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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

THERESA BENDORF, JAVIER MARIN,
and KRISTY PRATHER, on behalf of
themselves and others similarly situated, and
on behalf of other aggrieved employees
pursuant to the California Private Attorneys
General Act;

Plaintiffs,

v.

SEA WORLD LLC, a Delaware limited
liability company doing business as
SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO or AQUATICA
SAN DIEGO; SEAWORLD PARKS &
ENTERTAINMENT, INC., a Delaware
corporation; and DOES 1 through 25,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Lead Case No. 37-2021-00034922-CU-OE-CTL

Other Included Actions:

Case No. 37-2021-00036521-CU-OE-CTL
Case No. 37-2021-00049040-CU-OE-CTL
Case No. 37-2021-00047859-CU-OE-CTL
Case No. 37-2022-00001083-CU-OE-CTL

**DECLARATION OF EDWARD W. CHOI
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION
FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Date: September 13, 2024
Time: 1:30 P.M.
Department: C-69
Judge: Hon. Katherine A. Bacal

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LAW OFFICES OF CHOI & ASSOCIATES

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1 I, Edward W. Choi, declare as follows:

2 1. I am an individual over the age of 18. I am one of the attorneys of record for
3 Plaintiff JAVIER MARIN (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff"). I have personal knowledge of
4 the facts set forth below and if called to testify I could and would do so competently.

5 2. From the inception of the case, Class Counsel have zealously represented the
6 interests of Plaintiff and the Class Members. The settlement was obtained for the benefit of the
7 Class, as opposed to the individual Plaintiff. Based on my review of all the information and
8 based on my experience in wage and hour litigation, I believe this settlement to be fair,
9 adequate, and reasonable.

10 3. Based on Class Counsel's independent investigations and evaluations, I am of the
11 opinion that the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in the best interests
12 of the Class Members, in light of all known facts and circumstances, and the expenses and risks
13 inherent in litigation. The settlement was negotiated at arm's length and thus, this settlement
14 should be granted final approval.

15 **ATTORNEY EXPERIENCE**

16 4. I am one of the primary attorneys on this matter. My qualifications are as
17 follows: I received my *Juris Doctorate* degree from UCLA Law School in 2000. Upon
18 graduation, I joined the law firm of Lee & Associates in Los Angeles, California as an associate.
19 I started my own practice in October 2004.

20 5. During the course of my practice, I have primarily represented consumers and
21 obtained millions of dollars in recovery for my clients. I have handled numerous wage and hour
22 cases during my career. Since 2009, I have been certified as class counsel and granted final
23 approval in numerous cases, including, but not limited to *Choi, et al. v. Midway International*
24 *Inc.*, et al. LASC Case No. BC394495; *Lee v. The Men's Wearhouse, Inc.*, et al. Alameda
25 Superior Court Case No. RG09461973; *Garcia, et al. v. RGIS, LLC, et al.* LASC Case No. BC
26 425624; *Choi v. Mazda*, et al. LASC Case No. BC 391638; *Cabrera v. Frazee, et al.* LASC
27 Case No. BC 440309; *Vo, et al. v. The Party Staff, et al.* OCSC Case No. 30-2011-00444836-

1 CU-OE-CXC; *Oh, et al. v. Best Coach Technologies, Inc., et al.* LASC Case No. BC 462848;
2 *Rawley v. Freedom Mortgage, Inc.* Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2014-
3 00724164-CU-OE-CXC; *Mendez v. Stevenson Restaurant, Inc.* LASC Case No. BC536766;
4 *Castro v. Continental Airlines*, USDC Central District Case No. 2:14-CV-00169-SVW-AGR;
5 *Barreras v. Michaels Stores, Inc.* USDC – Northern District Case No. C12-04474 PJH,
6 *Dynabursky v. AlliedBarton Security Services, LP, et al.*, SACV 12-02210 JST (RNBx), *Brown*
7 *v. CVS Caremark, et al.* United States District Court, Central District, Case No.: 2:15-cv-
8 07631-JFW-PJW; *Castillo v. Sheraton Operating Corporation*, United States District Court,
9 Central District of California Case No. 2:17-cv-07091-FMO-AS and *Zepeda v. Ulta Salon,*
10 *Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc.* United States District Court, Eastern District of CA, Case No.
11 1:18-cv-00750-DAD; *Audycki v. Stanford Health Care, Inc.* Santa Clara Superior Court, Case
12 No. 19CV347173 and *Medina v. United Airlines, Inc.* Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No.
13 BC 624742.

