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

AARON COFFEY, individually and on behalf
of others similarly situated, and as an aggrieved
employee and Private Attorney General,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CATALINA CHANNEL EXPRESS, INC., a
California corporation; and DOES 1 through
50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 21STCV41396

Honorable Stuart M. Rice
Department 1

**DECLARATION OF ALEXANDRA ROSE
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION
FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT,
ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS,
ENHANCEMENT PAYMENT, AND
SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION
COSTS**

Date: June 13, 2025
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Dept: 1

Complaint Filed: November 10, 2021
FAC Filed: March 29, 2022
Trial Date: Not Set

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1 5. On March 30, 2022, Plaintiff propounded written formal discovery onto Defendant
2 (specifically, Form Interrogatories – General (Set One), Special Interrogatories (Set One), and
3 Requests for Production of Documents (Set One)), noticed the deposition of Defendant’s Person Most
4 Qualified, and served a proposed Belaire-West notice. Thereafter, On May 17, 2022, Defendant
5 served responses to Plaintiff’s discovery requests.

6 6. On June 22, 2022, a Belaire-West notice was mailed to six hundred fifty-eight (658)
7 putative class members by a third-party administrator. Twenty-one (21) putative class members timely
8 opted out by the response deadline.

9 7. On July 7, 2022, Defendant served supplemental responses to Plaintiff’s discovery
10 requests. On July 26, 2022, Defendant served a second supplemental response to Plaintiff’s Requests
11 for Production of Documents (Set One). On August 26, 2022, Defendant served a production of
12 documents in response to Plaintiff’s Requests for Production of Documents (Set One).

13 8. On January 3, 2023, Plaintiff served an amended notice of deposition of Defendant’s
14 Person Most Qualified. On January 24, 2023, Plaintiff served a second amended notice of deposition
15 of Defendant’s Person Most Qualified. On February 3, 2023, Defendant served an objection to
16 Plaintiff’s second amended notice of objection of Defendant’s Person Most Qualified. On March 1,
17 2023, Plaintiff served a third amended notice of deposition of Defendant’s Person Most Qualified. On
18 November 14, 2023, Plaintiff served a fourth amended notice of deposition of Defendant’s Person
19 Most Qualified. On November 29, 2023, Defendant served an objection to Plaintiff’s fourth amended
20 notice of deposition of Defendant’s Person Most Qualified.

21 9. On October 23, 2023, Plaintiff and Defendant (together, the “Parties”) participated in
22 a formal mediation conducted by Todd A. Smith, Esq. (“Mediator”), a neutral and respected mediator
23 with extensive experience in complex wage and hour matters, which did not result in a settlement at
24 that time. After continued negotiations, and with the assistance of the Mediator’s evaluations, the
25 Parties were able to reach an agreement to resolve this dispute on a class and representative basis. The
26 Parties then worked diligently to negotiate and memorialize the terms in a long form settlement
27 agreement.

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1 10. On May 10, 2024, the Parties executed the Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA
2 Settlement (“Original Agreement”).

3 11. On July 29, 2024, Plaintiff filed a Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action
4 and PAGA Settlement (“Motion for Preliminary Approval”) and supporting documents seeking
5 preliminary approval of the Original Agreement.

6 12. On November 12, 2024, the Court issued a tentative ruling (“November 12, 2024
7 Tentative Ruling”), which provided direction to the Parties with regards to the Original Agreement.

8 13. On February 14, 2025, the Parties executed the First Amended Joint Stipulation of
9 Class Action and PAGA Settlement (“Settlement” or “Settlement Agreement”). A true and correct
10 copy of the Settlement Agreement is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

11 14. On February 18, 2025, Plaintiff filed a Supplemental Declaration of Jonathan M.
12 Genish in Support of Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA
13 Settlement.

14 15. On February 18, 2025, the Court entered the Order Granting Preliminary Approval of
15 Class Action and PAGA Settlement (“Preliminary Approval Order”), thereby preliminary approving
16 the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the Notice of Class Action Settlement (“Class Notice”), and
17 the proposed administration procedures and associated deadlines. A true and correct copy of the
18 Preliminary Approval Order is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**.

19 **Summary of the Terms of the Settlement Agreement**

20 16. By way of the Preliminary Approval Order, the Court certified the following Class for
21 settlement purposes only: “All current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant
22 within the State of California at any time during the Class Period” (“Class” or “Class Members”). The
23 “Class Period” is defined as the period from November 10, 2017 through November 7, 2021. The
24 “Settlement Class Members” consist of all Class Members who did not submit a timely and valid
25 Request for Exclusion. The “PAGA Employees” consist of “all current and former non-exempt
26 employees who worked for Defendant within the State of California at any time during the PAGA
27 Period.” The “PAGA Period” is defined as the period from November 8, 2020 through December 3,
28 2023.

1 17. Based on the data provided by Defendant, I am informed that there are 634 Settlement
2 Class Members who worked 29,906 weeks during which each Settlement Class Member worked for
3 Defendant as a non-exempt employee in California during the Class Period (“Workweeks”) and 422
4 PAGA Employees who worked 29,861 weeks during which each PAGA Employee worked for
5 Defendant as a non-exempt employee in California during the PAGA Period (“PAGA Workweeks”).
6 In order to be counted as a Workweek or PAGA Workweek, the Settlement Class Member and PAGA
7 Employee must have worked at least one day in that week. Excluded from Workweeks and PAGA
8 Workweeks are weeks covered by any previous individual settlement agreements and the settlement
9 agreement in the case entitled *Andres Gonzalez v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Los Angeles
10 County Superior Court Case No. BC707664.

11 18. The Parties have agreed to settle the Class and PAGA claims at issue in the Operative
12 Complaint for a non-reversionary Gross Settlement Amount of One Million Dollars and Zero Cents
13 (\$1,000,000.00), which is exclusive of employer-side payroll taxes. The Gross Settlement Amount
14 includes: (1) Class Counsel’s fees in the amount of one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount,
15 equaling Three Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Three Dollars and Thirty-
16 Three Cents (\$333,333.33); (2) Class Counsel’s actual litigation costs and expenses, in the amount of
17 Twenty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Three Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents (\$24,303.75); (3)
18 Settlement Administration Costs in the amount Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero
19 Cents (\$12,500.00); (4) Enhancement Payment in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars and Zero
20 Cents (\$5,000.00); and (5) PAGA Amount in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero
21 Cents (\$100,000.00). After the above Court-approved amounts are deducted from the Gross
22 Settlement Amount, the Settlement Class Members will share in a Net Settlement Amount of
23 approximately Five Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Two Dollars and Ninety-
24 Two Cents (\$524,862.92).

25 19. The Settlement does not require Settlement Class Members to submit claims as a
26 prerequisite to receiving their *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Amount (“Individual Settlement
27 Share”) nor does it require PAGA Employees to submit claims as a prerequisite to receiving their *pro*
28 *rata* share of twenty-five percent (25%) of the PAGA Amount (“Individual PAGA Payment”).

Individual Settlement Shares are calculated by the Settlement Administrator by dividing the final Net Settlement Amount by the Workweeks of all Settlement Class Members to yield the “Final Workweek Value,” and multiplying each Settlement Class Member’s individual Workweeks by the Final Workweek Value. Individual PAGA Payments are calculated by the Settlement Administrator by dividing twenty-five percent (25%) of the PAGA Amount by the PAGA Workweeks of all PAGA Employees to yield the “PAGA Workweek Value,” and multiplying each PAGA Employee’s individual PAGA Workweeks by the PAGA Workweek Value.

20. I am aware from my review of the information provided by the Settlement Administrator that the estimated highest gross Individual Settlement Share is \$3,367.83, the estimated average gross Individual Settlement Share is \$818.88, and the estimated lowest gross Individual Settlement Share is \$0.00; the estimated highest Individual PAGA Payment is \$130.61, the estimated average Individual PAGA Payment is \$59.24, and the estimated lowest Individual PAGA Payment is \$0.00.

21. Each Individual Settlement Share will be allocated as twenty percent (20%) wages and eighty percent (80%) penalties, interest, and non-wage damages. The portion allocated to wages will be reported on an IRS Form W-2 and the portions allocated to penalties, interest, and non-wage damages will be reported on an IRS Form 1099 (if applicable) by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will withhold the employee’s share of taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Shares, and issue checks to Settlement Class Members for their net payment of their Individual Settlement Share (“Individual Settlement Payment”). The employer’s share of taxes and contributions in connection with the wages portion of Individual Settlement Shares will be paid by Defendant separately and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount. Each Individual PAGA Payment will be allocated as one hundred percent (100%) penalties and will be reported on an IRS Form 1099 (if applicable) by the Settlement Administrator.

22. Each Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA Payment check will be valid and negotiable for one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days from the date the checks are issued, and thereafter, shall be canceled. Any funds associated with such canceled checks will be distributed by the Settlement Administrator to the State of California’s Unclaimed Property Fund in

1 the name of the Settlement Class Member and/or PAGA Employee.

2 **Notice to the LWDA**

3 23. On February 18, 2025, Class Counsel submitted a copy of the Settlement Agreement
4 to the LWDA through its online submission portal in compliance with California Labor Code §
5 2699(1)(2). The LWDA has not objected or otherwise responded to the submission.

6 **The Settlement Is Fair and Reasonable**

7 ***Discovery and Informed Arms-Length Negotiations***

8 24. The Parties' settlement negotiations were at all times made at arm's-length and were
9 adversarial. The Settlement was reached following a full day of mediation with a highly respected
10 mediator with substantial experience mediating wage and hour cases, and Plaintiff engaged in
11 additional negotiations in order to finalize the long-form agreement presently before the Court.

12 25. The Parties engaged in extensive formal and informal discovery prior to reaching a
13 settlement at the mediation. Prior to mediation, Defendant produced a random 25% sampling of
14 putative class members' time and pay records. The random sampling was conducted by sorting
15 putative class members' last names alphabetically, then seeking every third employee until the 25%
16 sampling was met. Defendant also produced employee handbooks, relevant wage and hour policies,
17 and information regarding the total number of putative class members, the total number of current
18 versus former employees, the total workweeks worked by the putative class members, and the average
19 rate of pay for the putative class members. This allowed Class Counsel to conduct an informed
20 assessment and analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the claims and the potential class-wide
21 damages.

22 26. Based on the information exchanged, the Parties extensively briefed issues regarding
23 class certification and liability and provided their analyses to the Mediator who helped the Parties
24 debate the strengths and weakness of their respective positions. At all times, Plaintiff was willing and
25 prepared to litigate this matter through class certification and trial if the Parties had been unable to
26 reach a favorable resolution. Additionally, settlement negotiations were conducted by highly capable
27 and experienced counsel. Class Counsel are respected members of the California State Bar with strong
28 records of vigorous and effective advocacy and are experienced in handling complex wage and hour

1 class action litigation. Accordingly, Class Counsel had sufficient information and experience to act
2 intelligently in negotiating the Settlement.

3 27. Although the investigation and information discovered supports Plaintiff's contentions,
4 Defendant raised potential defenses and other circumstances that impacted the risk of proceeding on
5 a class-wide basis. Consideration of these risks factored into the decision to enter the Settlement.

6 28. Class Counsel are aware of Defendant's defenses and arguments and have also taken
7 into account the uncertainty and risk of the outcome of further litigation, and the difficulties and delays
8 inherent in such litigation, including those involved in class and/or representative adjudication.
9 Plaintiff further recognizes the burdens of proof necessary to establish liability for the claims asserted
10 in the Action, Defendant's defenses, and the difficulties in establishing entitlement to monetary
11 recovery. Plaintiff has also considered the Parties' settlement discussions, as well as the evaluations
12 of the Mediator, who is experienced and well-regarded in complex labor and employment matters.

13 29. Defendant denied and continues to deny any liability and wrongdoing of any kind
14 associated with the claims alleged in the Action, and further denies that class certification is
15 appropriate for any purpose other than the Settlement. Defendant believes that it would ultimately
16 prevail in the Action. Defendant proffered defenses to both certification and to the merits of Plaintiff's
17 claims. Defendant contended that Plaintiff's claims are not suitable for class certification because
18 individual issues would predominate should this case go to trial. As with all class actions, these
19 complex cases raise difficult management and proof issues and, accordingly, there is a significant risk
20 that the Court may deny class certification.

21 30. Class Counsel also recognized that, even if Plaintiff prevailed at class certification,
22 proving the amount of wages due to each Class Member would be an expensive, time-consuming, and
23 extremely uncertain proposition. In order to prove liability and damages, Class Counsel would need
24 to obtain and analyze thousands of pages of documents, and conduct additional and more in-depth
25 investigations with Class Members to obtain declarations at great expense. Obtaining the cooperation
26 of current employees would also be difficult, given the likely reluctance to aid prosecution of a lawsuit
27 against a current employer. On the other hand, Defendant would likely be able to obtain the
28 cooperation of its employees. Moreover, even if Plaintiff prevailed at class certification and trial,

possible appeals would substantially delay any recovery by the Class.

31. Therefore, Class Counsel submits that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Settlement is in the best interest of the Class Members, the PAGA Employees, and the State of California, and is within the accepted range of recoveries for this type of litigation given the inherent risk of litigation, the risk of obtaining and maintaining class certification, and the costs of further litigation.

Attorneys' Fees and Costs

32. Class Counsel seeks one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$333,333.33) for fees for the time spent litigating this matter and reimbursement of actual costs and expenses totaling Twenty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Three Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents (\$24,303.75). The requested fees and costs are fair compensation for undertaking complex, risky, expensive, and time-consuming litigation on a contingent fee basis, especially in light of the substantial benefits achieved by Class Counsel for the Class Members. Class Counsel's requested fee award is summarily addressed as follows but is more fully discussed in Plaintiff's Motion for Final Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement, Attorneys' Fees and Costs, Enhancement Payment, and Settlement Administration Costs ("Motion for Final Approval") filed concurrently herewith.

33. The effectiveness of Blackstone Law, APC's ("Blackstone") prosecution of this matter has translated into tangible monetary benefits for the Settlement Class Members, the State of California, and the PAGA Employees as follows: (1) Settlement Class Members, the State of California, and the PAGA Employees will obtain monetary recovery over a relatively short period of time, as opposed to waiting additional years for the same, or potentially worse, result; (2) a guaranteed result that compares favorably with other similar class action settlements of this type, given the strengths and weaknesses of the Action; and (3) significant savings in Class Counsel's fees and/or costs that would have only increased significantly had the Action progressed through trial and/or appeals.

34. In the present case, Class Counsel has borne all of the risks and costs of litigation and will not receive any compensation until recovery is obtained. Class Counsel had to consider its workload during this litigation when considering taking on additional work that was available, and

1 which Class Counsel had to forego in order to devote the time necessary to pursue this litigation. Class
2 Counsel is experienced in complex wage-and-hour litigation and used that experience to obtain a
3 favorable result for the Class, the State of California, and the PAGA Employees. Considering the
4 amount of fees requested, work performed, risks incurred, and experience of Class Counsel in handling
5 similar matters, Plaintiff maintains that the requested attorneys' fees of one-third (1/3) of the Gross
6 Settlement Amount (i.e., \$333,333.33) are reasonable and should be awarded.

7 35. Blackstone was started in February 2018, representing plaintiffs in individual and
8 representative employment litigation. The firm has grown exponentially over the past seven-plus
9 years, now maintaining over twenty highly pedigreed attorneys working on almost exclusively labor
10 and employment class actions, PAGA cases, and individual matters, with roughly 15% of the firm
11 focused on other complex general litigation matters. Blackstone has been counsel of record on several
12 class and PAGA actions that have since been resolved, the most recent of which are attached hereto
13 as **Exhibit 3**. The attorneys who worked on this case are all experienced in litigating wage and hour
14 matters as follows:

15 a. Jonathan M. Genish is the founder of Blackstone Law, APC. He received his law
16 degree from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and was admitted to the California State Bar in
17 2008. During law school, he clerked at the litigation firm Oved & Oved, LLP and was published
18 several times in various small publications. Upon graduation, he was rehired by Freedman &
19 Taitelman, LLP as an associate and remained employed there from September 2008 through August
20 2015. During his tenure, he managed hundreds (perhaps thousands) of complex litigation cases,
21 ranging from employment, corporate, entertainment, and general business litigation matters, though
22 his primary area of expertise was employment, both single plaintiff and representative actions. On the
23 vast majority of those cases, he was the only or primary attorney managing the case and thus obtained
24 extensive experience. In that capacity, he conducted wage and hour and wrongful termination labor
25 and employment intakes; was the primary contact for all clients; took and defended hundreds (if not
26 thousands) of depositions; propounded and responded to all discovery; prepared and opposed all
27 motions and pleadings, including dispositive and certification motions; strategized on all cases;
28 attended all hearings; attended all mediations; coordinated with class action administrators; prepared

1 and worked with experts; first and second chaired multiple trials and arbitrations; and engaged in all
2 other intricate facets of litigation. During that time, he represented a wide range of clients from sole
3 proprietorships to Fortune 500 companies in state, federal, complex, and appellate courts. Many of
4 the cases he managed were highly publicized, with articles written about them in the Los Angeles
5 Times, Deadline, The Hollywood Reporter, Business Insider, Law360, and others. Super Lawyers has
6 regularly honored him as a Southern California Rising Star since 2012. His billable rate is \$1,150,
7 which is well within the prevailing rate for attorneys with his experience in this area of practice in
8 Southern California.

