

MESSRELIAN LAW INC.

Harout Messrelian, Esq. (SB# 272020)

hm@messrelianlaw.com

Maralle Messrelian, Esq., Of Counsel (SB#316974)

maralle@messrelianlaw.com

500 N. Central Ave., Suite 840

Glendale, California 91203

Telephone: (818) 484-6531

Facsimile: (818) 956-1983

Attorneys for Plaintiff,

MANUEL MELENDREZ, and all others similarly situated

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
(UNLIMITED JURISDICTION)**

MANUEL MELENDREZ,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CLEAN AUTO INC. dba SAN MATEO
CAR WASH; JONATHAN ALFRED
LAM; AUTO CLEAN INCORPORATED
dba REDWOOD CARWASH; ALFRED
LAM; and DOES 1 to 25, inclusive,

Defendant(s).

Case No.: 22-CIV-01967

**[PROPOSED] ORDER AND JUDGMENT
APPROVING PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Action filed: May 13, 2022

Hearing Date: April 25, 2023

Hearing Time: 2:00 p.m.

Hearing Dept: 2, Hon. Marie S. Weiner

1 Under Labor Code section 2699(1)(2) of the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004
2 ("PAGA"), the Motion of Plaintiff Manuel Melendrez ("Plaintiff") for Approval of Settlement
3 under PAGA came before this Court on April 25, 2023.

4 Plaintiff's Complaint seeks civil penalties on behalf of the State of California and
5 similarly situated aggrieved employees, as authorized by PAGA under Labor Code § 2699, in
6 relation to alleged violations of the predicate statutes set forth in Plaintiff's Complaint and the
7 letter to the Labor Workforce and Development Agency ("LWDA") dated November 19, 2021
8 (the "LWDA Letter"), on behalf of all persons within the State of California who are or were
9 employed by Defendants Clean Auto Inc., Jonathan Alfred Lam, Auto Clean, Inc., Alfred Lam
10 (collectively "Defendants") from November 19, 2020 through February 6, 2023 (the "PAGA
11 Members").

12 Under PAGA, in any action brought by an aggrieved employee, the Court "shall review
13 and approve any settlement of any civil action filed pursuant to this part." Lab. Code §
14 2699(1)(2). Accordingly, the Court, having considered the proposed settlement set forth in the
15 Settlement Agreement, including the proposed PAGA penalties, under Labor Code §
16 2699(1)(2), having considered the papers filed in support of the proposed settlement and the
17 arguments of counsel, and good cause appearing, HEREBY ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

- 18 1. The Court finds the instant Action presents a good faith dispute of the claims alleged;
- 19 2. The Court finds in favor of settlement approval, and therefore approves the Settlement
20 of the above-captioned action, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and each of the releases and
21 other terms, as fair, just, reasonable, and adequate;
- 22 3. The Court finds further that Plaintiff, acting on behalf of himself and the State of
23 California, by operation of this Order and Judgment hereby releases and forever discharges
24 Defendants and the Released Parties (as defined in the Settlement Agreement) from any and all
25 Released Claims (as defined in the Settlement Agreement) including penalties asserted in Plaintiff's
26 Complaint, including any and all known and unknown claims for civil penalties under the Private
27 Attorneys General Act, California Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*, that arise;
- 28

1 4. The Court finds further that the foregoing release shall be binding on Plaintiff and the
2 State of California, and shall bar any claim under PAGA brought by any person, including the PAGA
3 Members, on behalf of the State of California, as to the Released Claims and Released Parties;

4 5. The Parties are directed to comply with all terms of the Settlement Agreement, and
5 Defendants are directed to make all payments required by the Settlement Agreement;

6 6. Under the Settlement Agreement, Defendants agree to pay a maximum sum of One
7 Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000.00) (the “Gross Settlement Amount”). The Gross
8 Settlement Amount is inclusive of payments to the LWDA and PAGA Members, PAGA Counsel’s
9 Fees and PAGA Counsel’s Costs, and Settlement Administration Costs. No portion of the Gross
10 Settlement Amount will revert to Defendants. Plaintiff’s Counsel requests an award of attorney’s fees
11 of Forty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$42,000.00) and litigation costs of Fourteen Thousand Four Hundred
12 Forty Dollars (\$14,440.00). The settlement administrator, Simpluris Inc., requests administration costs
13 of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00). Defendants do not oppose these requests. The Court finds the
14 Gross Settlement Amount is fair, reasonable and adequate, and approves each of these
15 payments, and directs the Settlement Administrator to make the above payments from
16 the Gross Settlement Amount as follows:

- 17 a. \$42,000.00 in attorney’s fees to Messrelian Law Inc.;
- 18 b. \$14,440.00 in litigation costs to Messrelian Law Inc.;
- 19 c. \$4,000.00 in administration costs to Simpluris Inc.
- 20 d. After deducting the foregoing payments, the estimated remainder of approximately
21 \$59,560.00 shall form the Net Settlement Amount (“NSA”). Pursuant to Labor Code section
22 2699(i), the NSA will then be distributed 75 percent (\$44,670.00) to the LWDA, and the
23 remaining 25 percent (\$14,890.00) to the PAGA Members on a pro rata basis, as set forth in the
24 Settlement Agreement. The Court approves these payments, and directs the Settlement
25 Administrator to issue checks to the LWDA and PAGA Members, along with the Notice of
26 PAGA Settlement, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, and to otherwise carry out its duties
27 as set forth in the Settlement Agreement; and

28 7. The entire Action is hereby DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE as to all parties and all

1 causes of action. The Court reserves exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over the Action and the
2 Parties under Code of Civil Procedure§ 664.6 for the purpose of supervising implementation,
3 enforcement, construction, administration, and interpretation of the Settlement Agreement.

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

5
6 DATED: _____

7 **HON. MARIE S. WEINER**
8 **JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT**