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13 and Proposed Class Counsel

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15 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
16 **FOR THE COUNTY OF KERN**

17 ARTURO GONZALEZ, on behalf of
18 himself and all "aggrieved employees"
pursuant to Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*,

19 Plaintiffs,

20 v.

21 JTI ELECTRICAL &
22 INSTRUMENTATION,
LLC, a Delaware limited liability company,
23 and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

24 Defendants.

CASE NO: BCV-21-102905

Assigned to the Hon. Thomas S. Clark, Dept. 17

**DECLARATION OF ARTURO GONZALEZ
IN SUPPORT OF UNOPPOSED MOTION
FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND
LEAVE TO FILE FIRST AMENDED
COMPLAINT**

DATE: October 10, 2023

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

DEPT.: 17

Action Filed: December 13, 2021

1 I, ARTURO GONZALEZ, hereby declare and state as follows:

2 1. I am a named Plaintiff in this lawsuit against Defendant JTI Electrical &
3 Instrumentation, LLC ("Defendant") and I submit this declaration in support of Plaintiffs'
4 Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement. I am a competent adult
5 and worked for Defendant as a non-exempt employee in Kern County during the relevant time
6 period. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein, and if called as a witness to testify
7 to them, I could and would do so competently.

8 2. I contacted my current attorneys when I questioned the employment practices of
9 Defendant prior to commencing this lawsuit. I accepted the opportunity to act as a Class
10 Representative in a class action on behalf of other employees of Defendant who I believed were
11 being subjected to labor law violations. Although presented with the opportunity, I did not pursue
12 this case on an individual basis and instead did so as a class action so that I could help other
13 employees recover for what I believed were Defendant's illegal practices.

14 3. Specifically, I questioned Defendant's policies of failing to pay all wages due,
15 failing to provide all meal and rest periods, failing to reimburse for necessary expenditures, failing
16 to timely compensate employees upon separation, and issuing its employees deficient wage
17 statements. Through many discussions with my lawyers, I learned these may be illegal practices
18 and Defendant's employees might have recourse for them.

19 4. By bringing this lawsuit, and throughout its course, I have put the interests of the
20 class ahead of my own. I understood that I could possibly earn a small enhancement payment if
21 this case resolved itself favorably, but always knew that I could also be responsible for paying
22 Defendant's attorneys' fees and costs if it did not. My goal in bringing this lawsuit was to obtain
23 a recovery on behalf of the class, and even more importantly, to put an end to what I believed were
24 illegal practices on the part of Defendant. I believe I have achieved both through this lawsuit and
25 settlement.
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1 5. I am very happy about the results of this litigation. I am satisfied that Defendant is
2 compensating class members for wages, expenses,, penalties, and interest that I believe we are
3 due.

4 6. At the onset of this case, I spent time through numerous phone calls with several of
5 my attorneys explaining what I understood to be the policies and procedures of Defendant and
6 how they were applied to me and others I worked with. During the course of this litigation, up
7 through and following the settlement process, I kept actively involved with its status, tracking the
8 status of the case and participating as much as possible.

9 7. While I have not maintained detailed time records of my activities in connection
10 with this litigation, I believe that have spent a total of approximately 22.5 hours assisting my
11 attorneys with the preparation of this case, and doing work and analysis independent from my
12 attorneys both before and during this case, including conducting an independent investigation of
13 the facts.

14 8. Before this litigation commenced, and throughout its course, I have spent
15 approximately 12.5 or more hours gathering, organizing, and reviewing documents and
16 information for this lawsuit. I sifted through many of my own documents and reviewed
17 information produced by Defendant as part of this case.

18 9. I have communicated with my attorneys several times per month to track my case's
19 status. I have taken an active involvement in this matter throughout its course.

20 10. This lawsuit will almost certainly result in reputational harm to me. There is a
21 stigma associated with suing anyone, let alone your former employer. I will probably be adversely
22 affected when it comes to obtaining future employment – employers who learn that I sued
23 Defendant in a class action will likely avoid hiring me.

24 11. I do not believe that I have any conflicts with other members of the class. My
25 interests in bringing this lawsuit – for Defendant to change its labor practices going forward and
26 to compensate current and former employees – are the same as those of all other class members.

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

3 Executed on this 27th day of July, 2023 at Bakersfield, California.

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6 ARTURO GONZALEZ
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Title	Signature for Declaration
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