9 b. Miriam L. Shimmel is a 28-year litigator who joined Blackstone Law, APC in June
10 2022, following ten years of working with two well-known plaintiff-side wage and hour law firms in
11 Los Angeles. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of
12 California at Los Angeles in 1992. Thereafter, she received her law degree from Loyola Law School
13 in 1996 and was admitted to the California State Bar in December 1996. Since her admission to the
14 Bar, she has devoted her practice to a wide variety of litigation matters on both the plaintiff and defense
15 side, including general business, toxic tort, medical device, and pharmaceutical matters. Since 2010,
16 her practice has been devoted almost entirely to employment litigation consisting of wage and hour
17 class actions and representative actions pursuant to PAGA, as well as individual actions based on
18 violations of the Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA"). Approximately 75% of her work in
19 this regard has been on behalf of employees (plaintiffs), while the remaining 25% was on behalf of
20 employers/businesses. On many of those cases, she was the senior lead attorney managing the
21 litigation and overseeing other attorneys. In that capacity, she obtained extensive experience analyzing
22 potential wage and hour and wrongful termination claims for viability; took and defended hundreds of
23 depositions; propounded and responded to discovery; prepared and opposed a wide variety of motions
24 and pleadings, including dispositive and certification motions, as well as settlement approval motions;
25 strategized on all cases; participated in and directed communication with class members; attended
26 hearings; led and participated in mediations; coordinated with class action administrators; prepared
27 and worked with experts; and engaged in all other related aspects of litigation in state, federal,
28 complex, and appellate courts. Her billable rate is \$1,050, which is well within the prevailing rate for

1 attorneys with her experience in this area of practice in Southern California.

2 c. Joana Fang is a highly skilled eight-year lawyer who is part of the team at Blackstone
3 Law, APC that litigated this matter. She is a 2015 graduate of Loyola Law School, and a 2011 graduate
4 of University of California, Berkeley where she was a double major in Legal Studies and Media
5 Studies. Since passing the Bar, Ms. Fang has exclusively represented plaintiffs in wage and hour
6 litigation, as well as catastrophic injury complex litigation. She is admitted to the State of California,
7 all federal district courts of California, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. She was
8 most recently recognized as a 2025 Southern California Rising Star by Super Lawyers. Her hourly
9 rate of \$750 is reasonable based on her education and experience and is in line with the market rate.

10 d. I joined Blackstone Law, APC from a highly reputable employment law firm. I
11 graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2016 and
12 from New England Law | Boston with a Juris Doctor degree in 2019. I was admitted to the State Bar
13 of California in December of 2019 and the State Bars of New York and New Jersey in 2023. I am
14 additionally licensed in all federal district courts of California. I have worked on many wage and hour
15 class action and PAGA representative matters, and my work has included, *inter alia*, researching and
16 drafting pleadings, administrative notice exhaustion, drafting, negotiating, and finalizing stipulations
17 and settlement agreements, engaging in motion practice, claims evaluation and analysis, and making
18 court appearances. My hourly rate of \$695 is reasonable based on my education and experience and
19 is in line with the market rate.

20 e. Jared C. Osborne joined Blackstone also from a highly reputable employment law firm.
21 He graduated from New York University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2009 and from University
22 of Southern California Gould School of Law (USC) with a Juris Doctor degree in 2020. While at
23 USC, he was an Executive Senior Editor on the Southern California Law Review and graduated in the
24 top 10% of his class. He was admitted to the State Bar of California in February 2021. Since his
25 admittance, he has worked exclusively as a Plaintiff's side employment attorney handling both
26 individual and class action cases. He was most recently recognized as a 2025 Southern California
27 Rising Star by Super Lawyers. His hourly rate of \$650 is reasonable based on his education and
28 experience and is in line with the market rate.

f. James S. Winn Jr. recently joined Blackstone. He received his Bachelor's degree from University of California, Santa Barbara in 2018 and Juris Doctor degree from University Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 2022. He was admitted to the State Bar of California in 2023. His hourly rate of \$550 is reasonable based on his education and experience and is in line with the market rate.

36. Class Counsel has spent approximately 354.70 total hours litigating this matter. To date, our total fees incurred amount to \$304,209. Each attorney who worked on this matter engaged in a multitude of tasks, including communicating with the client and defense counsel; investigating the facts and researching applicable legal issues; drafting pleadings, formal written discovery, informal discovery requests, and joint statements; reviewing documents; preparing for and attending mediation; and facilitating the settlement by drafting the settlement documents and motion papers for obtaining settlement approval. One difficulty in determining the hourly rate of attorneys of similar skill and experience in the relevant community is the scarcity of hourly fee-paying clients in class action litigation. As a practical matter, few if any employees or consumers pay attorneys' fees on an hourly basis for such extensive litigation, and thus retainer agreements in such cases are based on a stepped-up contingency fee (with the percentage increasing from one third to forty-five – and sometimes even fifty percent, which is on par with personal injury contingency fee agreements – if the case goes to trial). Therefore, there is no customary hourly billing rate for work that is routinely based on a contingent fee relationship, but the nature of class action work should be strongly considered by the Court. Wage and hour work presents a specialized and challenging area of law that is not within the knowledge of many lawyers. This kind of class action work requires specialized learning and the willingness to take large risks. A summary of Class Counsel's lodestar for each attorney who worked on this case is as follows:

<u>Attorney</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jonathan M. Genish	Managing Partner	25.40	\$1,150	\$29,210
Miriam L. Schimmel	Senior Counsel	125.30	\$1,050	\$131,565
Joana Fang	Senior Associate	82.10	\$750	\$61,575
Alexandra Rose	Senior Associate	97.20	\$695	\$67,554

Jared C. Osborne	Associate	7.20	\$650	\$4,680
James S. Winn Jr.	Associate	17.50	\$550	\$9,625

37. We expect to spend an additional 10 hours (\$10,500) in connection with preparing for and attending the Final Approval Hearing and managing the Settlement through its conclusion, including anticipated communications with defense counsel, the Settlement Administrator, our client, and Class Members. Based thereon, the total amount of Class Counsel's fees through closure of this case are estimated to be approximately \$314,709.

38. The Settlement Agreement provides for reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses not to exceed Thirty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$30,000.00). Class Counsel seeks reimbursement of a total of Twenty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Three Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents (\$24,303.75) in litigation costs and expenses. A true and correct itemized list of Blackstone's litigation costs and expenses is attached hereto as **Exhibit 4**. This amount was reasonable and necessary in the prosecution of this matter.

39. The requested award of Attorneys' Fees and Costs was included and set forth clearly in the Class Notice provided to the Class Members.

Enhancement Payment

40. As part of the Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff is requesting a reasonable Enhancement Payment in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$5,000.00) to Plaintiff. The requested Enhancement Payment is eminently reasonable given the time and effort Plaintiff spent on this matter, and the benefit to the other Class Members as a result of Plaintiff's actions. Enhancement awards in wage and hour cases typically range from \$5,000.00 to \$20,000.00, although some awards are higher. The Declaration of Plaintiff Aaron Coffey submitted herewith details his work and efforts in bringing and litigating this matter through resolution and supports the requested Enhancement Payment. The requested Enhancement Payment was also disclosed in the Class Notice provided to the Class Members.

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Settlement Administration Costs

41. In Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval, Plaintiff requested, and the Court approved, Settlement Administration Costs not to exceed Thirteen Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$13,000.00). CPT Group Inc., the approved Settlement Administrator, provided Class Counsel with its quote stating that its cost to administer the Settlement is Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$12,500.00).

Allocation to the LDWA

42. As part of the Settlement, Defendant has agreed to pay One Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$100,000.00) to settle the claims of the PAGA Employees brought pursuant to PAGA, of which the payment of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$75,000.00) (75% of the PAGA Amount) will be paid to the LDWA for education and enforcement purposes.

43. It is extremely common in approved wage and hour class action cases that settle that only a small portion of the total settlement is paid to PAGA penalties "in order to maximize payments to class members." (*Magadia v. Wal-Mart Assocs.* (N.D. Cal. May 31, 2019, No. 17-CV-00062-LHK) 2019 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 91732, *90-91, citing as examples *Ceja-Corona v. CVS Pharm., Inc.* (E.D. Cal. Jan. 14, 2015) 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 5118, 2015 WL 222500, at *2-3 [preliminarily approving \$10,000 in PAGA penalties out of a total settlement amount of \$900,000]; *Thio v. Genji, LLC* (N.D. Cal. 2014) 14 F. Supp. 3d 1324, 1330 [preliminarily approving \$10,000 in PAGA penalties out of a total settlement amount of \$1,250,000]; *Franco v. Ruiz Food Prods.* (E.D. Cal. Nov. 27, 2012) 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 169057, 2012 WL 5941801, at *14 [granting final approval of \$10,000 in PAGA penalties out of a total settlement amount of \$2,500,000]; *Garcia v. Gordon Trucking, Inc.* (E.D. Cal. Oct. 31, 2012) 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 160052, 2012 WL 5364575, at *3 [granting final approval of \$10,000 in PAGA penalties out of a total settlement amount of \$3,700,000]; *Chu v. Wells Fargo Invs., LLC* (N.D. Cal. Feb. 16, 2011) 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 15821, 2011 WL 672645, at *1 [granting final approval of \$10,000 in PAGA penalties out of a total settlement amount of \$6,900,000].) Like here, in these approved settlements, the parties generally maximized statutory penalties and minimized PAGA penalties to focus on claims to the class members, the persons who actually suffered the California Labor Code violations.

Notice to the Class

44. The Class Notice approved by the Court met the requirements for proper notice of settlement to a class: it identified the Parties and described the Action, the Class, the Gross Settlement Amount, the proposed method for distribution of the Gross Settlement Amount, the amounts proposed to be paid as the Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff, the Settlement Administration Costs to the Settlement Administrator, and the Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Class Counsel. The Class Notice described the proposed Settlement with enough specificity to allow each Class Member to make an informed choice whether to accept and participate in it. It also explained how and when Class Members may object to or opt out of the Class Settlement. Finally, the Class Notice provided the date and time of the hearing on final approval of the Settlement and informed Class Members how to obtain additional information about the Settlement.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on May 20, 2025, at Beverly Hills, California.



Alexandra Rose

EXHIBIT 1

1 **FIRST AMENDED JOINT STIPULATION OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT**

2 This First Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement (“Settlement,”
3 “Agreement,” or “Settlement Agreement”) is made and entered into by and between Plaintiff Aaron
4 Coffey (“Plaintiff” or “Class Representative”), individually, and on behalf of all others similarly
5 situated and on behalf of the State of California with respect to aggrieved employees, and Defendant
6 Catalina Channel Express, Inc. (“Defendant”) (together, Plaintiff and Defendant are referred to as
7 “Parties” and individually as “Party”).

8 The Parties agree to supplant the Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement
9 entered into by the Parties on or around May 10, 2024 with this First Amended Joint Stipulation of
10 Class Action and PAGA Settlement.

11 This Settlement Agreement shall be binding on Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members (as
12 defined herein), the State of California as to the employment of PAGA Employees (as defined herein),
13 and Defendant, subject to the terms and conditions hereof and the approval of the Court.

14 **RECITALS**

15 1. On November 8, 2021, Plaintiff provided written notice to the Labor and Workforce
16 Development Agency (“LWDA”) by online submission and to Defendant by U.S. Certified Mail,
17 pursuant to California Labor Code Section 2699.3, of the specific provisions of the California Labor
18 Code alleged to have been violated by Defendant (“PAGA Letter”). On November 10, 2021, Plaintiff
19 filed a Class Action Complaint, thereby commencing a putative class action entitled *Aaron Coffey v.*
20 *Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 21STCV41396
21 (“Action”) against Defendant. On March 29, 2022, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Class Action and
22 Representative Action Complaint (“Operative Complaint”) in the Action, which added a cause of
23 action under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 pursuant to California Labor Code Section
24 2698 *et seq.* (“PAGA”). The Operative Complaint alleges ten (10) causes of action for violations of
25 the California Labor Code for failure to pay overtime wages, failure to provide compliant meal periods
26 and premium payments in lieu thereof, failure to provide compliant rest periods and premiums
27 payments in lieu thereof, failure to pay minimum wages, failure to timely pay wages upon termination,
28 failure to timely pay wages during employment, failure to provide accurate wage statements, and

1 failure to reimburse necessary business expenses, for violations of California Business & Professions
2 Code Section 17200, *et seq.* based on the aforementioned California Labor Code violations, and for
3 civil penalties under PAGA based on the aforementioned California Labor Code violations.

4 2. Defendant denies all materials allegations set forth in the Action and has asserted
5 numerous affirmative defenses. Notwithstanding, in the interest of avoiding further litigation,
6 Defendant desires to fully and finally settle the Action, Released Class Claims (as defined herein), and
7 Released PAGA Claims (as defined herein).

8 3. Class Counsel diligently investigated the class and PAGA claims against Defendant,
9 including any and all applicable defenses and the applicable law. The investigation included, *inter*
10 *alia*, the exchange of information, data, and documents, and review of corporate policies and practices.
11 The Parties have engaged in sufficient formal and informal discovery and investigation to assess the
12 relative merits of the claims and contentions of the Parties.

13 4. On October 23, 2023, the Parties participated in mediation with Todd A. Smith, Esq.
14 (the “Mediator”), a respected mediator of complex wage and hour actions, which did not result in a
15 settlement at that time. After continued negotiations, and with the assistance of the Mediator’s
16 evaluations, the Parties reached the mutual Settlement that is memorialized herein. The Parties’
17 settlement discussions were conducted at arms’ length, and the Settlement is the result of an informed
18 and detailed analysis of Defendant’s potential liability and exposure in relation to the costs and risks
19 associated with continued litigation. Based on Class Counsel’s investigation and evaluation, Class
20 Counsel believes that the settlement with Defendant for the consideration and on the terms set forth in
21 this Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interest of the Class
22 Members, State of California, and PAGA Employees in light of all known facts and circumstances,
23 including the risk of significant delay and uncertainty associated with litigation and various defenses
24 asserted by Defendant.

25 5. The Parties expressly acknowledge that this Settlement Agreement is entered into
26 solely for the purpose of compromising significantly disputed claims and that nothing herein is an
27 admission of liability or wrongdoing by Defendant. If for any reason this Settlement Agreement is
28 not approved, it will be of no force or effect, and the Parties shall be returned to their original respective

positions.

DEFINITIONS

6. The following definitions are applicable to this Settlement Agreement. Definitions contained elsewhere in this Settlement Agreement will also be effective.

a. “Attorneys’ Fees and Costs” means attorneys’ fees approved by the Court for Class Counsel’s litigation and resolution of the Action and all actual costs and expenses incurred and to be incurred by Class Counsel in connection with the Action, as set forth in Paragraph 9.

b. “Class” or “Class Member(s)” means all current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant within the State of California at any time during the Class Period.

c. “Class Counsel” means Jonathan M. Genish, Miriam L. Schimmel, Joana Fang, Alexandra Rose, and Jared Osborne of Blackstone Law, APC, who will seek to be appointed counsel for the Class.

d. “Class List” means a complete list of all Class Members and PAGA Employees that Defendant will diligently and in good faith compile from its records and provide to the Settlement Administrator. The Class List will be formatted in a readable Microsoft Office Excel spreadsheet containing the following information for each Class Member and PAGA Employee: (1) full name; (2) last known mailing address; (3) Social Security number; (4) dates worked for Defendant during the Class Period and PAGA Period; and (8) such other information as is necessary for the Settlement Administrator to calculate Workweeks and PAGA Workweeks.

e. “Class Notice” means the Notice of Class Action Settlement, substantially in the form attached hereto as “**Exhibit A**.”

f. “Class Period” means the period from November 10, 2017 through November 7, 2021.

g. “Class Settlement” means the settlement and resolution of all Released Class Claims.

h. “Court” means the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles.

1 i. “Defendant’s Counsel” means Brigham M. Cheney and Christopher M. Francis
2 of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Rudd & Romo.

3 j. “Effective Date” means the date when all of the following events have occurred:
4 (1) the Settlement Agreement has been executed by all Parties, Class Counsel, and Defendant’s
5 Counsel; (2) the Court has given preliminary approval to the Settlement; (3) the Class Notice has been
6 mailed to the Class Members, providing them with an opportunity to object to the terms of the Class
7 Settlement or opt out of the Class Settlement; (4) the Court has had a Final Approval Hearing and
8 entered a Final Approval Order and Judgment; (5) sixty-five calendar days have passed since the Court
9 entered a Final Approval Order and Judgment; and (6) in the event there are written objections to the
10 Class Settlement filed prior to the Final Approval Hearing which are not later withdrawn or denied,
11 the later of the following events: five business days after the period for filing any appeal, writ, or other
12 appellate proceeding opposing the Court’s Final Approval Order and Judgment has elapsed without
13 any appeal, writ, or other appellate proceeding having been filed, or, if any appeal, writ, or other
14 appellate proceeding opposing the Court’s Final Approval Order and Judgment has been filed, five
15 business days after any appeal, writ, or other appellate proceedings opposing the Court’s Final
16 Approval Order and Judgment has finally and conclusively dismissed with no right to pursue further
17 remedies or relief.

