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8 Attorneys for Plaintiff
9 ELISA ORTEGO, individually, and on
10 behalf of other aggrieved employees

11 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
12 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

14 ELISA ORTEGO, an individual, and on behalf
15 of other aggrieved employees,

16 Plaintiff,

17 vs.

18 MAGIC LAUNDRY SERVICES INC., a
19 corporation; and DOES 1 through 50,
20 inclusive,

21 Defendants.

CASE NO. 22STCV01605

[Assigned for all purposes to the
Honorable James I. Montgomery, Dept. 58]

**DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF
ELISA ORTEGO IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
APPROVAL OF PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Reservation ID: 692900186633

Date: March 19, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Dept.: 58

Action Filed: January 12, 2022

Trial Date: None set

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1. I am the named plaintiff in the above-entitled action, *Ortego v. Magic Laundry Services Inc., et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 22STCV01605. I make this declaration on the basis of personal firsthand knowledge, except as to those matters stated in information and belief. If called as a witness, I could and would readily and competently testify to all matters stated within.
2. I make this declaration in support of Plaintiff's Motion for Approval of PAGA Settlement (the "Motion").
3. I was employed by Defendant Magic Laundry Services Inc. ("Defendant") in its dry cleaning department from in or about November 2018 to in or about March 2020 and again from in or about June 2021 to in or about September 2021 at its location in Montebello, California.
4. I brought this action under the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA"). I have acted as a representative of the state and on behalf of other non-exempt aggrieved employees of Defendant.
5. I have spent approximately 30 hours on this case, including, but not limited to: reviewing and signing a declaration opposing Defendant's motion to compel arbitration, attending telephonic meetings with my attorneys, searching for and producing relevant documents to my attorneys, preparing for and responding to questions from my attorneys in preparation for mediation, and reviewing and signing the settlement agreement with my attorneys to ensure that its terms are fair and achieve PAGA's objectives.
6. I fully realized the risks I would be taking by pursuing this action as a PAGA representative. I knew that my future employer might conduct a background check on me or otherwise find out about my participation in the lawsuit against a previous employer and might retaliate against me as a result. I also knew that, as a PAGA representative, I would be bearing risks that other aggrieved employees would not be facing.

1 7. I also knew that I placed myself at a substantial risk because if Defendant were to
2 prevail in this action, I could have been liable for Defendant's litigation costs. Yet I felt so
3 strongly about standing up for the rights of Defendant's employees that I initiated and
4 participated fully in this lawsuit.

5 8. From the time I became a PAGA representative in this litigation, I took an active
6 role in participating in decisions concerning the case, including settlement. I maintained regular
7 contact with my attorneys, via phone, to give them additional information and to keep myself
8 informed of the developments in the case. I made sure that I understood everything that was
9 going on in the case so I could make the best informed decisions on behalf of the state and other
10 aggrieved employees.

11 9. I believe that the requested \$5,000.00 Service Payment for serving as a PAGA
12 representative is reasonable given the substantial time and effort I have expended on behalf of the
13 other aggrieved employees and the risks I faced in serving as a named plaintiff. As part of the
14 Settlement, I am releasing my individual wage and hour claims against Defendant and waiving
15 my rights under Civil Code § 1542 as to any and all claims against Defendant. I believe that I
16 should receive an enhancement award, in part, because this is a more comprehensive release than
17 the release that is applicable to the other aggrieved employees.

18 10. Moreover, based on my information and belief, thousands of aggrieved employees
19 will be able to recover penalties for the alleged wage and hour violations. Because I put myself
20 on the line, each aggrieved employee did not have to expend his or her own time and resources to
21 pursue legal remedies individually. This action would not have been possible without my active
22 participation and my willingness to place myself at risk for the sake of the other aggrieved
23 employees. In addition, the LWDA will receive a substantial amount to punish Defendant for the
24 alleged Labor Code violations, to deter future violations, and to assist the LWDA with the
25 enforcement of labor laws.

26 11. I know that without my efforts, this lawsuit would not have been brought on behalf
27 of the aggrieved employees of Defendant and the aggrieved employees would not have received
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1 payment for civil penalties. Throughout this entire litigation, I did the best that I could to
2 represent the state and other aggrieved employees and to look out for their interests.

3 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that
4 the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on January 23, 2026 at Montebello, California.

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6 Elisa ortego (Jan 23, 2026 12:53:12 PST)

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