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7 Attorneys for Plaintiff(s),
8 BRANDY RUIZ, and all others similarly situated
9 (Additional attorneys for Plaintiff(s) on following page)

10 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

11 **FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**
12 **(UNLIMITED JURISDICTION)**

13 BRANDY RUIZ, on behalf of herself and as an
14 “aggrieved employee” on behalf of other
15 “aggrieved employees” under the Labor Code
Private Attorneys General Act of 2004,

16 *Plaintiff,*

17 vs.

18 PRO CUSTOM SOLAR LLC DBA
19 MOMENTUM SOLAR, a New Jersey limited
20 liability company; and DOES 1–50, inclusive,

21 *Defendants.*

Case No. 37-2021-00040509-CU-OE-CTL

**DECLARATION OF WALTER L.
HAINES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF
BRANDY RUIZ’S MOTION FOR
APPROVAL OF PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Hearing Date: February 9, 2024

Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m.

Hearing Dept.: C-67, The Honorable
Eddie C. Sturgeon

Action filed: September 22, 2021

Trial Date: Not Set



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1 **DECLARATION OF WALTER L. HAINES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR**
2 **APPROVAL OF PAGA SETTLEMENT**

3 I, WALTER L. HAINES, declare as follows:

4 1. I am an attorney duly licensed to practice law in the State of California and am
5 an attorney of record for Plaintiff Brandy Ruiz ("Plaintiff") in her lawsuit against Defendant Pro
6 Custom Solar LLC dba Momentum Solar ("Defendant"). I am a member in good standing of the
7 State Bar of California. I make this Declaration in support of Plaintiff's Motion for Approval of
8 PAGA Settlement. I make this Declaration based on my personal knowledge and if called to
9 testify I could and would competently testify to the matters contained in this Declaration.

10 2. I am a highly experienced class action counsel specializing in actions of this
11 nature. I have been practicing law for over 40 years and I am highly experienced in actions of
12 this nature. I am the most senior attorney at my firm, United Employees Law Group, and worked
13 on the litigation of this matter. I formed United Employees Law Group in 2005, primarily to
14 represent employees in their wage claims. I have represented over 1,500 clients in wage and
15 hour disputes of which more than 300 cases were class actions with settlements totaling over
16 \$400,000,000. These class action cases include Fortune 500 companies such as Pepsi, Intel,
17 Home Depot, Kaiser, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, Cisco Systems, First American Title Co.,
18 Yahoo!, WellPoint, Inc., Sun Microsystems, and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals.

19 3. I have no conflicts of interest with the PAGA Employees or with the Plaintiff. I
20 am not related to the representative plaintiff. I have not previously represented Defendant in any
21 matter. I do not represent opposing factions within the PAGA Employees in that all claims are
22 predicated upon the same theories of liability and benefit all PAGA Employees equally. In sum,
23 I am well-suited to act as PAGA Counsel and will continue to vigorously represent the interests
24 of the PAGA Employees.

25 4. United Employees Law Group has prosecuted this litigation solely on a
26 contingent-fee basis, and has been completely at risk that it would not receive any compensation
27 for prosecuting claims against Defendant.

28 5. United Employees Law Group has participated in this litigation and has
performed work on behalf of Plaintiff Brandy Ruiz since the inception of this litigation. The
hours submitted with this declaration are solely for work performed on behalf of the PAGA
Employees alleged in the above-entitled California action and not any other state or federal



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1 matter.

2 6. I performed, among other things, the following tasks related to this matter:
3 analyzed initial clients' claims; performed initial investigation inclusive of research necessary
4 for case evaluation and searched court records relative to possible competing cases. I consulted
5 with co-counsel as to issues relating to the prosecution of this case, participated in its settlement
6 and reviewed all settlement papers along with orders from the court, and assisted with client
liaison and other tasks assigned by lead counsel.

7 7. The hourly rate for my time is \$725.00 per hour which is my usual and customary
8 hourly rate charged for my services in similar complex class and representative actions.

9 8. The total number of hours spent by me on this litigation is 24.70 hours through
10 August 17, 2023.

11 9. My total lodestar amount through August 17, 2023, is \$17,907.50.

12 10. No charges have been included for paralegal or staff time spent on this matter.

13 11. Out of pocket expenses for court fees are \$0.00. My out of pocket expenses for
14 postage are \$8.50. Total out of pocket expenses are \$8.50.

15 12. I believe that the Settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable. The Settlement
16 provides substantial monetary benefits to the PAGA Employees and is a product of diligent
17 efforts of Plaintiff's Counsel to obtain the best possible result for the PAGA Employees. This
18 Settlement was reached following thorough legal and factual research and analysis, thorough
19 review of extensive data relative to the claims in the action, arduous settlement negotiations,
20 and thorough investigation of the underlying facts by the respective parties and review of
21 records. The settlement negotiations were, at all times, adversarial and non-collusive in nature.
22 The proposed Settlement is within the range of reasonableness, and the PAGA Employees have
supported the Settlement.

23 I declare under the penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California that the
24 foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

25 Executed on Thursday, August 17, 2023 at West Hollywood, California.

26 
27 WALTER L. HAINES,
28 Declarant



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