18 k. “Employer Taxes” means the employer’s share of taxes and contributions in
19 connection with the wages portion of Individual Settlement Shares, which shall be paid by Defendant
20 in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount.

21 l. “Enhancement Payment” means the amount to be paid to Plaintiff, in
22 recognition of his effort and work in prosecuting the Action on behalf of Class Members and PAGA
23 Employees, and general release of claims, as set forth in Paragraph 10.

24 m. “Final Approval” means the determination by the Court that the Settlement is
25 fair, reasonable, and adequate, and entry of the Final Approval Order and Judgment based thereon.

26 n. “Final Approval Hearing” means the hearing at which the Court will consider
27 and determine whether the Settlement should be granted Final Approval.

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o. “Final Approval Order and Judgment” means the order granting final approval of the Settlement and entering judgment thereon, in a form and content mutually agreed to by the Parties, and subject to approval by the Court.

p. “Gross Settlement Amount” means the amount of One Million Dollars and Zero Cents (\$1,000,000.00) to be paid by Defendant in full satisfaction of the Action, Released Class Claims, and Released PAGA Claims, which includes all Attorneys’ Fees and Costs, Enhancement Payment, PAGA Amount, Settlement Administration Costs, and Net Settlement Amount to be paid to the Settlement Class Members. Defendant shall pay the Employer Taxes separately and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Settlement Agreement, the Parties agree that, except for the payment of Employer Taxes, the Gross Settlement Amount constitutes the maximum amount Defendant will be required to pay under this Settlement under any circumstances. The Gross Settlement Amount is non-reversionary; no portion of the Gross Settlement Payment will return to Defendant.

q. “Individual PAGA Payment” means the *pro rata* share of the PAGA Employee Amount that a PAGA Employee may be eligible to receive under the PAGA Settlement, to be calculated in accordance with Paragraph 14.

r. “Individual Settlement Payment” means the net payment of each Settlement Class Member’s Individual Settlement Share, after reduction for the employee’s share of taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Share, as provided in Paragraph 15.

s. “Individual Settlement Share” means the *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Amount that a Class Member may be eligible to receive under the Class Settlement, to be calculated in accordance with Paragraph 13.

t. “LWDA Payment” means the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$75,000.00), i.e., 75% of the PAGA Amount, that the Parties have agreed to pay to the LWDA under the PAGA Settlement, as set forth in Paragraph 11.

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1 u. “Net Settlement Amount” means the portion of the Gross Settlement Amount
2 that is available for distribution to Settlement Class Members, which is the Gross Settlement Amount
3 less the Court-approved Attorneys’ Fees and Costs, Enhancement Payment, PAGA Amount, and
4 Settlement Administration Costs.

5 v. “Notice of Objection” means a Settlement Class Member’s written objection to
6 the Class Settlement, which must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action; (b) contain the
7 objector’s full name, signature, address, telephone number, and the last four (4) digits of the objector’s
8 Social Security number; (c) contain a written statement of all grounds for the objection accompanied
9 by any legal support for such objection; (d) contain copies of any papers, briefs, or other documents
10 upon which the objection is based; and (e) be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the
11 specified address, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline.

12 w. “PAGA Amount” means the allocation of One Hundred Thousand Dollars and
13 Zero Cents (\$100,000.00) from the Gross Settlement Amount for the PAGA Settlement. Seventy-five
14 percent (75%) of the PAGA Amount, or \$75,000.00, will be paid to the LWDA (i.e., the LWDA
15 Payment) and the remaining twenty-five percent (25%), or \$25,000.00, will be distributed to the
16 PAGA Employees (i.e., the PAGA Employee Amount).

17 x. “PAGA Employees” means all current and former non-exempt employees who
18 worked for Defendant within the State of California at any time during the PAGA Period.

19 y. “PAGA Employee Amount” means the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand
20 Dollars and Zero Cents (\$25,000.00), i.e., 25% of the PAGA Amount, to be distributed to PAGA
21 Employees on a *pro rata* basis based on their PAGA Workweeks.

22 z. “PAGA Period” means the period from November 8, 2020 through December
23 3, 2023.

24 aa. “PAGA Settlement” means the settlement and resolution of all Released PAGA
25 Claims.

26 bb. “PAGA Workweeks” means the number of weeks each PAGA Employee
27 worked for Defendant as a non-exempt employee in California during the PAGA Period. In order to
28 be counted as a PAGA Workweek, the PAGA Employee must have worked at least one day in that

1 week. PAGA Workweeks will be calculated by the Settlement Administrator based on each PAGA
2 Employee's start date or the beginning of the PAGA Period, whichever is later, and separation date or
3 the last day of the PAGA Period, whichever is earlier, based on the Class List provided by the
4 Defendant. Excluded are weeks covered by any previous individual settlement agreements and the
5 settlement agreement in the case entitled *Andres Gonzalez v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Los
6 Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC707664.

7 cc. "Preliminary Approval" means the date on which the Court enters the
8 Preliminary Approval Order.

9 dd. "Preliminary Approval Order" means the order granting preliminary approval
10 of the Settlement, in a form and content mutually agreed to by the Parties, and subject to approval by
11 the Court.

12 ee. "Released Class Claims" means any and all claims, debts, liabilities, demands,
13 obligations, guarantees, costs, expenses, attorneys' fees, damages, or causes of action which were
14 alleged or which could have been alleged based on the factual allegations in the Operative Complaint,
15 arising during the Class Period, under any federal, state, or local law, and shall specifically include
16 claims for Defendant's alleged failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, provide compliant meal
17 and rest periods and associated premium payments, timely pay wages during employment and upon
18 termination, provide accurate wage statements, and reimburse necessary business-related expenses in
19 violation of California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 1194,
20 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, and 2802, and any other claims which were alleged or which could have
21 been alleged based on the factual allegations in the Operative Complaint, arising during the Class
22 Period, for failure to properly pay wages or compensate employees under the California Labor Code
23 or the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s), and all claims for attorneys' fees and
24 costs and statutory interest in connection therewith, California Business and Professions Code sections
25 17200, *et seq.*, and any other claims, including claims for statutory penalties, pertaining to the Class
26 Members.

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1 ff. “Released PAGA Claims” means any and all claims arising from any of the
2 factual allegations in the PAGA Letter, arising during the PAGA Period, for civil penalties under the
3 Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code Sections 2698 *et seq.*, including all
4 claims for attorneys’ fees and costs related thereto, for Defendant’s alleged failure to pay overtime
5 and minimum wages, provide compliant meal and rest periods and associated premium payments,
6 timely pay wages during employment and upon termination, provide accurate wage statements,
7 maintain complete and accurate payroll records, and reimburse necessary business-related expenses
8 in violation of California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 1174(d),
9 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, and 2802, and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage
10 Order(s), including *inter alia*, Wage Order 9-2001.

11 gg. “Released Parties” means Defendant and its current and former officers,
12 directors, members, insurers, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors, successors, and
13 assigns.

14 hh. “Request for Exclusion” means a letter submitted by a Class Member indicating
15 a request to be excluded from the Class Settlement, which must: (a) contain the case name and number
16 of the Action; (b) contain the Class Member’s full name, signature, address, telephone number, and
17 last four (4) digits of the Class Member’s Social Security number; (c) clearly state that the Class
18 Member does not wish to be included in the Class Settlement; and (d) be returned by mail to the
19 Settlement Administrator at the specified address, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline.

20 ii. “Response Deadline” means the deadline by which Class Members must submit
21 a Request for Exclusion, Notice of Objection, and/or Workweeks Dispute, which shall be the date that
22 is forty-five (45) calendar days from the initial mailing of the Class Notice by the Settlement
23 Administrator to Class Members, unless the 45th day falls on a Sunday or Federal holiday, in which
24 case the Response Deadline will be extended to the next day on which the United States Postal service
25 is open. The Response Deadline may also be extended by express agreement between Class Counsel
26 and Defendant’s Counsel. Under no circumstances, however, will the Settlement Administrator have
27 the authority to extend the Response Deadline. In the event that a Class Notice is re-mailed to a Class
28 Member, the Response Deadline for that Class Member shall be extended fifteen (15) calendar days

1 from the original Response Deadline.

2 jj. “Settlement Administrator” means CPT Group, Inc., or any other third-party
3 class action settlement administrator agreed to by the Parties and approved by the Court for purposes
4 of administering the Settlement. The Parties and their counsel each represent that they do not have
5 any financial interest in the Settlement Administrator or otherwise have a relationship with the
6 Settlement Administrator that could create a conflict of interest.

7 kk. “Settlement Administration Costs” means the costs payable from the Gross
8 Settlement Amount to the Settlement Administrator for administering the Settlement, as set forth in
9 Paragraph 12.

10 ll. “Settlement Class” or “Settlement Class Member(s)” means all Class Members
11 who do not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion.

12 mm. “Workweeks” means the number of weeks each Class Member worked for
13 Defendant as a non-exempt employee in California during the Class Period. In order to be counted as
14 a Workweek, the Class Member must have worked at least one day in that week. Workweeks will be
15 calculated by the Settlement Administrator based on each Class Member’s start date or the beginning
16 of the Class Period, whichever is later, and separation date or the last day of the Class Period,
17 whichever is earlier, based on the Class List provided by the Defendant. Excluded are weeks covered
18 by any previous individual settlement agreements and the settlement agreement in the case entitled
19 *Andres Gonzalez v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No.
20 BC707664.

21 nn. “Workweeks Dispute” means a letter submitted by a Class Member and/or
22 PAGA Employee disputing the number of Workweeks and/or PAGA Workweeks to which they have
23 been credited, which must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action; (b) contain the Class
24 Member and/or PAGA Employee’s full name, signature, address, telephone number, and the last four
25 (4) digits of the Class Member and/or PAGA Employee’s Social Security number; (c) clearly state
26 that the Class Member and/or PAGA Employee disputes the number of Workweeks and/or PAGA
27 Workweeks credited to the Class Member and/or PAGA Employee and what the Class Member and/or
28 PAGA Employee contends is the correct number; and (d) be returned by mail to the Settlement

1 Administrator at the specified address, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline.

2 **CLASS CERTIFICATION**

3 7. For the purposes of this Settlement only, the Parties stipulate to the certification of the
4 Class.

5 8. The Parties agree that certification for the purpose of settlement is not an admission
6 that certification is proper under Section 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure. Should, for
7 whatever reason, the Court not grant Final Approval, the Parties' stipulation to class certification as
8 part of the Settlement shall become null and void ab initio and shall have no bearing on, and shall not
9 be admissible in connection with, the issue of whether or not certification would be inappropriate in a
10 non-settlement context.

11 **TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT**

12 NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, promises, and agreements set
13 forth herein, the Parties agree, subject to the Court's approval, as follows:

14 9. Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Defendant agrees not to oppose or impede any application
15 or motion by Class Counsel for attorneys' fees in the amount up to one-third (1/3) of the Gross
16 Settlement Amount (i.e., \$333,333.33) and reimbursement of actual costs and expenses associated
17 with Class Counsel's litigation and settlement of the Action, in an amount not to exceed Thirty
18 Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$30,000.00), both of which will be paid from the Gross Settlement
19 Amount. These amounts will cover any and all work performed and any and all costs incurred by
20 Class Counsel in connection with the litigation of the Action, including without limitation all work
21 performed and costs incurred to date, and all work to be performed and all costs to be incurred in
22 connection with obtaining the Court's approval of this Settlement Agreement, including any objections
23 raised and any appeals necessitated by those objections. Class Counsel shall be solely and legally
24 responsible for correctly characterizing this compensation for tax purposes and for paying any taxes
25 on the amounts received. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 to Class Counsel
26 for the Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Any portion of the requested Attorneys' Fees and Costs that is not
27 awarded by the Court to Class Counsel shall be reallocated to the Net Settlement Amount for the
28 benefit of the Settlement Class Members.

1 10. Enhancement Payment. Defendant agrees not to oppose or impede any application or
2 motion by Plaintiff for an Enhancement Payment in the amount up to Five Thousand Dollars and Zero
3 Cents (\$5,000.00). The Enhancement Payment, which will be paid from the Gross Settlement
4 Amount, subject to Court approval, will be in addition to his Individual Settlement Payment as a
5 Settlement Class Member and Individual PAGA Payment as a PAGA Employee. Plaintiff shall be
6 solely and legally responsible for correctly characterizing this compensation for tax purposes and for
7 paying any taxes on the amounts received. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form
8 1099 to Plaintiff for the Enhancement Payment. Any portion of the requested Enhancement Payment
9 that is not awarded by the Court to Plaintiff shall be reallocated to the Net Settlement Amount for the
10 benefit of the Settlement Class Members.

11 11. PAGA Amount. Subject to approval by the Court, the Parties agree that the amount of
12 One Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$100,000.00) shall be allocated from the Gross
13 Settlement Amount toward penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act, California Labor Code
14 Section 2698, *et seq.* (i.e., the PAGA Amount), of which seventy-five percent (75%), or \$75,000.00,
15 will be paid to the LWDA (i.e., the LWDA Payment) and twenty-five percent (25%), or \$25,000.00,
16 will be distributed to PAGA Employees (i.e., the PAGA Employee Amount) on a *pro rata* basis, based
17 on the total number of PAGA Workweeks worked by each PAGA Employee during the PAGA Period
18 (i.e., the Individual PAGA Payments).

19 12. Settlement Administration Costs. The Settlement Administrator will be paid for the
20 reasonable costs of administration of the Settlement and distribution of payments under the Settlement,
21 which are currently not to exceed Thirteen Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$13,000.00). These
22 costs, which will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, subject to Court approval, will include,
23 *inter alia*, translating the Class Notice to Spanish, printing, distributing, and tracking Class Notices
24 and other documents for the Settlement, calculating and distributing payments due under the
25 Settlement, issuing of 1099 and W-2 IRS Forms and all required tax reporting, filings, withholdings,
26 and remittances, providing necessary reports and declarations, and other duties and responsibilities set
27 forth herein to process the Settlement, and as requested by the Parties. To the extent the actual
28 Settlement Administrator's costs are greater than the estimated amount stated herein, such excess

amount will be deducted from the Gross Settlement Amount, subject to approval by the Court. Any portion of the estimated, designated, and/or awarded Settlement Administration Costs which are not in fact required to fulfill payment to the Settlement Administrator to undertake the required settlement administration duties shall be reallocated to the Net Settlement Amount for the benefit of the Settlement Class Members.

13. Individual Settlement Share Calculations. Individual Settlement Shares will be calculated and apportioned from the Net Settlement Amount based on the Class Members' number of Workweeks, as follows:

a. After Preliminary Approval, the Settlement Administrator will divide the Net Settlement Amount by the Workweeks of all Class Members to yield the "Estimated Workweek Value," and multiply each Class Member's individual Workweeks by the Estimated Workweek Value to yield each Class Member's estimated Individual Settlement Share that each Class Member may be entitled to receive under the Class Settlement.

b. After Final Approval, the Settlement Administrator will divide the final Net Settlement Amount by the Workweeks of all Settlement Class Members to yield the "Final Workweek Value," and multiply each Settlement Class Member's individual Workweeks by the Final Workweek Value to each Settlement Class Member's final Individual Settlement Share.

14. Individual PAGA Payment Calculations. Individual PAGA Payments will be calculated and apportioned from the PAGA Employee Amount based on the PAGA Employees' number of PAGA Workweeks, as follows: The Settlement Administrator will divide the PAGA Employee Amount, i.e., 25% of the PAGA Amount, by the PAGA Workweeks of all PAGA Employees to yield the "PAGA Workweek Value," and multiply each PAGA Employee's individual PAGA Workweeks by the PAGA Workweek Value to yield each PAGA Employee's Individual PAGA Payment.

15. Tax Treatment of Individual Settlement Shares and Individual PAGA Payments. Each Individual Settlement Share will be allocated as follows: twenty percent (20%) wages and eighty percent (80%) penalties, interest, and non-wage damages. The portion allocated to wages will be reported on an IRS Form W-2 and the portions allocated to penalties, interest, and non-wage damages

will be reported on an IRS Form 1099 (if applicable) by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will withhold the employee's share of taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Shares, and issue checks to Settlement Class Members for their Individual Settlement Payments (i.e., payment of their Individual Settlement Share net of these taxes and withholdings). The Employer Taxes will be paid separately and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount. Each Individual PAGA Payment will be allocated as one hundred percent (100%) penalties and will be reported on an IRS Form 1099 (if applicable) by the Settlement Administrator.

16. Administration of Taxes by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will be responsible for issuing to Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, PAGA Employees, and Class Counsel any tax forms (i.e., IRS Forms W-2, IRS Forms 1099, etc.) as may be required by law for all amounts paid pursuant to this Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Administrator will also be responsible for calculating the Employer Taxes and forwarding all payroll taxes and other legally required withholdings to the appropriate government authorities.

