

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE

CARLOS CONTRERAS, individually, and on
behalf of other members of the general public
similarly situated;

Plaintiff,

v.

MERICAL, LLC, a California limited liability
company; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive;

Defendants.

Case No.: 30-2021-01214079-CU-OE-CJC
[Consolidated with Case No. 30-2022-
01259256-CU-OE-CXC]

Assigned for All Purposes to:
Honorable Melissa R. McCormick
Department CX-105

CLASS ACTION

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR
FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
AND PAGA SETTLEMENT; AND
ENTERING JUDGMENT**

Complaint Filed: August 2, 2021

1 This matter came before Honorable Melissa R. McCormick in Department CX-105 of
2 the above-entitled Court, located at 751 West Santa Ana Boulevard, Santa Ana, California
3 92701, on Plaintiffs Carlos Contreras and Lisa Buchanan's ("Plaintiffs") Motion for Final
4 Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement.

5 On April 9, 2026, the Court entered an Order Preliminarily Approving the Class Action
6 and PAGA Settlement ("Preliminary Approval Order") (ROA 350).

7 Having read and considered the motion for final approval and all documents filed in
8 support thereof, and good cause appearing, the Court orders as follows:

9 All terms used herein shall have the same meaning as defined in the Settlement
10 Agreement and the Preliminary Approval Order. The Court has jurisdiction over the claims of
11 the Class Members asserted in this proceeding and over all Parties to this case. The Court makes
12 its earlier preliminary certification of the Class set forth in the Preliminary Approval Order
13 final. The Class is defined as:

14 All current or former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of Defendant who
15 worked directly for Defendant within the State of California at any time during
16 the period from February 3, 2017, through June 18, 2024 ("Class," "Class
Members," and "Class Period").

17 Eligible Aggrieved Employees are defined as:

18 The aggrieved employees eligible to recover settlement funds from the PAGA
19 Payment consist of all current or former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of
20 Defendant who directly worked for Defendant within the State of California at
any time during the period from November 24, 2020, through June 18, 2024
("Eligible Aggrieved Employees" and "PAGA Period").

21 The Notice of Class Action and PAGA Settlement ("Class Notice"), Request for
22 Exclusion Form ("Exclusion Form"), and Objection Form (collectively, known as the "Notice
23 Packet") mailed to the Class Members: (1) fully and accurately informed the Class Members of
24 all material elements of the Settlement and of their opportunity to participate in, object to or
25 comment thereon, or to seek exclusion from the Settlement; (2) was the best notice practicable
26 under the circumstances; (3) was valid, due, and sufficient notice to all the Class Members; and
27 (4) complied fully with the laws of California, Constitution, due process, and other applicable
28 law. The Notice Packet fairly and adequately described the Settlement and provided the Class

1 Members with adequate instructions and a variety of means to obtain additional information.

2 The Court grants final approval of the Agreement and finds that the Agreement
3 reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Class.

4 The settlement administrator advised the Court that no disputes, no objections, and no
5 requests for exclusion were submitted by the Class Members.

6 The Gross Settlement Amount is \$3,725,000. The court approves the following
7 deductions from the Gross Settlement Amount: (i) attorneys' fees to Class Counsel of
8 \$1,117,500; (ii) litigation costs to Class Counsel of \$13,011.46; (iii) an enhancement award to
9 each plaintiff of \$5,000.00 (total \$10,000.00); (iv) settlement administration fees of \$12,950;
10 and (v) total PAGA penalties of \$150,000. The Settlement Administrator shall distribute
11 seventy-five percent (75%) of the PAGA penalties (\$112,500) to the California Labor and
12 Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and twenty-five percent (25%) of the PAGA
13 penalties (\$37,500) to the Eligible Aggrieved Employees, according to the methodology and
14 terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

15 This Order and Judgment shall posted on the static website that was created for the Class
16 Members for at least one hundred eighty (180) calendar days.

17 The court hereby enters judgment in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, the
18 Order Granting Preliminary Approval (ROA 350), and this Order and Judgment.

19 The Parties, their counsel, and the Settlement Administrator are ordered to administer
20 the Settlement in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

21 Plaintiffs shall submit a copy of this Order and Judgment to LWDA within ten (10)
22 calendar days after entry of this Order and Judgment.

23 Pursuant to Civil Procedure Code section 664.6, the Court retains jurisdiction to
24 construe, interpret, implement, and enforce the Settlement Agreement, to hear and resolve any
25 contested challenge to a claim for settlement benefits, and to supervise and adjudicate any
26 dispute arising from or in connection with the distribution of settlement benefits.

27 The Court sets a final accounting hearing for June 17, 2027 at 9:00 a.m. in Department
28 CX-105. No later than nine (9) court days before this hearing, Plaintiffs shall file a compliance

1 status report that includes all information necessary for the Court to determine the total amount
2 actually paid to Class Members, the aggrieved employees, and any amounts tendered to the
3 California State Controller's Unclaimed Property Division under the unclaimed property law.

4 **IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED.**

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7 DATED: August 17, 2026

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MELISSA R. MCCORMICK
9 JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
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**PROOF OF SERVICE
1013A(3) CCP**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is 751 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 101, Pasadena, CA 91103 and my electronic service address is bitty@justicelawcorp.com

On August 21, 2026, I served the foregoing document described as

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND
PAGA SETTLEMENT; AND ENTERING JUDGMENT**

for the following case: **Contreras, et al. v. MeriCal, LLC**
LWDA/Court Case No.: **LWDA Case No.: CM-854469-21**
 Court Case No.: 30-2021-01214079-CU-OE-CJC
 [Consolidated with Case No. 30-2022-01259256-CU-OE-CXC]
 Orange County Superior Court

on interested parties in this action by electronically submitting as follows:

State of California
Labor & Workforce Development Agency
800 Capitol Mall, MIC-55
Sacramento, California 95814

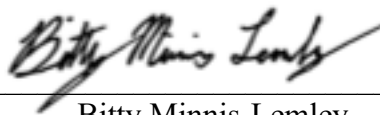
[X] BY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Pursuant to California Senate Bill No. 836, I caused the documents described above to be electronically submitted by and through the procedure stated on the website of the State of California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

[X] STATE

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

Executed on August 21, 2026, at Pasadena, California.



Bitty Minnis-Lemley