14 6. My current billing rate is \$900.00 per hour, which is typical of attorneys in the
15 Los Angeles community that have been practicing for 23+ years. In fact, I have personal
16 knowledge, many of my colleagues from UCLA Law School and opposing counsel are currently
17 billing at rates much higher than \$900.00 per hour. Since 2024, I have previously been
18 approved at \$900.00 per hour in *Bonwell v. Silverado Senior Living Management, Inc.*, Santa
19 Clara Superior Court Case No. 21CV384595; *Bolding v. Cardinal Financial Company San*
20 *Bernardino* Superior Court Case No. CIVSB2206543; and *McBurney v. Eurofins Air Toxics,*
21 *LLC*, Sacramento Superior Court Case No. 34-2022-00321801. Further, since early 2023, I
22 have been previously approved at \$850.00 per hour by several courts, including *Lakey v.*
23 *Poshmark, Inc.*, Santa Clara Superior Court, Case No. 22CV395084; *Audycki v. Stanford Health*
24 *Care, Inc.* Santa Clara Superior Court, Case No. 19CV347173; and *Medina v. United Airlines,*
25 *Inc.* Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. BC 624742.

26 7. To date, I have billed approximately 79.40 hours in connection with this
27 litigation including drafting correspondences, emails, pleadings and discovery along with
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1 meeting and conferring with opposing counsel, and attending mediation. I also anticipate
2 approximately 5 more hours to prepare for and attend the settlement approval hearing, and
3 coordinating the disbursement of the settlement funds. Thus, my total lodestar is \$75,960.00
4 (84.40 X \$900/hr.) Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is my time and task chart.

5 8. I am seeking reimbursement of \$1,604.45 for attorney service and filing fees.
6 Attached hereto as **Exhibit B** is my firm's cost sheet.

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8 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on
9 August 21, 2024, at Los Angeles, California.

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12 Edward W. Choi
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EXHIBIT A

Marin, Javier v. Sea World, LLC
Superior Court of the State of California – County of San Diego
Case No. 37-2021-00047859-CU-OE-CTL
Time and Task Chart – Edward W. Choi

Hours	Description of Work
1.0	Review file and client documents; review PAGA letter
1.2	Review and revise class action complaint.
1.7	Review pleadings and settlement documents in <i>Jones v. Seaworld</i>
2.3	Review/revise Special Interrogatories, Request for Production of Documents
1.0	Review/revise PAGA Complaint
1.5	Review/respond to emails with co-counsel and opposing counsel
1.8	Meet and confer with counsel regarding mediator selection and scheduling of mediation
1.2	Review/revise data and document request for mediation
0.5	Review Case Management Statement.
1.7	Confer with counsel regarding data production and further data necessary for mediation
2.5	Review Defendant's responses to Special Interrogatories and Production of Documents; confer with co-counsel re: meet and confer letter
0.5	Review Case Management Statement.
3.7	Review Notice of Related Cases; review operative Complaints and dockets in the related cases; Confer with counsel regarding the same
2.5	Confer with counsel on related cases
1.4	Confer with all counsel regarding global mediation
3.5	Review/revise mediation brief with co-counsel
8.0	Prepare for and attend full day global mediation with Jeff Krivis
3.5	Review/revise MOU; conference calls with co-counsel; Negotiate with opposing counsel regarding the same
0.8	Review/revise Joint CMC Statement
1.3	Continue negotiating MOU
0.5	Review/revise Joint CMC Statement
5.8	Review/revise Long Form Settlement Agreement; Multiple conferences with co-counsel regarding the same

Hours	Description of Work
2.7	Review/revise First Amended Consolidated Complaint; Confer with co-counsel regarding the same
0.5	Review/revise Joint CMC Statement
1.5	Continue revising FAC
2.2	Confer with counsel on the <i>Bendorf</i> action; Review documents for <i>Bendorf</i>
2.8	Further review/revise long form Settlement Agreement to include <i>Bendorf</i>
0.7	Obtain settlement administration quotes and review
1.2	Further review/revise FAC to include <i>Bendorf</i>
1.8	Continue to meet and confer regarding long form Settlement Agreement
0.5	Review/revise Joint CMC Statement
4.8	Review/revise motion for preliminary approval, proposed order, and supporting documents
1.0	Review tentative ruling and confer with co-counsel
2.7	Confer with settlement administrator; review class notice; review timeline
3.3	Calls with class members regarding settlement
5.8	Review/revise motion for final approval, proposed order, and supporting documents
79.4	<u>TOTAL HOURS</u>

EXHIBIT B

Client Trust Liability:Marin v. Sea World

Date	Payee	Memo	Amount
11/10/2021	One Legal	Complaint, Complex Fee	\$1,487.22
11/19/2021	One Legal	Service of Process	\$ 32.94
11/19/2021	One Legal	POS	\$ 9.88
12/22/2021	One Legal	Notice of Appearance	\$ 15.65
02/10/2022	One Legal	Notice	\$ 9.88
03/07/2023	One Legal	CMC Statement	\$ 11.49
06/27/2023	One Legal	Joint Status Report	\$ 18.90
08/15/2023	San Diego Superior Court	Download Order	\$ 7.00
08/18/2023	One Legal	Notice of Reassignment	\$ 11.49
Total			\$1,604.45