17. Tax Liability. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant, and Defendant's Counsel do not intend anything contained in this Settlement Agreement to constitute advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement Agreement be relied on as such. Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, and PAGA Employees are not relying on any statement, representation, or calculation by Defendant, the Settlement Administrator, or Class Counsel in this regard. Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, and PAGA Employees understand and agree that Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, and PAGA Employees will be solely responsible for the payment of any taxes and penalties assessed on the payments described in this Settlement Agreement. Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, and PAGA Employees should consult with their tax advisors concerning the tax consequences of any payment they receive under the Settlement.

18. Circular 230 Disclaimer. EACH PARTY TO THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE "ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY" AND EACH PARTY TO THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT OTHER THAN THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY, AN "OTHER PARTY") ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT (1) NO PROVISION OF THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, AND NO WRITTEN COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE

1 BETWEEN OR AMONG THE PARTIES OR THEIR ATTORNEYS AND OTHER ADVISERS, IS
2 OR WAS INTENDED TO BE, NOR WILL ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE
3 CONSTITUTE OR BE CONSTRUED OR BE RELIED UPON AS, TAX ADVICE WITHIN THE
4 MEANING OF UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR 230 (31 CFR PART
5 10, AS AMENDED); (2) THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY (A) HAS RELIED EXCLUSIVELY
6 UPON HIS, HER, OR ITS OWN, INDEPENDENT LEGAL AND TAX COUNSEL FOR ADVICE
7 (INCLUDING TAX ADVICE) IN CONNECTION WITH THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, (B)
8 HAS NOT ENTERED INTO THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BASED UPON THE
9 RECOMMENDATION OF ANY OTHER PARTY OR ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO ANY
10 OTHER PARTY, AND (C) IS NOT ENTITLED TO RELY UPON ANY COMMUNICATION OR
11 DISCLOSURE BY ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO ANY OTHER PARTY TO AVOID ANY
12 TAX PENALTY THAT MAY BE IMPOSED ON THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY; AND (3) NO
13 ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO ANY OTHER PARTY HAS IMPOSED ANY LIMITATION THAT
14 PROTECTS THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY SUCH ATTORNEY'S OR ADVISOR'S TAX
15 STRATEGIES (REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH LIMITATION IS LEGALLY BINDING)
16 UPON DISCLOSURE BY THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY OF THE TAX TREATMENT OR
17 TAX STRUCTURE OF ANY TRANSACTION, INCLUDING ANY TRANSACTION
18 CONTEMPLATED BY THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.

19 19. Settlement Awards Do Not Trigger Additional Benefits. All payments made under the
20 Settlement shall be deemed to be paid to the payee solely in the year in which such payments actually
21 are issued to the payee. It is expressly understood and agreed that payments made under this
22 Settlement shall not in any way entitle Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, or any PAGA Employee
23 to additional compensation or benefits under any new or additional compensation or benefits, or any
24 bonus, contest, or other compensation or benefit plan or agreement in place during the Class Period,
25 nor will it entitle Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, or any PAGA Employee to any increased
26 retirement, 401K benefits or matching benefits, or deferred compensation benefits (notwithstanding
27 any contrary language or agreement in any benefit or compensation plan document that might have
28 been in effect during the Class Period).

1 20. Duties of the Parties with Respect to Obtaining Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.

2 Upon execution of this Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff will obtain a hearing date from the Court for
3 Plaintiff's motion for preliminary approval of the Settlement, which Plaintiff and Class Counsel will
4 be responsible for drafting, and submit this Settlement Agreement to the Court in support of said
5 motion. Class Counsel will provide Defendant's Counsel a draft of the preliminary approval motion
6 before filing it with the Court. Defendant agrees not to oppose the motion for preliminary approval
7 of the Settlement consistent with this Settlement Agreement. By way of said motion, Plaintiff will
8 apply for the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order seeking the following:

- 9 a. Conditionally certifying the Class for settlement purposes only;
- 10 b. Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement;
- 11 c. Preliminarily appointing Plaintiff as the representative of the Class;
- 12 d. Preliminarily appointing Class Counsel as counsel for the Class;
- 13 e. Approving as to form and content, the mutually-agreed upon and proposed
14 Class Notice and directing its mailing by First Class U.S. Mail;
- 15 f. Approving the manner and method for Class Members to request exclusion
16 from or object to the Class Settlement as contained herein and within the Class Notice;
- 17 g. Scheduling a Final Approval Hearing at which the Court will determine whether
18 Final Approval of the Settlement should be granted.

19 21. Notice of Settlement to the LWDA. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699(1)(2),
20 Class Counsel shall notify the LWDA of the Settlement upon filing the motion for preliminary
21 approval of the Settlement.

22 22. Delivery of Class List. Within fourteen (14) calendar days of Preliminary Approval,
23 Defendant will provide the Class List to the Settlement Administrator.

24 23. Notice by First-Class U.S. Mail.

- 25 a. Within seven (7) calendar days after receiving the Class List from Defendant,
26 the Settlement Administrator will perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database
27 or any other similar services available, such as provided by Experian, for information to update and
28 correct for any known or identifiable address changes, and will mail a Class Notice and PAGA

1 Employees in English and Spanish (in the form attached as **Exhibit A** to this Settlement Agreement)
2 to all Class Members via First-Class U.S. Mail, using the most current, known mailing addresses
3 identified by the Settlement Administrator.

4 b. Any Class Notice returned to the Settlement Administrator as undeliverable on
5 or before the Response Deadline will be sent promptly via First-Class U.S. Mail to the forwarding
6 address affixed thereto and the Settlement Administrator will indicate the date of such re-mailing on
7 the Class Notice. If no forwarding address is provided, the Settlement Administrator will promptly
8 attempt to determine the correct address using a skip-trace or other search, using the name, address,
9 and/or Social Security number of the Class Member and/or PAGA Employee, and perform a single
10 re-mailing within five (5) calendar days.

11 c. Compliance with the procedures described herein above shall constitute due and
12 sufficient notice to Class Members of the Settlement and shall satisfy the requirements of due process.
13 Nothing else shall be required of or done by the Parties, Class Counsel, or Defendant's Counsel to
14 provide notice of the Settlement.

15 24. Disputes Regarding Workweeks and/or PAGA Workweeks. Class Members and
16 PAGA Employees will have an opportunity to dispute the number of Workweeks and/or PAGA
17 Workweeks to which they have been credited, as reflected in their respective Class Notices, by
18 submitting a timely and valid Workweeks Dispute to the Settlement Administrator, by mail,
19 postmarked on or before the Response Deadline. The date of the postmark on the return mailing
20 envelope will be the exclusive means to determine whether a Workweeks Dispute has been timely
21 submitted. Absent evidence rebutting the accuracy of Defendant's records and data as they pertain to
22 the number of Workweeks and/or PAGA Workweeks to be credited to a disputing Class Member
23 and/or PAGA Employee, Defendant's records will be presumed to be correct and determinative of the
24 dispute. However, if a Class Member and/or PAGA Employee produces information and/or
25 documents to the contrary, the Settlement Administrator will evaluate the materials submitted by the
26 Class Member and/or PAGA Employee and the Settlement Administrator will resolve and determine
27 the number of eligible Workweeks and/or PAGA Workweeks that the disputing Class Member and/or
28 PAGA Employee should be credited with under the Settlement. The Settlement Administrator's

1 decision on such disputes will be final and non-appealable.

2 25. Requesting Exclusion from the Class Settlement. Any Class Member wishing to be
3 excluded from the Class Settlement must submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion to the
4 Settlement Administrator, by mail, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline. The date of the
5 postmark on the return mailing envelope will be the exclusive means to determine whether a Request
6 for Exclusion has been timely submitted. The Settlement Administrator will certify jointly to Class
7 Counsel and Defendant's Counsel the number of timely and valid Requests for Exclusion that are
8 submitted, and also identify the individuals who have submitted a timely and valid Request for
9 Exclusion in a declaration that is to be filed with the Court in advance of the Final Approval Hearing.
10 At no time will any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class Members
11 to request exclusion from the Class Settlement. Any Class Member who submits a Request for
12 Exclusion is prohibited from making any objection to the Class Settlement. Any Class Member who
13 submits a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will not be bound by the Class Settlement and will
14 not be issued an Individual Settlement Payment. Any Class Member who does not affirmatively
15 request exclusion from the Class Settlement by submitting a timely and valid Request for Exclusion
16 will be bound by all of the terms of the Class Settlement, including and not limited to those pertaining
17 to the Released Class Claims, as well as any judgment that may be entered by the Court if it grants
18 Final Approval to the Settlement. Notwithstanding the above, all PAGA Employees will be bound to
19 the PAGA Settlement and will be issued their Individual PAGA Payment, irrespective of whether they
20 submit a Request for Exclusion.

21 26. Objecting to the Class Settlement. To object to the Class Settlement, Settlement Class
22 Members must submit a timely and complete Notice of Objection to the Settlement Administrator, by
23 mail, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline. The date of the postmark on the return mailing
24 envelope will be the exclusive means to determine whether a Notice of Objection has been timely
25 submitted. The Settlement Administrator will certify jointly to Class Counsel and Defendant's
26 Counsel the number of Notices of Objection that are submitted (specifying which ones were timely
27 and complete and which were not), and also attach them to a declaration that is to be filed with the
28 Court in advance of the Final Approval Hearing. At no time will any of the Parties or their counsel

1 seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Settlement Class Members to object to the Class Settlement or
2 appeal from the Final Approval Order and Judgment. Settlement Class Members, individually or
3 through counsel, may also present their objection orally at the Final Approval Hearing, regardless of
4 whether they have submitted a Notice of Objection.

5 27. Reports by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator shall provide
6 weekly reports to counsel for the Parties providing: (a) the number of undeliverable and re-mailed
7 Class Notices; (ii) the number of Class Members and PAGA Employees who have submitted
8 Workweeks Disputes; (iii) the number of Class Members who have submitted Requests for Exclusion;
9 and (iv) the number of Settlement Class Members who have submitted Notices of Objection.
10 Additionally, the Settlement Administrator will provide to counsel for the Parties any updated reports
11 regarding the administration of the Settlement Agreement as needed or requested, and immediately
12 notify the Parties when it receives a request from an individual or any other entity regarding inclusion
13 in the Class and/or Settlement or regarding a Workweeks Dispute.

14 28. Defendant's Right to Rescind. If more than ten percent (10%) of the Class Members
15 submit timely and valid Requests for Exclusion, Defendant may elect to rescind the Settlement
16 Agreement. Defendant must exercise this right of rescission in writing that is provided to Class
17 Counsel within fourteen (14) calendar days of the Settlement Administrator notifying the Parties of
18 the number of Class Members who have submitted timely and valid Requests for Exclusion following
19 the Response Deadline. If Defendant exercises this option, Defendant shall pay any costs of settlement
20 administration owed to the Settlement Administrator incurred up to that date.

21 29. Certification of Completion. Upon completion of administration of the Settlement, the
22 Settlement Administrator will provide a written declaration under oath to certify such completion to
23 the Court and counsel for all Parties.

24 30. Duties of the Parties with Respect to Obtaining Final Approval of the Settlement. After
25 the Response Deadline, a Final Approval Hearing will be conducted to determine whether Final
26 Approval of the Settlement should be granted, along with the amounts properly payable for: (a)
27 Individual Settlement Shares; (b) Individual PAGA Payments; (c) LWDA Payment; (d) Attorneys'
28 Fees and Costs; (e) Enhancement Payment; and (f) Settlement Administration Costs. The Final

1 Approval Hearing will not be held earlier than thirty (30) calendar days after the Response Deadline.
2 Plaintiff and Class Counsel will be responsible for drafting the motion seeking Final Approval of the
3 Settlement. Class Counsel will provide Defendant's Counsel a draft of the final approval motion
4 before filing it with the Court. By way of said motion, Plaintiff will apply for the entry of the Final
5 Approval Order and Judgment, which will provide for, in substantial part, the following:

6 a. Approval of the Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate, and directing
7 consummation of its terms and provisions;

8 b. Certification of the Settlement Class;

9 c. Approval of the application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Class Counsel;

10 d. Approval of the application for Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff;

11 e. Directing Defendant to fund all amounts due under the Settlement Agreement
12 and ordered by the Court; and

13 f. Entering judgment in the Action, while maintaining continuing jurisdiction, in
14 conformity with California Rules of Court 3.769 and the Settlement Agreement.

15 31. Funding of the Gross Settlement Amount. No later than ten (10) business days after
16 the Effective Date, Defendant will deposit the Gross Settlement Amount into a Qualified Settlement
17 Fund ("QSF") within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.468B-1, *et seq.*, to be established
18 by the Settlement Administrator. Defendant shall provide all information necessary for the Settlement
19 Administrator to calculate necessary payroll taxes including its official name, 8-digit state
20 unemployment insurance tax ID number, and other information requested by the Settlement
21 Administrator, no later than ten (10) business days after the Effective Date.

22 32. Distribution of the Gross Settlement Amount. Within five (5) business days of the
23 funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, the Settlement Administrator will issue the Individual
24 Settlement Payments to Settlement Class Members, Individual PAGA Payments to PAGA Employees,
25 LWDA Payment to the LWDA, Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff, Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Class
26 Counsel, and Settlement Administration Costs to itself. The Settlement Administrator shall also set
27 aside the Employer Taxes and all employee-side payroll taxes, contributions, and withholding, and
28 timely forward these to the appropriate government authorities.

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1 33. Settlement Checks. The Settlement Administrator will be responsible for undertaking
2 appropriate deductions, required tax reporting, and issuing the Individual Settlement Payments by way
3 of check to the Settlement Class Members and the Individual PAGA Payments by way of check to the
4 PAGA Employees in accordance with this Settlement Agreement. When issuing payments, the
5 Settlement Administrator may combine the Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA
6 Payment into one check if the intended recipient for both payments is one individual. Settlement Class
7 Members and PAGA Employees are not required to submit a claim to be issued an Individual
8 Settlement Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment. Each Individual Settlement Payment and
9 Individual PAGA Payment check will be valid and negotiable for one hundred and eighty (180)
10 calendar days from the date the checks are issued, and thereafter, shall be canceled. Any funds
11 associated with such canceled checks shall be distributed by the Settlement Administrator to the State
12 of California's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Settlement Class Member and/or PAGA
13 Employee. The Parties agree that this disposition results in no "unpaid residue" under California Civil
14 Procedure Code § 384, as the entire Net Settlement Amount will be paid out to Settlement Class
15 Members, whether or not they cash their settlement checks. Therefore, Defendant will not be required
16 to pay any interest on such amounts. The Settlement Administrator shall undertake amended and/or
17 supplemental tax filings and reporting required under applicable local, state, and federal tax laws that
18 are necessitated due to the cancelation of any Individual Settlement Payment and/or Individual PAGA
19 Payment checks. Settlement Class Members whose Individual Settlement Payment checks are
20 canceled shall, nevertheless, be bound by the Class Settlement, and PAGA Employees whose
21 Individual PAGA Payment checks are cancelled shall, nevertheless, be bound by the PAGA
22 Settlement.

23 34. Class Settlement Release. Upon the full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount,
24 Plaintiff and all Settlement Class Members will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released,
25 settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties of all Released Class Claims.

26 35. PAGA Settlement Release. Upon the full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount,
27 Plaintiff, the State of California with respect to all PAGA Employees, and all PAGA Employees will
28 be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and

1 discharged the Released Parties of all Released PAGA Claims.

2 36. Plaintiff's General Release. Upon the full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount,
3 Plaintiff, individually and on his own behalf, will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever
4 released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties from any and all
5 claims, debts, liabilities, demands, obligations, guarantees, costs, expenses, attorneys' fees, damages,
6 or causes of action of any kind or nature whatsoever, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected,
7 asserted or unasserted, which Plaintiff, at any time of execution of this Settlement Agreement, had or
8 claimed to have or may have, including but not limited to any and all claims arising out of, relating to,
9 or resulting from his employment and/or separation of employment with the Released Parties,
10 including any claims arising under any federal, state, or local law, statute, ordinance, rule, or regulation
11 or Executive Order relating to employment, including, but in no way limited to, any claim under Title
12 VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 1981; the Americans with Disabilities
13 Act; the Family and Medical Leave Act; the Employee Retirement Income Security Act; the California
14 Family Rights Act; the California Fair Employment and Housing Act; all claims for wages or penalties
15 under the Fair Labor Standards Act; all claims for wages or penalties under the California Labor Code;
16 Business and Professions Code sections 17200 *et seq.*; all laws relating to violation of public policy,
17 retaliation, or interference with legal rights; any and all other employment or discrimination laws;
18 whistleblower claims; any tort, fraud, or constitutional claims; and any breach of contract claims or
19 claims of promissory estoppel. It is agreed that this is a general release and is to be broadly construed
20 as a release of all claims, provided that, notwithstanding the foregoing, this Paragraph expressly does
21 not include a release of any claims that cannot be released hereunder by law. Plaintiff understands
22 and expressly agrees that this Settlement Agreement extends to claims that he has against Defendant,
23 of whatever nature and kind, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, vested or contingent, past,
24 present, or future, arising from or attributable to an incident or event, occurring in whole or in part, on
25 or before the execution of this Settlement Agreement. Any and all rights granted under any state or
26 federal law or regulation limiting the effect of this Settlement Agreement, including the provisions of
27 Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, ARE HEREBY EXPRESSLY WAIVED. Section 1542 of
28 the California Civil Code reads as follows:

1 **A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR**
2 **OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER**
3 **FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM**
4 **OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH**
5 **THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.**

6 37. Final Approval Order and Judgment. The Parties shall provide the Settlement
7 Administrator with a copy of the Final Approval Order and Judgment once it is entered by the Court,
8 and the Settlement Administrator shall post the Final Approval Order and Judgment on its website for
9 sixty (60) calendar days. No individualized notice of the Final Approval Order and Judgment to the
10 Class will be required.

