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Attorneys for Plaintiffs Lexy Barajas and Jason Marmon

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

LEXY BARAJAS and JASON MARMON, as
aggrieved employees and private attorney
general,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

H.W. HUNTER, INC., a California
corporation; and DOES 1 through 50,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 22STCV01892

Honorable Robert B. Broadbelt
Department 53

**DECLARATION OF LEXY BARAJAS IN
SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR APPROVAL
OF PAGA SETTLEMENT AND AWARD OF
PAGA COUNSEL FEES PAYMENT, PAGA
COUNSEL LITIGATION EXPENSES
PAYMENT, ENHANCEMENT PAYMENTS,
AND ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES
PAYMENT**

Reservation ID: 182084061481

Date: February 28, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Dept.: 53

Complaint Filed: January 18, 2022
FAC Filed: February 23, 2022
Trial Date: March 13, 2024

DECLARATION OF LEXY BARAJAS

I, Lexy Barajas, declare and state as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen (18) and I am a resident of the State of California. I have personal knowledge of the facts and statements set forth in this declaration, and if called upon to testify, I could and would competently testify thereto.

2. I am one of the named plaintiffs in this action.

3. I was employed by Defendant H.W. Hunter, Inc. ("Defendant") as a Service Advisor from approximately March 2019 to October 2021. I was always an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee during my employment with Defendant.

4. During my employment, I questioned whether Defendant was paying its employees correctly and I believed that I, along with other employees, were not being allowed to take meal and rest breaks lawfully, among other things. I decided to seek legal advice about my experience working for Defendant and to obtain information about filing a lawsuit to redress these grievances.

5. I contacted Blackstone Law, APC and spoke with attorneys there. I wanted to take steps to make sure Defendant was held accountable for not properly compensating its employees for all hours worked, not providing employees with lawful meal and rest breaks, not reimbursing employees for business expenses, and other related violations. After speaking with the attorneys, I educated myself on representative action lawsuits to gain a better understanding of them. Thereafter, I further consulted with the attorneys at Blackstone Law, APC about my experiences and what it meant to bring a lawsuit under the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA").

6. I have regularly communicated with my attorneys regarding the case and in order to fulfil my responsibilities as a PAGA representative. I have searched for and provided documents concerning my employment with Defendant, reviewed documents with my attorneys and answered their questions, provided information and guidance regarding the duties of other hourly-paid, non-exempt employees, and helped determine what other documents and information they could obtain from Defendant. I routinely checked in with my attorneys and their staff to make sure that they had all of my current information so that they could always reach me, and to provide any additional information that I had obtained.

1 7. I was always available to answer any questions my attorneys had and to speak and meet
2 with my attorneys whenever they needed me. I responded to them as quickly as possible and gave
3 them as much information as I could. I described Defendant's policies, practices, and procedures. I
4 also contacted and referred several potential witnesses to my attorneys, and helped my attorneys
5 prepare for and participate in mediation.

6 8. I reviewed the settlement agreement and discussed it with my attorneys before I signed
7 it.

8 9. I also understood that if this matter had proceeded to trial, I would need to come to
9 court and participate in the trial. I was prepared to do that.

10 10. I am aware that I took a risk by filing this lawsuit because if we lost, I could potentially
11 have to pay the costs incurred in the lawsuit. I also risked losing income for the time that I would have
12 spent fulfilling my ongoing responsibilities including having to attend the trial. I also believe I have
13 taken a risk by filing this lawsuit because potential future employers can find out that I sued my
14 employer, and that may negatively impact my ability to be hired for a job in the future. In contrast,
15 the other employees who will be receiving money from this lawsuit did not have to file any claim or
16 lawsuit or take the risks that I took in bringing this action.

17 11. I believe that I have done everything that my attorneys have asked of me and tried, to
18 the best of my ability, to seek relief for the aggrieved employees, and the State of California. I think
19 my efforts helped to get the result obtained in this case.

20 12. I understand that any resolution of this lawsuit on a representative basis is subject to
21 court approval. I have, at all times throughout the course of this litigation, considered the interests of
22 the other aggrieved employees above my own personal interests.

23 13. To date, I estimate I have spent approximately 20 to 25 hours on this case. I have
24 worked to assist my attorneys in this matter for over a year, as the Defendant has fought this case hard.

25 14. I respectfully request that the Court approve and award me the requested enhancement
26 payment in the amount of \$5,000.00 for my efforts and active participation in the case and for my
27 broader, general release of all claims that I have or may have had against Defendant. Taking into
28 consideration the general release I am giving and the time and effort that I have dedicated to this case,

1 I believe that this amount is reasonable.

2 15. I am not related to anyone associated with Blackstone Law, APC.

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

5 Executed on 09/06/2023 at Lancaster, California

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9 Lexy Barajas
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