, where I began working in July 2011. During my employment at Morgan,
11 Lewis & Bockius, I worked exclusively on the defense of wage and hour class and collective
12 actions. For the majority of cases that I worked on, I was the only associate staffed on the case,
13 and I performed the same job duties as described in the immediately preceding paragraph. In
14 addition to working on wage and hour class actions, at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius I also worked
15 on a number of “hybrid” actions asserting nationwide wage and hour claims under the Fair Labor
16 Standards Act, as well as California-specific claims under Rule 23 of the Rules of Civil Procedure.

17 6. In July 2012, I transitioned into litigating wage and hour class actions from the
18 Plaintiff’s side, first as a Partner with the law firm of Boren, Osher & Luftman, LLP, and since
19 February 2016 as a Shareholder of Haines Law Group, APC. Currently, over ninety percent (90%)
20 of my practice is dedicated exclusively to the prosecution of wage and hour class actions, and my
21 law firm is currently responsible for prosecuting over fifty (50) wage and hour class actions filed
22 in both State and Federal courts throughout California. I have been appointed as Class Counsel
23 in over seventy-five (75) wage and hour class action settlements in state and federal courts within
24 California. A few examples of the matters in which I have been appointed as Class Counsel, all
25 of which have been granted final approval, include the following: *Sanchez v. Res-Care, Inc.*, Case
26 No. BC526175, California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Honorable John S. Wiley,
27 presiding; *Prado v. Warehouse Demo Services, Inc.*, Case No. CV14-3170 JFW (Ex), United
28 States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge John F. Walter, presiding;

1 *Tesla Motors Wage and Hour Litigation*, JCCP 4792, California Superior Court, Santa Clara
2 County, Judge Peter H. Kirwan presiding; *Bower v. Cycle Gear, Inc.*, Case No. CV14-2712 HSG,
3 United States District Court, Northern District of California, Honorable Judge Haywood S.
4 Gilliam, Jr. presiding; *Longstreth v. PAQ, Inc., dba Food 4 Less*, Case No. 15CV-0206, California
5 Superior Court, County of San Luis Obispo, Honorable Judge Charles S. Crandall, presiding;
6 *Nunez v. CompuCom Systems, Inc.*, Case No. BC618385, California Superior Court, County of
7 Los Angeles, Honorable Judge John Shepard Wiley, Jr. presiding; *Mansilla v. Haeco Americas*
8 *Line Services, LLC, et al*, Case No. BC615310, Superior Court of California, County of Los
9 Angeles, Honorable Judge Elihu M. Berle presiding; *Khosravi v. Enterprise Rent-A-Car*
10 *Company of Los Angeles*, Case No. 30-2016-00829923-CU-OE-CXC, California Superior Court,
11 County of Orange, Judge Thierry Patrick Colaw, presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly
12 rate of \$600 for work performed in 2016 and 2017); *Nieves v. Ta Chen International, Inc.*, Case
13 No. BC609005, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Honorable Judge Kenneth
14 R. Freeman presiding (approved at an hourly rate of \$600 for work performed in 2016 and 2017);
15 *Berkel v. Pride Bakeries, LLC*, Case No. 30-2017-00923148-CU-OE-CXC, Superior Court of
16 California, County of Orange, Honorable Judge William Claster presiding; *Ruvalcaba Quiroz v.*
17 *Circle M Contractors, Inc.*, Case No. 30-2016-00885065-CU-OE-CXC, Superior Court of
18 California, County of Orange, Honorable William D. Claster presiding; *Armenta, et al., v.*
19 *California Friends Homes d/b/a Quaker Gardens*, Case No. 30-2016-00883282-CU-OE-CXC,
20 Superior Court of California, County of Orange, Honorable Randall J. Sherman presiding
21 (approving an hourly rate of \$600 for work performed in 2016, 2017 and 2018); *Tina Arellano v.*
22 *Williams Sonoma Stores, Inc.*, Case No. BC693760, Los Angeles County Superior Court,
23 Honorable Daniel J. Buckley, presiding; *William Cuellar v. UMA Enterprises, Inc.*, Case No.
24 BC657146, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Honorable Maren E. Nelson, presiding; *Maria*
25 *C. Garcia, et al. v. Simplified Labor Staffing Solutions, Inc.*, Case No. BC696898, Los Angeles
26 County Superior Court, Honorable Elihu M. Berle, presiding (approving an hourly rate of \$650
27 for work performed in 2018 and 2019); *Arturo Delgado v. Spears Manufacturing Co.*, Case No.
28 BC709665, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Honorable Maren E. Nelson, presiding

(approving an hourly rate of \$650 for work performed in 2018, 2019, and 2020); *Lucia Kang, et al., v. Extra Space Management, Inc.*, Case No. 30-2018-00997364-CU-OE-CXC, Orange County Superior Court, Honorable William Claster, presiding; *Ramon Soto v. L I Metal Systems*, Case No. 37-2017-00009607-CU-OE-CTL, San Diego County Superior Court, Honorable Timothy Taylor, presiding (approving an hourly rate of \$650 for work performed in 2017-2020); *Michael Fishback v. Paragon Framing, Inc.*, Case No. CIVDS1906610, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Honorable David Cohn, presiding (approving an hourly rate of \$650 for work performed in 2019 and 2020); and *Carlos Perez v. Moss Bros. Auto Group, Inc., et al.*, Case No. RIC1709905, Riverside County Superior Court, Honorable Sunshine S. Sykes, presiding (approving an hourly rate of \$650 for work performed in 2017-2019).