11 38. Continued Jurisdiction. After entry of the judgment pursuant to the Settlement, the
12 Court will have continuing jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 3.769 of the California Rules of Court and
13 Section 664.6 of the California Code of Civil Procedure, for purposes of addressing: (a) the
14 interpretation and enforcement of the terms of the Settlement, (b) settlement administration matters,
15 and (c) such post-judgment matters as may be appropriate under court rules or as set forth in this
16 Settlement Agreement.

17 39. Effects of Termination or Rescission of Settlement. Termination or rescission of the
18 Settlement Agreement shall have the following effects:

19 a. The Settlement Agreement shall be void and shall have no force or effect, and
20 no Party shall be bound by any of its terms;

21 b. In the event the Settlement Agreement is terminated, Defendant shall have no
22 obligation to make any payments to any Party, Class Member, or attorney, except that the terminating
23 Party shall pay the Settlement Administrator for services rendered up to the date the Settlement
24 Administrator is notified that the Settlement has been terminated;

25 c. The Preliminary Approval Order, Final Approval Order and Judgment,
26 including any order certifying the Class, shall be vacated;

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1 d. The Settlement Agreement and all negotiations, statements, and proceedings
2 relating thereto shall be without prejudice to the rights of any of the Parties, all of whom shall be
3 restored to their respective positions in the Action prior to the execution of the Settlement Agreement;

4 e. Neither this Settlement Agreement, nor any ancillary documents, actions,
5 statements, or filings in furtherance of the Settlement (including all matters associated with the
6 mediation) shall be admissible or offered into evidence in the Action or any other action for any
7 purpose whatsoever; and

8 f. Any documents generated to bring the Settlement into effect, will be null and
9 void, and any order or judgment entered by the Court in furtherance of this Settlement Agreement will
10 likewise be treated as void from the beginning.

11 40. No Prior Assignments. The Parties and their counsel represent, covenant, and warrant
12 that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign,
13 transfer, or encumber to any person or entity any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause
14 of action or right herein released and discharged.

15 41. Exhibits Incorporated by Reference. The terms of this Settlement include the terms set
16 forth in any attached exhibits, which are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein.
17 Any exhibits to this Settlement Agreement are an integral part of the Settlement.

18 42. Entire Agreement. This Settlement Agreement and any attached exhibits constitute the
19 entirety of the Parties' agreement relating to the settlement and transaction completed thereby, and all
20 prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, representations, and statements, whether oral
21 or written and whether by a Party or such Party's legal counsel, are merged herein. No other prior or
22 contemporaneous written or oral agreements may be deemed binding on the Parties. The Parties
23 expressly recognize California Civil Code § 1625 and California Code of Civil Procedure § 1856(a),
24 which provide that a written agreement is to be construed according to its terms and may not be varied
25 or contradicted by extrinsic evidence, and the Parties agree that no such extrinsic oral or written
26 representations or terms will modify, vary, or contradict the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

27 43. Interim Stay of Proceedings. The Parties agree to hold in abeyance all proceedings in
28 the Action (including with respect to California Code of Civil Procedure § 583.310), except such
proceedings necessary to implement and complete this Settlement Agreement, pending the Final

1 Approval Hearing to be conducted by the Court.

2 44. Amendment or Modification. Prior to the filing of the motion for preliminary approval
3 of the Settlement, the Parties may not amend or modify any provision of this Settlement Agreement
4 except by written agreement signed by counsel for all Parties. After the filing of the motion for
5 preliminary approval of the Settlement, the Parties may not amend or modify any provision of this
6 Settlement Agreement except by written agreement signed by counsel for all the Parties and subject
7 to Court approval. A waiver or amendment of any provision of this Settlement Agreement will not
8 constitute a waiver of any other provision.

9 45. Authorization to Enter into Settlement Agreement. Counsel for all Parties warrant and
10 represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Settlement
11 Agreement and to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant
12 to this Settlement Agreement to effectuate its terms and to execute any other documents required to
13 effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement. The Parties warrant that they understand and have
14 full authority to enter into this Settlement Agreement, and further intend that this Settlement
15 Agreement will be fully enforceable and binding on all Parties, and agree that it will be admissible
16 and subject to disclosure in any proceeding to enforce its terms, notwithstanding any mediation
17 confidentiality provisions that otherwise might apply under state or federal law.

18 46. Signatories. It is agreed that because the members of the Class are so numerous, it is
19 impossible or impractical to have each Settlement Class Member or PAGA Employee execute this
20 Settlement Agreement. The Class Notice will advise all Class Members of the binding nature of the
21 Class Settlement as to the Settlement Class Members and the binding nature of the PAGA Settlement
22 as to the PAGA Employees, and the releases provided for by this Settlement Agreement shall have
23 the same force and effect as if this Settlement Agreement were executed by each Settlement Class
24 Member and PAGA Employee.

25 47. Binding on Successors and Assigns. This Settlement Agreement will be binding upon,
26 and inure to the benefit of, the successors or assigns of the Parties hereto, as previously defined.

27 48. California Law Governs. All terms of this Settlement Agreement and attached exhibits
28 hereto will be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of California.

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1 49. Execution and Counterparts. This Settlement Agreement is subject only to the
2 execution of all Parties. However, this Settlement Agreement may be executed in one or more
3 counterparts. All executed counterparts and each of them, including facsimile, electronic, and scanned
4 copies of the signature page, will be deemed to be one and the same instrument.

5 50. Acknowledgement that the Settlement is Fair and Reasonable. The Parties believe this
6 Settlement Agreement is a fair, adequate, and reasonable settlement of the Action and have arrived at
7 this Settlement after arm's length negotiations and in the context of adversarial litigation, taking into
8 account all relevant factors, present and potential. The Parties further acknowledge that they are each
9 represented by competent counsel and that they have had an opportunity to consult with their counsel
10 regarding the fairness and reasonableness of this Settlement Agreement. In addition, if necessary to
11 obtain approval of the Settlement, the Mediator may execute a declaration supporting the Settlement
12 and the reasonableness of the Settlement and the Court may, in its discretion, contact the Mediator to
13 discuss the Settlement and whether or not the Settlement is objectively fair and reasonable.

14 51. Invalidity of Any Provision. Before declaring any provision of this Settlement
15 Agreement invalid, the Court will first attempt to construe the provision as valid to the fullest extent
16 possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of this Settlement
17 Agreement valid and enforceable.

18 52. Plaintiff's Cooperation. Plaintiff agrees to sign this Settlement Agreement and, by
19 signing this Settlement Agreement, is hereby bound by the terms herein and agrees to fully cooperate
20 to implement the Settlement.

21 53. Non-Admission of Liability. The Parties enter into this Settlement Agreement to
22 resolve the dispute that has arisen between them and to avoid the burden, expense, and risk of
23 continued litigation. In entering into this Settlement Agreement, Defendant does not admit, and
24 specifically denies, it has violated any federal, state, or local law; violated any regulations or guidelines
25 promulgated pursuant to any statute or any other applicable laws, regulations, or legal requirements;
26 breached any contract; violated or breached any duty; engaged in any misrepresentation or deception;
27 or engaged in any other unlawful conduct with respect to its employees. Neither this Settlement
28 Agreement, nor any of its terms or provisions, nor any of the negotiations connected with it, shall be

1 construed as an admission or concession by Defendant of any such violations or failures to comply
2 with any applicable law. Except as necessary in a proceeding to enforce the terms of this Settlement
3 Agreement, this Settlement Agreement and its terms and provisions shall not be offered or received
4 as evidence in any action or proceeding to establish any liability or admission on the part of Defendant
5 or to establish the existence of any condition constituting a violation of, or a non-compliance with,
6 federal, state, local or other applicable law.

7 54. Captions. The captions and paragraph numbers in this Settlement Agreement are
8 inserted for the reader's convenience, and in no way define, limit, construe, or describe the scope or
9 intent of the provisions of this Settlement Agreement.

10 55. Mutual Preparation. The Parties have had a full opportunity to negotiate the terms and
11 conditions of this Settlement Agreement. Accordingly, this Settlement Agreement will not be
12 construed more strictly against one Party than another merely by virtue of the fact that it may have
13 been prepared by counsel for one of the Parties, it being recognized that, because of the arms-length
14 negotiations between the Parties, all Parties have contributed equally to the preparation of this
15 Settlement Agreement.

16 56. Representation By Counsel. The Parties acknowledge that they have been represented
17 by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Settlement Agreement, and
18 that this Settlement Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel, and
19 reviewed in full.

20 57. Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant,
21 and Defendant's Counsel separately agree that, until the motion for preliminary approval of the
22 Settlement is filed, they and each of them will not disclose, disseminate, and/or publicize, or cause or
23 permit another person to disclose, disseminate, and/or publicize, any of the terms of this Agreement
24 directly or indirectly, specifically or generally, to any person, corporation, association, government
25 agency, or other entity except: (1) to the Parties' attorneys, accountants, or spouses, all of whom will
26 be instructed to keep this Agreement confidential; (2) counsel in a related matter; (3) to the extent
27 necessary to report income to appropriate taxing authorities; (4) in response to a court order or
28 subpoena; or (5) in response to an inquiry or subpoena issued by a state or federal government agency.

Each Party agrees to immediately notify each other Party of any judicial or agency order, inquiry, or subpoena seeking such information. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant, and Defendant's Counsel separately agree not to, directly or indirectly, initiate any conversation or other communication, before the filing of the motion for preliminary approval of the Settlement, any with third party regarding this Agreement or the matters giving rise to this Agreement except to respond only that "the matter was resolved," or words to that effect. This Paragraph does not restrict Class Counsel's communications with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

58. Use and Return of Class List. Information provided to Class Counsel or the Settlement Administrator pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code Section 1152, and all copies and summaries of the Class List provided to Class Counsel by Defendant in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of court. Not later than ninety (90) calendar days after the date when the Court discharges the Settlement Administrator's obligation to provide a declaration confirming the final pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiff and the Settlement Administrator shall destroy, all paper and electronic versions of the Class List received from Defendant unless, prior to the Court's discharge of the Settlement Administrator's obligation, Defendant makes a written request to Class Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of the Class List.

59. All Terms Subject to Final Court Approval. All amounts and procedures described in this Settlement Agreement herein will be subject to final Court approval.

60. Notices. All notices, demands, and other communications to be provided concerning the Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by First Class U.S. Mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff and Class Counsel:
Jonathan M. Genish
jgenish@blackstonepc.com
Miriam L. Schimmel
mschimmel@blackstonepc.com
Joana Fang
jfang@blackstonepc.com

Alexandra Rose
arose@blackstonepc.com
Jared Osborne
josborne@blackstonepc.com
BLACKSTONE LAW, APC
8383 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 745
Beverly Hills, California 90211
Tel: (310) 622-4278 / Fax: (855) 786-6356

To Defendant:
Brigham M. Cheney
bcheney@aalrr.com
Christopher M. Francis
christopher.francis@aalrr.com
ATKINSON, ANDELSON, LOYA, RUDD & ROMO
20 Pacifica, Suite 1100
Irvine, California 92618
Tel: (949) 453-4298 / Fax: (949) 453-4262

61. Cooperation and Execution of Necessary Documents. All Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other in good faith and use their best efforts to implement the Settlement, including and not limited to, executing all documents to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement Agreement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement, the Parties may seek the assistance of the Mediator and then the Court to resolve such disagreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto knowingly and voluntarily executed this First Amended Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement between Plaintiff and Defendant:
IT IS SO AGREED.

PLAINTIFF AARON COFFEY

Dated: February 14, 2025



Plaintiff Aaron Coffey

**DEFENDANT CATALINA CHANNEL
EXPRESS, INC.**

Dated: _____

Full Name: _____

Title: _____
On behalf of Defendant Catalina Channel
Express, Inc.

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

BLACKSTONE LAW, APC



Dated: February 14, 2025

Jonathan M. Genish
Attorneys for Plaintiff Aaron Coffey
and Proposed Class Counsel

**ATKINSON, ANDELSON, LOYA, RUDD &
ROMO**

Dated: _____

Brigham M. Cheney
Christopher M. Francis
Attorneys for Defendant Catalina Channel
Express, Inc.

Alexandra Rose
arose@blackstonepc.com
Jared Osborne
josborne@blackstonepc.com
BLACKSTONE LAW, APC
8383 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 745
Beverly Hills, California 90211
Tel: (310) 622-4278 / Fax: (855) 786-6356

To Defendant:
Brigham M. Cheney
bcheney@aalrr.com
Christopher M. Francis
christopher.francis@aalrr.com
ATKINSON, ANDELSON, LOYA, RUDD & ROMO
20 Pacifica, Suite 1100
Irvine, California 92618
Tel: (949) 453-4298 / Fax: (949) 453-4262

61. Cooperation and Execution of Necessary Documents. All Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other in good faith and use their best efforts to implement the Settlement, including and not limited to, executing all documents to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement Agreement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement, the Parties may seek the assistance of the Mediator and then the Court to resolve such disagreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto knowingly and voluntarily executed this First Amended Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement between Plaintiff and Defendant:

IT IS SO AGREED.

PLAINTIFF AARON COFFEY

Dated: _____

Plaintiff Aaron Coffey

**DEFENDANT CATALINA CHANNEL
EXPRESS, INC.**

Dated: 02.13.2025



Full Name: Greg Bombard
Title: President
On behalf of Defendant Catalina Channel
Express, Inc.

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

BLACKSTONE LAW, APC

Dated: _____

Jonathan M. Genish
*Attorneys for Plaintiff Aaron Coffey
and Proposed Class Counsel*

ATKINSON, ANDELSON, LOYA, RUDD &
ROMO

Dated: 02/13/2025


Brigham M. Cheney
Christopher M. Francis
*Attorneys for Defendant Catalina Channel
Express, Inc.*

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Aaron Coffey v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc. **Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles, Case No. 21STCV41396**

PLEASE READ THIS CLASS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

You have received this Class Notice because Defendant's records indicate that you may be eligible to take part in the class action settlement reached in the above-referenced case.

You do not need to take any action to receive a settlement payment.

This Class Notice is designed to advise you of your rights and options with respect to the settlement, and how you can request to be excluded from the Class Settlement, object to the Class Settlement, and/or dispute the number of Workweeks and/or PAGA Workweeks that you are credited with, if you so choose.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT: A class and representative action settlement has been reached between Plaintiff Aaron Coffey ("Plaintiff") and Defendant Catalina Channel Express, Inc. ("Defendant") (Plaintiff and Defendant are collectively referred to as the "Parties") in the case entitled *Aaron Coffey v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 21STCV41396 ("Action"), which may affect your legal rights. On [date of Preliminary Approval], the Court granted preliminary approval of the settlement and scheduled a hearing on [hearing date] at [hearing time] ("Final Approval Hearing") to determine whether or not the Court should grant final approval of the settlement.

I. IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

"Class" or "Class Member(s)" means all current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant within the State of California at any time during the Class Period.

"Class Period" means the period from November 10, 2017 through November 7, 2021.

"Class Settlement" means the settlement and resolution of all Released Class Claims.

"PAGA Employee(s)" means all current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant within the State of California at any time during the PAGA Period.

"PAGA Period" the period from November 8, 2020 through December 3, 2023.

"PAGA Settlement" means the settlement and resolution of all Released PAGA Claims.

II. BACKGROUND OF THE ACTION

On November 8, 2021, Plaintiff provided written notice to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and Defendant of the specific provisions of the California Labor Code that Plaintiff contends were violated ("PAGA Letter"). On November 10, 2021, Plaintiff commenced a putative class action lawsuit by filing a Class Action Complaint in the Action. On March 29, 2022, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Class Action and Representative Action Complaint ("Operative Complaint"), which added a cause of action under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 pursuant to California Labor Code Section 2698, *et seq.* ("PAGA").

Plaintiff contends that Defendant failed to properly pay minimum and overtime wages, provide compliant meal and rest breaks and associated premiums, timely pay wages during employment and upon termination and associated waiting-time penalties, provide accurate wage statements, and reimburse business expenses, and thereby engaged in unfair business practices in violation of the California Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*, and conduct that gives rise to penalties under PAGA. Plaintiff seeks, among other things, recovery of unpaid wages and meal and rest period premiums, unreimbursed business expenses, restitution, penalties, interest, and attorneys' fees and costs.

