

Arby Aiwarzian (SBN 269827)
Joanna Ghosh (SBN 272479)
Helene Mayer (SBN 332975)
LAWYERS for JUSTICE, PC
410 West Arden Avenue, Suite 203
Glendale, California 91203
Tel: (818) 265-1020 / Fax: (818) 265-1021

Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE**

SERGIO SANTIAGO, individually, and on
behalf of other members of the general public
similarly situated;

Plaintiff,

vs.

THE OLIVE RESTOBAR, an unknown
business entity; and DOES 1 through 100,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 21STCV07908
[Related to Case No.: 21NWCV00595]

Honorable Elaine Lu
Department SSC9

CLASS ACTION

**DECLARATION OF SERGIO
SANTIAGO IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR FINAL
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT, ATTORNEYS' FEES
AND COSTS, AND ENHANCEMENT
PAYMENT**

Date: December 12, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Department: SSC9

Complaint Filed: March 1, 2021
Trial Date: None Set

DECLARATION OF SERGIO SANTIAGO

I, **Sergio Santiago**, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am over 18 years of age and a resident of California. I am the named plaintiff in the above-captioned case. I have personal knowledge of the facts and statements set forth in this declaration, and if called upon to testify, I could and would competently testify thereto.

2. I was employed by Green Olive Mediterranean Cuisine Apollo Inc., d/b/a The Olive RestoBar (“The Olive RestoBar”) as an hourly-paid server in approximately July 2020. I decided to seek legal advice about my work experiences with The Olive RestoBar and about pursuing my grievances. I contacted Lawyers *for* Justice, PC and spoke with attorneys there. I wanted to do whatever I could to make sure The Olive RestoBar was held accountable for not paying its employees for all hours worked and non-compliant meal and rest breaks. After speaking with the attorneys, I investigated complex wage-and-hour and class action lawsuits on my own and did some research into the leading class action and employment law firms in California for approximately **8 hours**. Thereafter, I consulted with the attorneys at Lawyers *for* Justice, PC for **12 hours** discussing my situation, complex wage-and-hour class actions and representative actions under the Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”) in general, and what it meant to be a named plaintiff, class representative, and, eventually, a PAGA representative.

3. I have spent over **19 hours** communicating with my attorneys regarding the case and fulfilling my responsibilities as a class and PAGA representative, which included gathering documents concerning my employment with The Olive RestoBar, reviewing documents with my attorneys, answering questions, and providing guidance regarding the duties of non-exempt employees, and helping develop a strategy as to what documents and information to obtain from The Olive RestoBar. I routinely checked in with my attorneys and their staff to make sure that they had all my most current information and any additional information that I had obtained.

1 4. As the case progressed, I was available to answer any questions my attorneys had,
2 and available to speak and meet with my attorneys whenever they needed me. I responded to them
3 as quickly as possible and gave them as much information and identified as many documents as I
4 could. I spent at least **17 additional hours** speaking with my attorneys about the case, identifying
5 potential witnesses, providing my attorneys with documents and information concerning the case,
6 and also describing policies, practices, and procedures of The Olive RestoBar.

7
8 5. On November 22, 2021 I attended a deposition that lasted approximately **2.75**
9 **hours**. I spent at least **7 hours** preparing for the deposition. After the deposition, I spent at least
10 **4 hours** reviewing my testimony and discussing the contents of the deposition transcript with my
11 attorneys.

12 6. As far as the settlement is concerned, I was available to review documents and
13 answer any questions my attorneys had. I spent about **2 hours** reviewing the settlement agreement
14 and about **3 hours** asking questions and discussing the potential settlement with my attorneys
15 before signing the settlement agreement.

16
17 7. I believe that I have done everything that my attorneys have asked of me and have
18 tried, to the best of my ability, to represent the class and seek relief for the aggrieved employees
19 and the State of California. I think my efforts helped to get the result obtained in this case, and as
20 a class and PAGA representative, I respectfully request that the Court award me an enhancement
21 payment in the amount of \$15,000.00 for my active participation in this case. Taking into
22 consideration the time that I have dedicated to this case, I believe that this amount is reasonable.

23
24 8. I am not related to anyone associated with Lawyers *for* Justice, PC.

25 9. I have not entered into any undisclosed agreements, nor have I received any
26 undisclosed compensation in this case. The only compensation I will receive is whatever amount
27 the Court awards as a service award, as well as my share of the settlement as a class member.

28 ///

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

3 11/10/2023
4 Executed this ____ day of November 2023, at Anaheim, California.

5  2023-11-10 20:15:33 UTC - 172.248.63.86
6 Nintex AssureSign® 1089b8d6-c562-49f1-a379-b0b6014b6689

7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
Sergio Santiago