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Attorneys for Plaintiff MARIA TABAREZ

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

MARIA TABAREZ, on behalf of the State of
California, as a private attorney general,

Plaintiff,

v.

ALTA HOSPITALS SYSTEM, LLC, a
California Limited Liability Company; DOES
1-50, Inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 21SMCV01379

**DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF MARIA
TABAREZ IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO APPROVE
PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Date: December 18, 2024

Time: 8:30am

Reservation ID: 878949144033

Judge: Michael E. Whitaker

Dept: 207

1 I, MARIA TABAREZ, declare as follows:

2 1. I am a party to this action and reside in the State of California. I am fully competent
3 to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein, except for those
4 stated on information and belief, and as to those I am informed and believe them to be true. If called
5 upon to testify, I could and would testify as set forth herein.

6 2. I make this Declaration in support of Plaintiff's Motion to Approve PAGA
7 Settlement.

8 3. I was employed by Defendant Alta Hospitals System, LLC ("Defendant"), as a non-
9 exempt, hourly-paid employee within California from approximately June of 2019 to November of
10 2020. I worked as an Administrative Assistant and a National Facilities Development
11 Administrative Coordinator. I worked in various locations in California including Culver City,
12 Hollywood and Bellflower.

13 4. Throughout my employment with Defendant, I am informed and believe that myself
14 and other non-exempt, hourly-paid employees of Defendant were not paid all wages owed because
15 we were not paid for all time under Defendant's control, or for which we were suffered or permitted
16 to work by Defendant. In addition, I am informed and believe we were not paid for overtime hours
17 worked at the overtime rate of pay owed due to, without limitation, failure to record all time worked
18 and failure to pay for off-the-clock work and/or miscalculation of regular rate of pay.

19 5. During my employment with Defendant, I often took meal periods that were after the
20 fifth hour, short, or not duty-free. I witnessed other non-exempt, hourly-paid employees with my
21 job duties often taking meal periods that were after the fifth hour, short, or not duty-free, as well.

22 6. I do not believe I was provided with opportunities to take full, uninterrupted, separate
23 10-minute rest periods while working with Defendant and am informed and believe my coworkers
24 were not provided with such an opportunity, either.

25 7. Before and during the course of the litigation, I was actively involved in assisting my
26 attorneys to support the wage and hour claims asserted. My involvement began before the initial
27 complaint was filed wherein, I provided first-hand knowledge and documentation as to Defendant's
28 practices, its ownership and corporate structure, and their wage and hour policies and practices.

1 8. Part of the information I relayed was regarding Defendant's timekeeping policies and
2 practices, and their meal and rest period policies and practices.

3 9. I provided my attorneys with documentation provided to me by Defendant during
4 my employment.

5 10. I assisted in reviewing time and payroll records with my attorneys and informed them
6 of Defendant's employment policies and whether those policies matched Defendant's practices.

7 11. My attorneys called me to ask me questions several times throughout the litigation
8 and I contacted my attorneys several times to stay updated on the case and offer my assistance on
9 any matters I could be helpful with. I was also available for mediation by telephone, during which I
10 was available to be called to answer the questions posed by the mediator regarding the asserted
11 claims, as well as arguments raised by Defendant. In addition, I worked with my attorneys over the
12 next several months after mediation to understand and execute a long form settlement agreement.

13 12. Over the past few months since the mediation has been resolved, I have stayed in
14 touch with my attorneys to ensure that there was no undue delay in payment for other aggrieved
15 employees for whom I brought this Action.

16 13. I believe that, through the present, I have spent at least 25-30 hours in connection
17 with this matter, which included time spent having preliminary calls with my attorneys; doing
18 several intakes with my attorneys; time spent searching for documents and communications relating
19 to my employment; time spent reading and understanding the Memorandum of Understanding and
20 Settlement Agreement; time spent answering calls to discuss Defendant's timekeeping, pay, meal
21 and rest periods, and to review time and payroll records; time spent discussing with my attorneys
22 Defendant's policies and practices; time spent on call prior to mediation; and time spent checking
23 in on the status of the case, among other things. I also spent time preparing this declaration to
24 support Plaintiff's Motion for Approval of PAGA Settlement.

25 14. I feel that by bringing this lawsuit, I could stand up for not only my rights but the
26 rights of other employees who suffered from the same unfair wage practices. I felt that current
27 employees might not want to share their experiences with Defendant since they feared losing their
28 jobs. This is certainly understandable as I, too, have to provide for myself.

1 15. By bringing this lawsuit, I have put the interests of the aggrieved employees ahead
2 of my own.

3 16. I understood that I could possibly earn a small enhancement if this case was resolved
4 favorably. I also knew that I could face retaliation from Defendant and backlash from former
5 coworkers who are loyal to Defendant.

6 17. My goal in bringing this lawsuit was to obtain a recovery on behalf of the aggrieved
7 employees and, even more importantly, to put an end to what I believe are illegal practices on the
8 part of Defendant. I believe I have achieved both through this lawsuit and settlement.

9 18. I understand the obligations of adequately representing the non-exempt, hourly paid
10 employees of the Defendant.

11 19. I understand the substantial burden I will have to undertake in order to represent the
12 non-exempt, hourly paid employees of the Defendant.

13 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing
14 is true and correct this 13 day of November 2024, at Los Angeles, California.

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17 
 maria tabarez (Nov 13, 2024 15:14 PST)
 MARIA TABAREZ