Defendant denies all of the allegations in the Action and denies that it violated any law.

The Parties participated in mediation with a respected class action mediator, and as a result, the Parties reached a mutual

settlement. The Parties have since entered into a First Amended Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement (“Settlement” or “Settlement Agreement”).

On [Date of Preliminary Approval], the Court entered an order preliminarily approving the Settlement. The Court has appointed CPT Group, Inc. as the administrator of the Settlement (“Settlement Administrator”), Plaintiff Aaron Coffey as representative of the Class (“Class Representative”), and the following Plaintiff’s attorneys as counsel for the Class (“Class Counsel”):

Jonathan M. Genish
Miriam L. Schimmel
Joana Fang
Alexandra Rose
Jared Osborne
Blackstone Law, APC
8383 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 745
Beverly Hills, California 90211
Tel: (310) 622-4278 / Fax: (855) 786-6356

If you are a Class Member, you need not take any action to receive an Individual Settlement Payment, but you have the opportunity to request exclusion from the Class Settlement (in which case you will not receive an Individual Settlement Payment), object to the Class Settlement, and/or dispute the Workweeks and/or PAGA Workweeks credited to you, if you so choose, as explained more fully in Sections III and IV below. If you are a PAGA Employee, you do not need to take any action to receive an Individual PAGA Payment; you will not have the opportunity to object or seek exclusion from the PAGA Settlement and all PAGA Employees will be bound to the PAGA Settlement if the Court grants final approval of the Settlement.

The Settlement represents a compromise and mutual settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in the Settlement is intended or will be construed as an admission by Defendant that the claims in the Action have merit or that Defendant has any liability to Plaintiff, Class Members, or PAGA Employees. Plaintiff and Defendant, and their respective counsel, have concluded and agree that, in light of the risks and uncertainties to each side of continued litigation, the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in the best interests of the Class Members, the State of California, and PAGA Employees.

III. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

A. Settlement Formula

The total gross settlement amount is One Million Dollars and Zero Cents (\$1,000,000.00) (the “Gross Settlement Amount”). The portion of the Gross Settlement Amount that is available for payment to Class Members is referred to as the “Net Settlement Amount.” The Net Settlement Amount will be the Gross Settlement Amount less the following payments which are subject to approval by the Court: (1) attorneys’ fees, in an amount not to exceed one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$333,333.33), and reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses, in an amount not to exceed Thirty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$30,000.00) to Class Counsel; (2) Enhancement Payment in an amount not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$5,000.00) to Plaintiff for his services in the Action; (3) the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$100,000.00) allocated toward civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA Amount”), of which the LWDA will be paid 75% (75,000.00) (“LWDA Payment”) and the remaining 25% (\$25,000.00) will be distributed to PAGA Employees (“PAGA Employee Amount”); and (4) Settlement Administration Costs in an amount not to exceed Thirteen Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$13,000.00) to the Settlement Administrator.

Class Members are eligible to receive payment under the Class Settlement of their *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Amount (“Individual Settlement Share”) based on the number of weeks each Class Member worked for Defendant as a non-exempt employee in California during the Class Period (“Workweeks”). In order to be counted as a Workweek, the Class Member must have worked at least one day in that week. Excluded are weeks covered by any previous individual settlement agreements and the settlement agreement in the case entitled *Andres Gonzalez v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC707664.

The Settlement Administrator has divided the Net Settlement Amount by the Workweeks of all Class Members to yield the

“Estimated Workweek Value,” and multiplied each Class Member’s individual Workweeks by the Estimated Workweek Value to yield an estimated Individual Settlement Share that each Class Member may be entitled to receive under the Class Settlement (which is listed in Section III.C below). Class Members who do not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion (“Settlement Class Members”) will be issued their final Individual Settlement Payment.

Each Individual Settlement Share will be allocated as twenty percent (20%) as wages, which will be reported on an IRS Form W-2, and eighty percent (80%) as penalties, interest, and non-wage damages, which will be reported on an IRS Form 1099 (if applicable). Each Individual Settlement Share will be subject to reduction for the employee’s share of payroll taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Shares resulting in a net payment to the Settlement Class Member (“Individual Settlement Payment”). The employer’s share of taxes and contributions in connection with the wages portion of Individual Settlement Shares (“Employer Taxes”) will be paid by Defendant separately and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount.

PAGA Employees are eligible to receive payment under the PAGA Settlement of their *pro rata* share of the PAGA Employee Amount (“Individual PAGA Payment”) based on the number of weeks each PAGA Employee worked for Defendant as a non-exempt employee in California during the PAGA Period (“PAGA Workweeks”). In order to be counted as a PAGA Workweek, the PAGA Employee must have worked at least one day in that week. Excluded are weeks covered by any previous individual settlement agreements and the settlement agreement in the case entitled *Andres Gonzalez v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC707664.

The Settlement Administrator had divided the PAGA Employee Amount, i.e., 25% of the PAGA Amount, by the PAGA Workweeks of all PAGA Employees to yield the “PAGA Workweek Value,” and multiplied each PAGA Employee’s individual PAGA Workweeks by the PAGA Workweek Value to yield each PAGA Employee’s Individual PAGA Payment.

Each Individual PAGA Payment will be allocated as one hundred percent (100%) penalties, will not be subject to taxes or withholdings, and will be reported on IRS Form 1099 (if applicable).

If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, Individual Settlement Payments will be mailed to Settlement Class Members and Individual PAGA Payments will be mailed to PAGA Employees at the address that is on file with the Settlement Administrator. **If the address to which this Class Notice was mailed is not correct, or if you move after you receive this Class Notice, you must provide your correct mailing address to the Settlement Administrator as soon as possible to ensure you receive any payment that you may be entitled to under the Settlement.**

B. Your Workweeks and PAGA Workweeks (if applicable) Based on Defendant’s Records

According to Defendant’s records:

- **From November 10, 2017 through November 7, 2021 (i.e., the Class Period), you are credited as having worked [REDACTED] Workweeks.**
- **From November 8, 2020 through December 3, 2023 (i.e., the PAGA Period), you are credited as having worked [REDACTED] PAGA Workweeks.**

If you wish to dispute the Workweeks and/or PAGA Workweeks credited to you, you must submit your dispute in writing to the Settlement Administrator (“Workweeks Dispute”). The Workweeks Dispute must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action (*Coffey v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Case No. 21STCV41396); (b) contain your full name, signature, address, telephone number, and the last four (4) digits of your Social Security number; (c) clearly state that you dispute the number of Workweeks and/or PAGA Workweeks credited to you and what you contend is the correct number; and (d) be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address listed in Section IV.B below, postmarked **on or before [Response Deadline]**.

C. Your Estimated Individual Settlement Share and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable)

As explained above, your estimated Individual Settlement Share and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable) is based on the number of Workweeks and PAGA Workweeks (if applicable) credited to you.

**Under the terms of the Settlement, your Individual Settlement Share is estimated to be \$ [REDACTED].
The Individual Settlement Share is subject to reduction for the employee’s share of taxes and**

withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Share and will only be distributed if the Court approves the Settlement and after the Settlement goes into effect.

Under the terms of the Settlement, your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$ [REDACTED] and will only be distributed if the Court approves the Settlement and after the Settlement goes into effect.

The settlement approval process may take multiple months. Your Individual Settlement Share and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable) reflected in this Class Notice is only an estimate. Your actual Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable) may be higher or lower.

D. Release of Claims

Upon the full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff and all Settlement Class Members will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties of all Released Class Claims.

Upon the full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff, the State of California with respect to all PAGA Employees, and all PAGA Employees will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties of all Released PAGA Claims.

“Released Class Claims” means any and all claims, debts, liabilities, demands, obligations, guarantees, costs, expenses, attorneys’ fees, damages, or causes of action which were alleged or which could have been alleged based on the factual allegations in the Operative Complaint, arising during the Class Period, under any federal, state, or local law, and shall specifically include claims for Defendant’s alleged failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, provide compliant meal and rest periods and associated premium payments, timely pay wages during employment and upon termination, provide accurate wage statements, and reimburse necessary business-related expenses in violation of California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, and 2802, and any other claims which were alleged or which could have been alleged based on the factual allegations in the Operative Complaint, arising during the Class Period, for failure to properly pay wages or compensate employees under the California Labor Code or the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s), and all claims for attorneys’ fees and costs and statutory interest in connection therewith, California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*, and any other claims, including claims for statutory penalties, pertaining to the Class Members.

“Released PAGA Claims” means any and all claims arising from any of the factual allegations in the PAGA Letter, arising during the PAGA Period, for civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code Sections 2698 *et seq.*, including all claims for attorneys’ fees and costs related thereto, for Defendant’s alleged failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, provide compliant meal and rest periods and associated premium payments, timely pay wages during employment and upon termination, provide accurate wage statements, maintain complete and accurate payroll records, and reimburse necessary business-related expenses in violation of California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, and 2802, and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s), including *inter alia*, Wage Order 9-2001.

“Released Parties” means Defendant and its current and former officers, directors, members, insurers, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors, successors, and assigns.

E. Attorneys’ Fees and Costs to Class Counsel

Class Counsel will seek attorneys’ fees in an amount not to exceed one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$333,333.33 if the Gross Settlement Amount is \$1,000,000.00) and reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses in an amount not to exceed Thirty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$30,000.00) (collectively, “Attorneys’ Fees and Costs”), subject to approval by the Court. The Attorneys’ Fees and Costs granted by the Court will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. Class Counsel has been prosecuting the Action on behalf of Plaintiff, Class Members, and PAGA Employees on a contingency fee basis (that is, without being paid any money to date) and has been paying all litigation costs and expenses.

F. Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff

Plaintiff will seek the amount of Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$5,000.00) (“Enhancement Payment”), in recognition of his services in connection with the Action. The Enhancement Payment will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, subject to approval by the Court, and if awarded, it will be paid to Plaintiff in addition to his Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA Payment that he is entitled to under the Settlement.

G. Settlement Administration Costs to Settlement Administrator

Payment to the Settlement Administrator is estimated not to exceed Thirteen Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$13,000.00) (“Settlement Administration Costs”) for the costs of the notice and settlement administration process, including and not limited to, the expense of notifying the Class Members of the Settlement, processing Requests for Exclusion, Notices of Objection, and Workweeks Disputes, calculating Individual Settlement Shares, Individual Settlement Payments, and Individual PAGA Payments, and distributing payments and tax forms under the Settlement, and shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, subject to approval by the Court.

IV. WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS AS A CLASS MEMBER?

A. Participate in the Settlement

If you want to participate in the Class Settlement and receive money from the Class Settlement, you do not have to do anything. You will automatically be included in the Class Settlement and issued your Individual Settlement Payment unless you decide to exclude yourself from the Class Settlement.

Unless you elect to exclude yourself from the Class Settlement and if the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, you will be bound by the terms of the Class Settlement and any judgment that may be entered by the Court based thereon, and you will release the Released Class Claims against the Released Parties as described in Section III.D above.

If you are a PAGA Employee and the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, you will automatically be included in the PAGA Settlement and issued your Individual PAGA Payment. This means you will be bound by the terms of the PAGA Settlement and any judgment that may be entered by the Court based thereon, and you will release the Released PAGA Claims against the Released Parties as described in Section III.D above.

As a Class Member and PAGA Employee (if applicable), you will not be separately responsible for the payment of attorney’s fees or litigation costs and expenses, unless you retain your own counsel, in which event you will be responsible for your own attorney’s fees and expenses.

B. Request Exclusion from the Class Settlement

Class Members may request to be excluded from the Class Settlement by submitting a letter (“Request for Exclusion”) to the Settlement Administrator, at the following address:

[Settlement Administrator]
[Mailing Address]

A Request for Exclusion must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action (*Coffey v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Case No. 21STCV41396); (b) contain your full name, signature, address, telephone number, and last four (4) digits of your Social Security number; (c) clearly state that you do not wish to be included in the Class Settlement; and (d) be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address above, postmarked **on or before [Response Deadline]**.

If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, any Class Member who submits a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will not be issued an Individual Settlement Payment, will not be bound by the Class Settlement (and the release of Released Class Claims described in Section III.D above), and will not have any right to object to, appeal, or comment on the Class Settlement. Class Members who do not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will be deemed Settlement Class Members and will be bound by all terms of the Class Settlement, including those pertaining to the release of claims described in Section III.D above, as well as any judgment that may be entered by the Court based thereon. PAGA Employees will be bound to the PAGA Settlement (and the release of Released PAGA Claims described in Section III.D above) and will still be issued an Individual PAGA Payment, irrespective of whether they submit a Request for Exclusion.

C. Object to the Class Settlement

You can object to the Class Settlement as long as you have not submitted a Request for Exclusion by submitting a written objection (“Notice of Objection”) to the Settlement Administrator.

The Notice of Objection must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action (*Coffey v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Case No. 21STCV41396); (b) contain your full name, signature, address, telephone number, and the last four (4) digits of your Social Security number; (c) contain a written statement of all grounds for the objection accompanied by any legal support for such objection; (d) contain copies of any papers, briefs, or other documents upon which the objection is based; and (e) be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address listed in Section IV.B above, postmarked **on or before [Response Deadline]**.

The Court will hear from any Settlement Class Member who attends the Final Approval Hearing and asks to speak regarding their objection, regardless of whether they have submitted a Notice of Objection.

V. FINAL APPROVAL HEARING

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing in Department 1 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, located at Spring Street Courthouse, 312 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, on **[date]**, at **[time]**, to determine whether the Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court also will be asked to approve and grant the Attorneys’ Fees and Costs to Class Counsel, Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff, and Settlement Administration Costs to the Settlement Administrator.

The Final Approval Hearing may be continued without further notice to the Class Members and PAGA Employees. It is not necessary for you to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, although you may appear if you wish to.

You can find more information regarding appearing remotely through LA Court Connect online at: <https://www.lacourt.org/lacceligibility/ui/civil.aspx?casetype=ci>

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The above is a summary of the basic terms of the Settlement. For the precise terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement, you should review the detailed Settlement Agreement and other papers, which are on file with the Court.

You may view the Settlement Agreement and other documents filed in the Action by for a fee by making an appointment in advance and visiting the civil clerk’s office during business hours, located at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, or by online by visiting the following website: <https://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/>

You may also visit the Settlement Administrator’s website at **[redacted]** for more information and documents relating to the Settlement.

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT OR THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS SETTLEMENT.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU MAY CALL THE SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR AT THE FOLLOWING TOLL-FREE NUMBER: **[INSERT], OR YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT CLASS COUNSEL.**

EXHIBIT 2

Electronically Received 02/18/2025 12:34 PM

Jonathan M. Genish (State Bar No. 259031)
jgenish@blackstonepc.com
Miriam L. Schimmel (State Bar No. 185089)
mschimmel@blackstonepc.com
Joana Fang (State Bar No. 309623)
jfang@blackstonepc.com
Alexandra Rose (State Bar No. 329407)
arose@blackstonepc.com
Jared C. Osborne (State Bar No. 335968)
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BLACKSTONE LAW, APC
8383 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 745
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Tel: (310) 622-4278 / Fax: (855) 786-6356

Attorneys for Plaintiff Aaron Coffey

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

AARON COFFEY, individually and on behalf
of others similarly situated, and as an
aggrieved employee and Private Attorney
General,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CATALINA CHANNEL EXPRESS, INC., a
California corporation; and DOES 1 through
50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 21STCV41396

Honorable Stuart M. Rice
Department 1

**~~[REVISED PROPOSED]~~ ORDER GRANTING
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Date: February 18, 2025
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Dept.: 1

Complaint Filed: November 10, 2021
FAC Filed: March 29, 2022
Trial Date: Not Set

FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

02/18/2025

David W. Stryker, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

By: _____ A. He _____ Deputy

1 **~~[REVISED PROPOSED]~~ ORDER**

2 Plaintiff Aaron Coffey's ("Plaintiff") Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and
3 PAGA Settlement, came on for hearing before the Honorable Stuart M. Rice in Department 1 of the
4 above-captioned Court located at Spring Street Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles,
5 California 90012. Blackstone Law, APC appeared on behalf of Plaintiff and Atkinson, Andelson,
6 Loya, Rudd & Romo appeared on behalf of Defendant Catalina Channel Express, Inc. ("Defendant").

7 The Court, having carefully considered the papers, argument of counsel, and all matters
8 presented to the Court, and good cause appearing, hereby **GRANTS** Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary
9 Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement.

10 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

11 1. The Court preliminarily approves the First Amended Joint Stipulation of Class Action
12 and PAGA Settlement ("Settlement" or "Settlement Agreement") attached as Exhibit 2 to the
13 Supplemental Declaration of Jonathan M. Genish in Support of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary
14 Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement. This is based on the Court's determination that the
15 Settlement falls within the range of possible approval as fair, adequate, and reasonable.

16 2. This Order incorporates by reference the definitions in the Settlement Agreement, and
17 all capitalized terms defined therein shall have the same meaning in this Order as set forth in the
18 Settlement Agreement.