7. I have also moved to certify and have received an order certifying a class action and/or conditionally certifying a collective action in the following cases:

- *Medeiros v. Vortex Financial Management Inc.*, Case No. 30-2013-00644741-CU-OE-CXC, California Superior Court, County of Orange, Honorable Judge Gail A. Andler, presiding (certifying a class of employees who were misclassified as independent contractors);
- *Javine v. San Luis Ambulance Service, Inc.*, Case No. CV13-07480 BRO (SSx), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell, presiding (conditionally certifying an unpaid FLSA overtime wage class);
- *Prado v. Warehouse Demo Services, Inc.*, Case No. CV14-3170 JFW (Ex), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge John F. Walter, presiding (certifying a rest period violation class and conditionally certifying a FLSA unpaid overtime wage class);
- *Bower v. Cycle Gear, Inc.*, Case No. CV14-2712 HSG, United States District Court, Northern District of California, Honorable Judge Haywood S. Gilliam, Jr., presiding (conditionally certifying an unpaid FLSA overtime wage class);

- 1 • *Vega v. Weatherford U.S., Limited Partnership*, Case No. CV14-1790-JLT, United States
2 District Court, Eastern District of California, Honorable Jennifer L. Thurston, presiding
3 (conditionally certifying an unpaid FLSA overtime wage class);
- 4 • *Galvan v. AMVAC Chemical Corporation*, Case No. 30-2014-00716103-CU-OE-CXC,
5 California Superior Court, County of Orange, Honorable Judge William Claster, presiding
6 (certifying unpaid overtime wage class and waiting time penalty class);
- 7 • *Camacho v. Residential Fire Systems, Inc.*, Case No. 30-2015-775372-CU-OE-CXC,
8 California Superior Court, County of Orange, Honorable Glenda Sanders, presiding
9 (certifying piece rate pay plan classes, expense reimbursement class, wage statement
10 class, and waiting time penalties class);
- 11 • *Ontiveros v. Safelite Fulfillment, Inc., et al*, Case No. CV 15-7118-DMG (RAOx), United
12 States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Dolly M. Gee presiding
13 (certifying six classes of employees for rest period violations, wage statement violations,
14 meal period violations, and overtime and double-time violations);
- 15 • *Vasquez v. Kraft Heinz Foods Company*, Case No. 16-cv-2749-WQH-BLM, United States
16 District Court, Southern District of California, Honorable William Q. Hayes presiding
17 (certifying classes for automatic meal period deductions, manual time deductions, late
18 meal periods, and derivative wage statement and waiting time penalties);
- 19 • *Caudle, et al. v. Sprint/United Management Company, et al.* Case No. C 17-06874-WHA,
20 United States District Court, Northern District of California, Honorable William H. Alsup
21 presiding (certifying three classes of employees for unlawful wage deduction violations,
22 wage statement violations, and waiting time violations); and
- 23 • *Staublein v. Wells Fargo Bank, National Association*, Case No. CIVDS1712267, San
24 Bernardino Superior Court, Honorable David Cohn presiding (certifying a wage statement
25 class).

26 8. In April 2019, I served as trial counsel for the Plaintiff in the matter of *Calhoun v.*
27 *Aqua Tech Water Management Inc.*, Case No. BS169815, Los Angeles County Superior Court,
28 Honorable Theresa M. Traber presiding, which was an individual wage-and-hour case that

1 resulted in a six-figure verdict in favor of Plaintiff.

2 9. In 2015, 2016, and 2017, Thomson Reuters recognized me as a Top Young
3 Attorney in Southern California in the annual Rising Stars Edition of Super Lawyer. This is an
4 honor awarded to no more than two-and-a-half percent of attorneys under the age of forty in
5 Southern California each year. In 2018, 2019, and 2020, Thomson Reuters recognized me as a
6 “Super Lawyer” in the annual Super Lawyer magazine, an honor awarded to no more than five
7 percent of all attorneys in Southern California each year.

8 10. As counsel for Plaintiff, I have been closely involved in all aspects of this litigation
9 since its inception. The details of the work completed by Class Counsel in this case are set forth
10 in the declaration of Fletcher W. Schmidt, filed concurrently herewith.

11 11. I confirm that I am not affiliated with the proposed settlement administrator, ILYM
12 Group, Inc.

13 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of California and the United States that
14 the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on February 24, 2022, at El Segundo, California.

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18 Paul K. Haines
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