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Attorneys for Plaintiff

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

LAKISHA LAWSON, on behalf of the State of
California and other aggrieved persons,

Plaintiff,

v.

BALBOA NURSING & REHABILITATION
CENTER, and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 37-2021-00050317-CU-OE-CTL
Assigned to Hon. Euketa Oliver, Dept. C-75

Complaint Filed: November 30, 2021
Trial Date: Not set

PAGA REPRESENTATIVE ACTION

**DECLARATION OF LAKISHA LAWSON
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION TO APPROVE PAGA
SETTLEMENT**

DECLARATION OF LAKISHA LAWSON

I, Lakisha Lawson, declare as follows:

1. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration and could and would competently testify to them under oath if called as a witness.

2. I am the named Plaintiff in this action filed pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") and submit this declaration in support of Plaintiff's Motion to Approve PAGA Settlement. Because I believe I have provided invaluable assistance during the course of this case, I am hopeful that the Court will approve my request of a \$10,000.00 service payment for my role as the PAGA Representative.

3. I am a former employee of Balboa Nursing & Rehabilitation Center ("Defendant"). I worked for Defendant from approximately September 2020 to approximately January 2021 as a non-exempt hourly-paid employee. Throughout the entirety of my employment, I was subject to Defendant's policies and practices that have been alleged as unlawful in the complaint.

4. I filed this lawsuit because I was concerned that I was not paid properly for all the hours that I worked, I was not provided all of my meal and rest breaks, and I was not reimbursed for all business expenses. While working for Defendant, my coworkers and I were asked to work long hours because of the amount of work, sometimes without taking meal and rest breaks and without receiving compensation for all hours worked. I also observed my co-workers working long hours without taking breaks. Furthermore, my co-workers and I were not reimbursed for all of our business expenses.

5. By representing other aggrieved employees in this lawsuit, I hoped that I might be able to change Defendant's policies to better protect the working conditions of my co-workers. I also understood it was my duty as the PAGA Representative to represent the State of California and other aggrieved employees, know about the lawsuit, help my attorneys, and keep updated on the case.

6. Prior to commencing this case, I provided Wilshire Law Firm, PLC with a detailed account of the facts related to my employment with Defendant. Additionally, I provided my counsel with documentation in the form of pay statements that applied to my employment with

Defendant. Based on my conversations, my attorneys and I were able to identify instances when I was not paid correctly.

7. I have invested a lot of personal time and energy while this lawsuit has been pending. I made it a priority to be actively involved because I wanted to do everything I can to assist my attorneys in prosecuting this case. I regularly communicated with my attorneys and their staff to discuss updates on the case and to provide my attorneys with additional information.

8. I spent multiple hours looking for documents that my attorneys asked me to provide to help this case.

9. I also made myself available during the mediation for this case and I kept in regular contact with my attorneys before and after the mediation to ensure that any questions the attorneys had could be answered.

10. I also reviewed documents filed in this case, including the settlement-related documents.

11. I believe the settlement is fair and reasonable and I would recommend that the Court approve it because I believe that this settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable in view of PAGA's purposes. I am glad that I had the opportunity to represent the State of California and the aggrieved employees in this lawsuit and that I was able to recover penalties through a settlement for the aggrieved employees. I have also observed my attorneys' work throughout this case and I believe they have been thorough, diligent, prompt, courteous, and professional.

12. I estimate that I spent at least 15 hours on this case since I first contacted Wilshire Law Firm, PLC.

13. I did not make the decision to file this representative action lightly. I was concerned by the attention a lawsuit, and especially a representative action, would attract. My name would be associated with a lawsuit that I filed against my former employer and I am mindful that future employers might find out that I sued a former employer, which could hurt my employability. In a competitive job market, this factor may weigh heavily against me.

14. Standing up for myself and the rights of others was not an easy decision, and I am relieved that this case is coming to an end.

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15. I respectfully request that the Court award me a \$10,000.00 service payment. I am receiving no additional compensation other than the compensation provided for in the settlement. Based on my involvement in this case and the benefits provided to workers of Defendant, I can say I helped represent the other workers who may have been too afraid to say anything to management because they did not want to risk losing their jobs or risk the stigma of suing an employer. I was not afraid to take that risk because I strongly care about helping my fellow co-workers.

16. Although I continue to fear that employers may find out that I participated in this lawsuit and hold it against me, I felt that important rights were at stake that hurt myself and other employees.

I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California and the United States of America, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 4/17/2026 at Hemet, California.

Signed by:

Lakisha Lawson

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Lakisha Lawson