19 3. It appears to the Court on a preliminary basis that the Settlement is fair, adequate, and
20 reasonable. It appears to the Court that extensive investigation and research have been conducted such
21 that counsel for the parties at this time are able to reasonably evaluate their respective positions. It
22 further appears to the Court that the Settlement, at this time, will avoid substantial additional costs by
23 all parties, as well as avoid the delay and risks that would be presented by the further prosecution of
24 the case. It further appears that the Settlement has been reached as the result of intensive, serious, and
25 non-collusive, arms-length negotiations, and was entered into in good faith.

26 4. The Court preliminarily finds that the Settlement, including the Gross Settlement
27 Amount (\$1,000,000.00) and allocations for the attorneys' fees (\$333,333.33), attorneys' costs (not to
28 exceed \$30,000.00), Enhancement Payment (\$5,000.00), PAGA Amount (\$100,000.000), Settlement
Administration Costs (\$13,000.00), and estimated Net Settlement Amount (\$518,666.67) to the

1 Settlement Class Members provided for in the Settlement Agreement, appear to be within the range of
2 reasonableness of a settlement that could ultimately be given final approval by this Court. Indeed, the
3 Court has reviewed the monetary recovery that is being granted as part of the Settlement and
4 preliminarily finds that the monetary settlement awards made available to the Class Members and
5 PAGA Employees are fair, adequate, and reasonable when balanced against the probable outcome of
6 further litigation relating to certification, liability, and damages issues and are consistent with the
7 requirements of California Labor Code § 2699(1).

8 5. The Court concludes that, for settlement purposes only, the proposed Class meets the
9 requirements for certification under section 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure in that: (a)
10 the Class is ascertainable and so numerous that joinder of all members of the Class is impracticable;
11 (b) common questions of law and fact predominate, and there is a well-defined community of interest
12 amongst the members of the Class with respect to the subject matter of the litigation; (c) Plaintiff's
13 claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class; (d) Plaintiff will fairly and adequately
14 protect the interests of the members of the Class; (e) a class action is superior to other available
15 methods for the efficient adjudication of the controversy; and (f) Class Counsel is qualified to act as
16 counsel for Plaintiff in his individual capacity and as the representative of the Class.

17 6. The Court conditionally certifies, for settlement purposes only, the Class, defined as
18 follows:

19 All current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant within
20 the State of California at any time during the Class Period.

21 (The Class Period is defined as the period from November 10, 2017 through
22 November 7, 2021)

23 7. The Court provisionally appoints Jonathan M. Genish, Miriam L. Schimmel, Joana
24 Fang, Alexandra Rose, and Jared C. Osborne of Blackstone Law, APC as counsel for the Class ("Class
25 Counsel").

26 8. The Court provisionally appoints Plaintiff Aaron Coffey as the representative of the
27 Class ("Class Representative").

28 9. The Court provisionally appoints CPT Group, Inc. to handle the administration of the
Settlement ("Settlement Administrator").

1 10. Within fourteen (14) calendar days after entry of this Order, Defendant will provide the
2 Settlement Administrator with the following information about each Class Member and PAGA
3 Employee: full name, last known mailing address, Social Security number, dates worked for
4 Defendant during the Class Period and PAGA Period, and such other information as is necessary for
5 the Settlement Administrator to calculate Workweeks and PAGA Workweeks (collectively referred to
6 as the “Class List”) in conformity with the Settlement Agreement.

7 11. The Court approves, both as to form and content, the Notice of Class Action Settlement
8 (“Class Notice”) attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**. The Class Notice shall be provided to Class Members
9 and PAGA Employees in the manner set forth in the Settlement Agreement. The Court finds that the
10 Class Notice appears to fully and accurately inform the Class Members and PAGA Employees of all
11 material elements of the Settlement, of Class Members’ right to be excluded from the Class Settlement
12 by submitting a Request for Exclusion, of Class Members and PAGA Employees’ right to dispute the
13 Workweeks and/or PAGA Workweeks credited to each of them by submitting a Workweeks Dispute,
14 and of each Settlement Class Member’s right and opportunity to object to the Class Settlement by
15 submitting a Notice of Objection to the Settlement Administrator. The Court further finds that
16 distribution of the Class Notice substantially in the manner and form set forth in the Settlement
17 Agreement and this Order, and that all other dates set forth in the Settlement Agreement and this Order,
18 meet the requirements of due process and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons
19 entitled thereto. The Court further orders the Settlement Administrator to mail the Class Notice in
20 English and Spanish by First-Class U.S. Mail to all Class Members and PAGA Employees within
21 seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the Class List, pursuant to the terms set forth in the Settlement
22 Agreement.

23 12. The Court hereby preliminarily approves the proposed procedure, set forth in the
24 Settlement Agreement, for seeking exclusion from the Class Settlement. Any Class Member may
25 choose to be excluded from the Class Settlement by submitting Request for Exclusion in conformity
26 with the requirements set forth in the Class Notice, to the Settlement Administrator, postmarked on or
27 before the date that is forty-five (45) calendar days from the initial mailing of the Class Notice by the
28 Settlement Administrator to Class Members (“Response Deadline”), or, in the case of a re-mailed

1 Class Notice, the Response Deadline shall be extended fifteen (15) calendar days from the original
2 Response Deadline. Any such person who timely and validly chooses to opt out of, and be excluded
3 from, the Class Settlement will not be entitled to any recovery under the Class Settlement and will not
4 be bound by the Class Settlement or have any right to object, appeal, or comment thereon.
5 Nevertheless, all PAGA Employees will be bound by the PAGA Settlement and issued their Individual
6 PAGA Payment, irrespective of whether they submit a Request for Exclusion. Class Members who
7 do not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion (i.e., Settlement Class Members) shall be
8 bound by the Settlement Agreement and any final judgment based thereon.

9 13. A Final Approval Hearing shall be held before this Court on
10 June 13, 2025 at 10:30 a.m./~~p.m.~~ in Department 1 of the Los Angeles
11 County Superior Court, located at Spring Street Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles,
12 California 90012, to determine all necessary matters concerning the Settlement, including: whether
13 the proposed settlement of the action on the terms and conditions provided for in the Settlement is fair,
14 adequate, and reasonable and should be finally approved by the Court; whether a judgment, as
15 provided in the Settlement, should be entered herein; whether the plan of allocation contained in the
16 Settlement should be approved as fair, adequate, and reasonable to the Class Members and PAGA
17 Employees; and determine whether to approve the requests for the Attorneys' Fees and Costs,
18 Enhancement Payment, Settlement Administration Costs, and allocation for the PAGA Amount.

19 14. Class Counsel shall file a motion for final approval of the Settlement and for Attorneys'
20 Fees and Costs, Enhancement Payment, and Settlement Administration Costs, along with the
21 appropriate declarations and supporting evidence, including the Settlement Administrator's
22 declaration, by sixteen (16) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, to be heard at the Final
23 Approval Hearing.

24 15. To object to the Class Settlement, a Settlement Class Member must submit their Notice
25 of Objection to the Settlement Administrator on or before the Response Deadline. The Notice of
26 Objection must be signed and must contain the information that is required, as set forth in the Class
27 Notice, including and not limited to the grounds for the objection. Settlement Class Members,
28 individually or through counsel, may also present their objection orally at the Final Approval Hearing,

1 regardless of whether they have submitted a Notice of Objection.

2 16. In the event the Settlement does not become effective in accordance with the terms of
3 the Settlement Agreement, or the Settlement is not finally approved, or is terminated, canceled, or fails
4 to become effective for any reason, this Order shall be rendered null and void, shall be vacated, and
5 the parties shall revert back to their respective positions as of before entering into the Settlement
6 Agreement. The fact that the Court certified the Class for settlement purposes shall not be admissible
7 or have any bearing on the issue of whether any class should be certified in a non-settlement context.

8 17. The Court reserves the right to adjourn or continue the date of the Final Approval
9 Hearing and any dates provided for in the Settlement Agreement without further notice to the Class
10 Members and retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with
11 the Settlement.

12 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

13 Dated: February 18, 2025



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart M. Rice".

Stuart M. Rice / Judge

The Honorable Stuart M. Rice
Judge of the Superior Court

EXHIBIT 1

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Aaron Coffey v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc. **Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles, Case No. 21STCV41396**

PLEASE READ THIS CLASS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

You have received this Class Notice because Defendant's records indicate that you may be eligible to take part in the class action settlement reached in the above-referenced case.

You do not need to take any action to receive a settlement payment.

This Class Notice is designed to advise you of your rights and options with respect to the settlement, and how you can request to be excluded from the Class Settlement, object to the Class Settlement, and/or dispute the number of Workweeks and/or PAGA Workweeks that you are credited with, if you so choose.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT: A class and representative action settlement has been reached between Plaintiff Aaron Coffey ("Plaintiff") and Defendant Catalina Channel Express, Inc. ("Defendant") (Plaintiff and Defendant are collectively referred to as the "Parties") in the case entitled *Aaron Coffey v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 21STCV41396 ("Action"), which may affect your legal rights. On [date of Preliminary Approval], the Court granted preliminary approval of the settlement and scheduled a hearing on [hearing date] at [hearing time] ("Final Approval Hearing") to determine whether or not the Court should grant final approval of the settlement.

I. IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

"Class" or "Class Member(s)" means all current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant within the State of California at any time during the Class Period.

"Class Period" means the period from November 10, 2017 through November 7, 2021.

"Class Settlement" means the settlement and resolution of all Released Class Claims.

"PAGA Employee(s)" means all current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant within the State of California at any time during the PAGA Period.

"PAGA Period" the period from November 8, 2020 through December 3, 2023.

"PAGA Settlement" means the settlement and resolution of all Released PAGA Claims.

II. BACKGROUND OF THE ACTION

On November 8, 2021, Plaintiff provided written notice to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and Defendant of the specific provisions of the California Labor Code that Plaintiff contends were violated ("PAGA Letter"). On November 10, 2021, Plaintiff commenced a putative class action lawsuit by filing a Class Action Complaint in the Action. On March 29, 2022, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Class Action and Representative Action Complaint ("Operative Complaint"), which added a cause of action under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 pursuant to California Labor Code Section 2698, *et seq.* ("PAGA").

Plaintiff contends that Defendant failed to properly pay minimum and overtime wages, provide compliant meal and rest breaks and associated premiums, timely pay wages during employment and upon termination and associated waiting-time penalties, provide accurate wage statements, and reimburse business expenses, and thereby engaged in unfair business practices in violation of the California Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*, and conduct that gives rise to penalties under PAGA. Plaintiff seeks, among other things, recovery of unpaid wages and meal and rest period premiums, unreimbursed business expenses, restitution, penalties, interest, and attorneys' fees and costs.

Defendant denies all of the allegations in the Action and denies that it violated any law.

The Parties participated in mediation with a respected class action mediator, and as a result, the Parties reached a mutual

settlement. The Parties have since entered into a First Amended Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement (“Settlement” or “Settlement Agreement”).

On [Date of Preliminary Approval], the Court entered an order preliminarily approving the Settlement. The Court has appointed CPT Group, Inc. as the administrator of the Settlement (“Settlement Administrator”), Plaintiff Aaron Coffey as representative of the Class (“Class Representative”), and the following Plaintiff’s attorneys as counsel for the Class (“Class Counsel”):

Jonathan M. Genish
Miriam L. Schimmel
Joana Fang
Alexandra Rose
Jared Osborne
Blackstone Law, APC
8383 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 745
Beverly Hills, California 90211
Tel: (310) 622-4278 / Fax: (855) 786-6356

If you are a Class Member, you need not take any action to receive an Individual Settlement Payment, but you have the opportunity to request exclusion from the Class Settlement (in which case you will not receive an Individual Settlement Payment), object to the Class Settlement, and/or dispute the Workweeks and/or PAGA Workweeks credited to you, if you so choose, as explained more fully in Sections III and IV below. If you are a PAGA Employee, you do not need to take any action to receive an Individual PAGA Payment; you will not have the opportunity to object or seek exclusion from the PAGA Settlement and all PAGA Employees will be bound to the PAGA Settlement if the Court grants final approval of the Settlement.

The Settlement represents a compromise and mutual settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in the Settlement is intended or will be construed as an admission by Defendant that the claims in the Action have merit or that Defendant has any liability to Plaintiff, Class Members, or PAGA Employees. Plaintiff and Defendant, and their respective counsel, have concluded and agree that, in light of the risks and uncertainties to each side of continued litigation, the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in the best interests of the Class Members, the State of California, and PAGA Employees.

III. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

A. Settlement Formula

The total gross settlement amount is One Million Dollars and Zero Cents (\$1,000,000.00) (the “Gross Settlement Amount”). The portion of the Gross Settlement Amount that is available for payment to Class Members is referred to as the “Net Settlement Amount.” The Net Settlement Amount will be the Gross Settlement Amount less the following payments which are subject to approval by the Court: (1) attorneys’ fees, in an amount not to exceed one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$333,333.33), and reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses, in an amount not to exceed Thirty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$30,000.00) to Class Counsel; (2) Enhancement Payment in an amount not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$5,000.00) to Plaintiff for his services in the Action; (3) the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$100,000.00) allocated toward civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA Amount”), of which the LWDA will be paid 75% (75,000.00) (“LWDA Payment”) and the remaining 25% (\$25,000.00) will be distributed to PAGA Employees (“PAGA Employee Amount”); and (4) Settlement Administration Costs in an amount not to exceed Thirteen Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$13,000.00) to the Settlement Administrator.

Class Members are eligible to receive payment under the Class Settlement of their *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Amount (“Individual Settlement Share”) based on the number of weeks each Class Member worked for Defendant as a non-exempt employee in California during the Class Period (“Workweeks”). In order to be counted as a Workweek, the Class Member must have worked at least one day in that week. Excluded are weeks covered by any previous individual settlement agreements and the settlement agreement in the case entitled *Andres Gonzalez v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC707664.

The Settlement Administrator has divided the Net Settlement Amount by the Workweeks of all Class Members to yield the

“Estimated Workweek Value,” and multiplied each Class Member’s individual Workweeks by the Estimated Workweek Value to yield an estimated Individual Settlement Share that each Class Member may be entitled to receive under the Class Settlement (which is listed in Section III.C below). Class Members who do not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion (“Settlement Class Members”) will be issued their final Individual Settlement Payment.

Each Individual Settlement Share will be allocated as twenty percent (20%) as wages, which will be reported on an IRS Form W-2, and eighty percent (80%) as penalties, interest, and non-wage damages, which will be reported on an IRS Form 1099 (if applicable). Each Individual Settlement Share will be subject to reduction for the employee’s share of payroll taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Shares resulting in a net payment to the Settlement Class Member (“Individual Settlement Payment”). The employer’s share of taxes and contributions in connection with the wages portion of Individual Settlement Shares (“Employer Taxes”) will be paid by Defendant separately and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount.

PAGA Employees are eligible to receive payment under the PAGA Settlement of their *pro rata* share of the PAGA Employee Amount (“Individual PAGA Payment”) based on the number of weeks each PAGA Employee worked for Defendant as a non-exempt employee in California during the PAGA Period (“PAGA Workweeks”). In order to be counted as a PAGA Workweek, the PAGA Employee must have worked at least one day in that week. Excluded are weeks covered by any previous individual settlement agreements and the settlement agreement in the case entitled *Andres Gonzalez v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC707664.

The Settlement Administrator had divided the PAGA Employee Amount, i.e., 25% of the PAGA Amount, by the PAGA Workweeks of all PAGA Employees to yield the “PAGA Workweek Value,” and multiplied each PAGA Employee’s individual PAGA Workweeks by the PAGA Workweek Value to yield each PAGA Employee’s Individual PAGA Payment.

Each Individual PAGA Payment will be allocated as one hundred percent (100%) penalties, will not be subject to taxes or withholdings, and will be reported on IRS Form 1099 (if applicable).

If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, Individual Settlement Payments will be mailed to Settlement Class Members and Individual PAGA Payments will be mailed to PAGA Employees at the address that is on file with the Settlement Administrator. **If the address to which this Class Notice was mailed is not correct, or if you move after you receive this Class Notice, you must provide your correct mailing address to the Settlement Administrator as soon as possible to ensure you receive any payment that you may be entitled to under the Settlement.**

B. Your Workweeks and PAGA Workweeks (if applicable) Based on Defendant’s Records

According to Defendant’s records:

- **From November 10, 2017 through November 7, 2021 (i.e., the Class Period), you are credited as having worked [REDACTED] Workweeks.**
- **From November 8, 2020 through December 3, 2023 (i.e., the PAGA Period), you are credited as having worked [REDACTED] PAGA Workweeks.**

If you wish to dispute the Workweeks and/or PAGA Workweeks credited to you, you must submit your dispute in writing to the Settlement Administrator (“Workweeks Dispute”). The Workweeks Dispute must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action (*Coffey v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Case No. 21STCV41396); (b) contain your full name, signature, address, telephone number, and the last four (4) digits of your Social Security number; (c) clearly state that you dispute the number of Workweeks and/or PAGA Workweeks credited to you and what you contend is the correct number; and (d) be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address listed in Section IV.B below, postmarked **on or before [Response Deadline]**.

C. Your Estimated Individual Settlement Share and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable)

As explained above, your estimated Individual Settlement Share and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable) is based on the number of Workweeks and PAGA Workweeks (if applicable) credited to you.

**Under the terms of the Settlement, your Individual Settlement Share is estimated to be \$ [REDACTED].
The Individual Settlement Share is subject to reduction for the employee’s share of taxes and**

withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Share and will only be distributed if the Court approves the Settlement and after the Settlement goes into effect.

Under the terms of the Settlement, your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$ [REDACTED] and will only be distributed if the Court approves the Settlement and after the Settlement goes into effect.

The settlement approval process may take multiple months. Your Individual Settlement Share and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable) reflected in this Class Notice is only an estimate. Your actual Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable) may be higher or lower.

D. Release of Claims

Upon the full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff and all Settlement Class Members will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties of all Released Class Claims.

Upon the full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff, the State of California with respect to all PAGA Employees, and all PAGA Employees will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties of all Released PAGA Claims.

“Released Class Claims” means any and all claims, debts, liabilities, demands, obligations, guarantees, costs, expenses, attorneys’ fees, damages, or causes of action which were alleged or which could have been alleged based on the factual allegations in the Operative Complaint, arising during the Class Period, under any federal, state, or local law, and shall specifically include claims for Defendant’s alleged failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, provide compliant meal and rest periods and associated premium payments, timely pay wages during employment and upon termination, provide accurate wage statements, and reimburse necessary business-related expenses in violation of California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, and 2802, and any other claims which were alleged or which could have been alleged based on the factual allegations in the Operative Complaint, arising during the Class Period, for failure to properly pay wages or compensate employees under the California Labor Code or the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s), and all claims for attorneys’ fees and costs and statutory interest in connection therewith, California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*, and any other claims, including claims for statutory penalties, pertaining to the Class Members.

“Released PAGA Claims” means any and all claims arising from any of the factual allegations in the PAGA Letter, arising during the PAGA Period, for civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code Sections 2698 *et seq.*, including all claims for attorneys’ fees and costs related thereto, for Defendant’s alleged failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, provide compliant meal and rest periods and associated premium payments, timely pay wages during employment and upon termination, provide accurate wage statements, maintain complete and accurate payroll records, and reimburse necessary business-related expenses in violation of California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, and 2802, and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s), including *inter alia*, Wage Order 9-2001.

“Released Parties” means Defendant and its current and former officers, directors, members, insurers, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors, successors, and assigns.

E. Attorneys’ Fees and Costs to Class Counsel

Class Counsel will seek attorneys’ fees in an amount not to exceed one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$333,333.33 if the Gross Settlement Amount is \$1,000,000.00) and reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses in an amount not to exceed Thirty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$30,000.00) (collectively, “Attorneys’ Fees and Costs”), subject to approval by the Court. The Attorneys’ Fees and Costs granted by the Court will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. Class Counsel has been prosecuting the Action on behalf of Plaintiff, Class Members, and PAGA Employees on a contingency fee basis (that is, without being paid any money to date) and has been paying all litigation costs and expenses.

F. Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff

Plaintiff will seek the amount of Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$5,000.00) (“Enhancement Payment”), in recognition of his services in connection with the Action. The Enhancement Payment will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, subject to approval by the Court, and if awarded, it will be paid to Plaintiff in addition to his Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA Payment that he is entitled to under the Settlement.

G. Settlement Administration Costs to Settlement Administrator

Payment to the Settlement Administrator is estimated not to exceed Thirteen Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$13,000.00) (“Settlement Administration Costs”) for the costs of the notice and settlement administration process, including and not limited to, the expense of notifying the Class Members of the Settlement, processing Requests for Exclusion, Notices of Objection, and Workweeks Disputes, calculating Individual Settlement Shares, Individual Settlement Payments, and Individual PAGA Payments, and distributing payments and tax forms under the Settlement, and shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, subject to approval by the Court.

IV. WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS AS A CLASS MEMBER?

A. Participate in the Settlement

If you want to participate in the Class Settlement and receive money from the Class Settlement, you do not have to do anything. You will automatically be included in the Class Settlement and issued your Individual Settlement Payment unless you decide to exclude yourself from the Class Settlement.

Unless you elect to exclude yourself from the Class Settlement and if the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, you will be bound by the terms of the Class Settlement and any judgment that may be entered by the Court based thereon, and you will release the Released Class Claims against the Released Parties as described in Section III.D above.

If you are a PAGA Employee and the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, you will automatically be included in the PAGA Settlement and issued your Individual PAGA Payment. This means you will be bound by the terms of the PAGA Settlement and any judgment that may be entered by the Court based thereon, and you will release the Released PAGA Claims against the Released Parties as described in Section III.D above.

As a Class Member and PAGA Employee (if applicable), you will not be separately responsible for the payment of attorney’s fees or litigation costs and expenses, unless you retain your own counsel, in which event you will be responsible for your own attorney’s fees and expenses.

B. Request Exclusion from the Class Settlement

Class Members may request to be excluded from the Class Settlement by submitting a letter (“Request for Exclusion”) to the Settlement Administrator, at the following address:

[Settlement Administrator]
[Mailing Address]

A Request for Exclusion must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action (*Coffey v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Case No. 21STCV41396); (b) contain your full name, signature, address, telephone number, and last four (4) digits of your Social Security number; (c) clearly state that you do not wish to be included in the Class Settlement; and (d) be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address above, postmarked **on or before [Response Deadline]**.

If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, any Class Member who submits a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will not be issued an Individual Settlement Payment, will not be bound by the Class Settlement (and the release of Released Class Claims described in Section III.D above), and will not have any right to object to, appeal, or comment on the Class Settlement. Class Members who do not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will be deemed Settlement Class Members and will be bound by all terms of the Class Settlement, including those pertaining to the release of claims described in Section III.D above, as well as any judgment that may be entered by the Court based thereon. PAGA Employees will be bound to the PAGA Settlement (and the release of Released PAGA Claims described in Section III.D above) and will still be issued an Individual PAGA Payment, irrespective of whether they submit a Request for Exclusion.

C. Object to the Class Settlement

You can object to the Class Settlement as long as you have not submitted a Request for Exclusion by submitting a written objection (“Notice of Objection”) to the Settlement Administrator.

The Notice of Objection must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action (*Coffey v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Case No. 21STCV41396); (b) contain your full name, signature, address, telephone number, and the last four (4) digits of your Social Security number; (c) contain a written statement of all grounds for the objection accompanied by any legal support for such objection; (d) contain copies of any papers, briefs, or other documents upon which the objection is based; and (e) be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address listed in Section IV.B above, postmarked **on or before [Response Deadline]**.

The Court will hear from any Settlement Class Member who attends the Final Approval Hearing and asks to speak regarding their objection, regardless of whether they have submitted a Notice of Objection.

V. FINAL APPROVAL HEARING

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing in Department 1 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, located at Spring Street Courthouse, 312 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, on **[date]**, at **[time]**, to determine whether the Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court also will be asked to approve and grant the Attorneys’ Fees and Costs to Class Counsel, Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff, and Settlement Administration Costs to the Settlement Administrator.

The Final Approval Hearing may be continued without further notice to the Class Members and PAGA Employees. It is not necessary for you to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, although you may appear if you wish to.

You can find more information regarding appearing remotely through LA Court Connect online at: <https://www.lacourt.org/lacceligibility/ui/civil.aspx?casetype=ci>

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The above is a summary of the basic terms of the Settlement. For the precise terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement, you should review the detailed Settlement Agreement and other papers, which are on file with the Court.

You may view the Settlement Agreement and other documents filed in the Action by for a fee by making an appointment in advance and visiting the civil clerk’s office during business hours, located at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, or by online by visiting the following website: <https://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/>

You may also visit the Settlement Administrator’s website at **[REDACTED]** for more information and documents relating to the Settlement.

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT OR THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS SETTLEMENT.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU MAY CALL THE SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR AT THE FOLLOWING TOLL-FREE NUMBER: **[INSERT], OR YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT CLASS COUNSEL.**

EXHIBIT 3

- *Jose Manuel Amaro Bernal v. Joseph Holt Plastering, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 24STCV15637, approved as counsel in in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Brandon Geston v. FRTO LLC, et al.*, Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 24CECG01292, approved as counsel in in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Alfonso Herrera v. W.L. Butler Construction, Inc., et al.*, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2023-01335445-CU-OE-CXC, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Emmanuel Caldera v. Zeb's World Famous Boathouse Inc. dba Goat Hill Tavern*, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2023-01310801-CU-OE-CXC, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Jason McEntee v. Roche Molecular Systems, Inc.*, Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV041360, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Alexzander Roberts, et al. v. Lemonade Restaurant Group*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 22STCV38302, approved as counsel, in association with other counsel, in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Halla Knotts v. Launch Technical Workforce Solutions, LLC*, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVSB2332568, approved as counsel, in association with other counsel, in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Armando Gastelum v. Premier Trailer Manufacturing, Inc.*, Tulare County Superior Court, Case No. VCU300333, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Tiffany Patterson v. Black Mountain Healthcare, LLC., d/b/a Seaport Home Health & Hospice*, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2023-00037563-CU-

OE-CTL, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.

- *Angel Rodriguez v. American Textile Maintenance*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 22STCV17855, approved as counsel, in association with other counsel, in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Rita Ray v. Families Together of Orange County*, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2023-01324555-CU-OE-CXC, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Ly Hai v. Sunroad HS Auto, Inc.*, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2022-00025788-CU-OE-CTL, approved as counsel, in association with other counsel, in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Anabel Perez v. Eureka Specialties, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 22STCV35940, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Jose Luis Galicia v. Virco, Inc., et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 23STCV29425, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Rene Umana v. Columbus Technologies*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 22STCV16432, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Fernando Solis v. Tuff Shed, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 24VECV00368, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Tyler Emery v. Santa Cruz Bicycles, LLC*, Santa Cruz Superior Court, Case No. 24CV00244, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Vanessa Cortes v. Giti Tire (USA) LTD*, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case

No. CIVSB2332578, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.

- *Travis Sanford v. Santa Cruz Seaside Company*, Santa Cruz County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV01762, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Jered Ortega v. YMCA of San Diego County*, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2023-00043645-CU-OE-CTL, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Corina Martinez v. Stagnaro Bros. Seafood, Inc.*, Santa Cruz County Superior Court, Case No. 24CV00082, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Alejandra Jimenez v. ClearFreight, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 23STCV28938, approved as counsel, in association with other counsel, in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Jazzmin Cortez v. Millard Mall Services, Inc.*, Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. CVRI2104010, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Michael Bravo v. Michels Pacific Energy, Inc.*, Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 22CV403427, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Daniel Rodriguez v. Republique, LLC*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 23STCV14521, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Theresa Bendorf, et al. v. Sea World LLC, et al.*, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2021-00034922-CU-OE-CTL, approved as class counsel, in association with other counsel, in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.

- *Victor De La Cruz v. Northwest Pipe Company*, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVSB2211140, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Bobby Birdi v. Lucid USA, Inc.*, Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. 21CV003541, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Jose Trujillo, et al. v. Producers Dairy Foods, Inc.*, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2022-00313753, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *David Williams v. Rancho Nicasio, LLC*, Marin County Superior Court, Case No. CIV2203067, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Alexander Jackson v. Lifecare Assurance Company*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 23STCV26579, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Alexis Cardoza v. BHFC Operating LLC*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV34040, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Maria Ayala, et al. v. SDH Services West, LLC*, Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-21-101933, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class action.
- *Alfredo Sanchez v. Greenworld, Inc.*, Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. CVRI2105756, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Oscar Bryant v. Midwest Construction Services, Inc. dba Trillium*, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVSB2121529, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class action.

- *Matthew Savattieri v. AMI Expeditionary Healthcare, LLC, et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV33372, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Lexy Barajas, et al. v. H. W. Hunter, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 22STCV01892, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Alejandro Valdez v. C.H.I. Automart, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV40168, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Sheizan Bawa v. Meathead Movers, Inc.*, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2021-01211895-CU-OE-CXC, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Tanisha Lopez, et al. v. Restorix Health, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV33067, approved as class counsel, in association with other counsel, in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Perla Soto, et al. v. Nippon Express U.S.A., Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV24902, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Angel Garcia, et al. v. J&B Investments, Inc., et al.*, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVSB2208601, approved as class counsel, in association with other counsel, in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Sindy Aviles, et al. v. Freeway Insurance Services America, LLC*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV34864, approved as counsel, in association with other counsel, in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Alexander Gnaedig, et al. v. Favorite Healthcare Staffing, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV20904, approved as class counsel, in association

with other counsel, in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.

- *Richard Evans v. My Paint Stop, LLC, et al.*, Contra Costa County Superior Court, Case No. MSC21-01812, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Jose Luis Parada George v. Main Electric Supply Company, LLC, et al.*, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2021-01220136-CU-OE-CXC, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Samia Salazar Yunis v. Sharif Jewelers*, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2020-00290080, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Daniel Analco v. Felix Chevrolet, LP, et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV36654, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Sasha Aiono v. Benefit Cosmetics*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV33719, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.

EXHIBIT 4

Date	Type of Expense	Description of Expense	Amount
7/21/2021	Mailing	Records Request	\$6.96
11/8/2021	Filing	LWDA: PAGA Notice	\$75.00
11/8/2021	Mailing	PAGA Notice to Catalina Channel Express, Inc.	\$7.53
11/9/2021	Filing	First Legal: (Rejected)	\$32.00
11/10/2021	Filing	First Legal: Class Action Complaint & Initiating Docs	\$1,614.70
11/11/2021	Service	First Legal: Service of Class Action Complaint & Initiating Docs	\$166.10
11/17/2021	Filing	First Legal: Proof of Service of Summons	\$36.20
11/18/2021	Filing	First Legal: Notice of Posting of Jury Fees	\$201.20
11/23/2021	Filing	First Legal: Notice of ISC; Proof of Service	\$36.20
11/23/2021	Mailing	Service of Notice of ISC; Proof of Service to Catalina Channel Express	\$0.73
2/24/2022	Filing	First Legal: POS (for Notice of Entry of Order regarding Complex Case Determination)	\$37.70
3/10/2022	Other	Case Anywhere, LLC	\$123.60
3/22/2022	Filing	First Legal: Joint Status Conference Report	\$37.70
3/29/2022	Filing	First Legal: First Amended Complaint	\$37.70
6/10/2022	Filing	First Legal: Notice of Withdrawal of S. Emi Minne	\$37.70
6/13/2022	Other	Case Anywhere, LLC	\$174.00
9/14/2022	Other	Case Anywhere, LLC	\$126.00
10/29/2022	Other	CPT Group, Inc.	\$845.50
10/29/2022	Mailing	Mailing of Payment to CPT Group, Inc.	\$4.57
12/22/2022	Other	Case Anywhere, LLC	\$120.00
3/2/2023	Filing	First Legal: Stip to Continue Deadline for Filing Motion for Class Certification (Order dated 3/3/23)	\$60.75
3/6/2023	Other	Case Anywhere, LLC	\$132.00
6/7/2023	Filing	First Legal: Stip to Continue Deadline for Filing Motion for Class Certification (Order dated 6/12/23)	\$60.75
6/14/2023	Other	Case Anywhere, LLC	\$138.00
9/6/2023	Other	Case Anywhere, LLC	\$120.00
10/6/2023	Mediation	Mediation with Todd A. Smith	\$9,000.00
10/6/2023	Mailing	Mailing of Payment to Todd A. Smith	\$4.98
10/26/2023	Other	Berger Consulting Group, LLC	\$9,675.00
10/26/2023	Mailing	Mailing Payment to Berger Consulting Group, LLC	\$0.63
11/9/2023	Filing	Steno: Stip to Further Continue Motion for Class Certification	\$86.95
12/11/2023	Other	Case Anywhere, LLC	\$132.00
2/29/2024	Filing	Steno: Stip to Further Continue Motion for Class Certification	\$59.95
3/8/2024	Filing	Steno: Stip to Further Continue Motion for Class Certification (Re-filing) (signed 3/5/24)	\$59.95
3/13/2024	Other	Case Anywhere, LLC	\$126.00
6/11/2024	Other	Case Anywhere, LLC	\$120.00
7/29/2024	Filing	Steno: MPA & Supporting Documents	\$140.95
8/16/2024	Filing	Steno: Joint Stipulation to Vacate Deadline to file Motion for Class Certification	\$86.95
2/18/2025	Filing	Steno: Supplemental Genish Decl ISO MPA/POS	\$126.95
2/20/2025	Filing	Steno: Notice of Entry of Judgment or Order (MPA)	\$59.95
3/13/2025	Other	Case Anywhere, LLC	\$150.00
4/18/2025	Other	Case Anywhere, LLC	\$40.00
	Filing	Estimated Cost: MFA & Supporting Documents	\$140.95
	Filing	Estimated Cost: Notice of Entry of Judgment or Order (MFA)	\$59.95
TOTAL:			\$24,303.75