

Arby Aiwazian (SBN 269827)
Joanna Ghosh (SBN 272479)
Yasmin Hosseini (SBN 326399)
LAWYERS for JUSTICE, PC
410 West Arden Avenue, Suite 203
Glendale, California 91203
Tel: (818) 265-1020 / Fax: (818) 265-1021

Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Class

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES—SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE**

EULALIA TRINIDAD, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general public similarly situated; and MARKO ASAULYUK, individually, and on behalf of other aggrieved employees pursuant to the California Private Attorneys General Act;

Plaintiffs,

vs.

GROUNDWORK COFFEE LLC, an unknown business entity; GROUNDWORK COFFEE, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; GROUNDWORK COFFEE HOLDINGS, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; GROUNDWORK COFFEE ROASTERS, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; EDWARD COLA, individually; STEVEN LEVAN, individually; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 19STCV09758

Honorable Stuart M. Rice
Department SSC-1

CLASS ACTION

DECLARATION OF MARKO ASAULYUK IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT, CLASS COUNSEL FEES PAYMENT, CLASS COUNSEL LITIGATION EXPENSES PAYMENT, AND CLASS REPRESENTATIVES SERVICE PAYMENTS

[Notice of Motion and Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement, Class Counsel Fees and Litigation Expenses Payments, and Class Representatives Service Payments; Declaration of Class Counsel (Joanna Ghosh); Declaration of Class Representative (Eulalia Trinidad); Declaration of Settlement Administrator (Nick Castro); and [Proposed] Order filed concurrently herewith]

Date: May 24, 2024
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Department: SSC-1

Complaint Filed: March 22, 2019
FAC Filed: November 13, 2023
Trial Date: None Set

DECLARATION OF MARKO ASAULYUK

I, Marko Asaulyuk, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am over 18 years of age and a resident of California. I am one of the named plaintiffs in the above-captioned case and in *Asaulyuk v. Groundwork Coffee, LLC, et al*, Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles, Case No. 22SMCV00018 (“Asaulyuk Action”). I have personal knowledge of the facts and statements set forth in this declaration, and if called upon to testify, I could and would competently testify thereto.

2. I was employed by Groundwork Coffee LLC, Groundwork Coffee Holdings, LLC, Groundwork Coffee Roasters, LLC, Edward Cola, and Steven Levan LLC (together, “Defendants”) as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately December 2017 to approximately August 2018, approximately March 2019 to approximately November 2019, and approximately December 2020 to approximately August 2021. I decided to seek legal advice about my work experiences with Defendants and about pursuing my grievances. I contacted Lawyers *for* Justice, PC and spoke with attorneys there. I wanted to do whatever I could to make sure Defendants were held accountable for not paying their employees for all hours worked and non-compliant meal and rest breaks. After speaking with the attorneys, I investigated complex wage-and-hour lawsuits on my own and did some research into the leading class action and employment law firms in California for approximately 10 hours. Thereafter, I consulted with the attorneys at Lawyers *for* Justice, PC for 9 hours discussing my situation, complex wage-and-hour class actions and representative actions under the Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”) in general, and what it meant to be a named plaintiff and a PAGA representative.

3. I have spent over 12 hours meeting with my attorneys regarding the case and fulfilling my responsibilities as a named plaintiff and PAGA representative, which included gathering documents concerning my employment with Defendants, reviewing documents with my attorneys and answering their questions, providing guidance regarding the duties of hourly-paid and non-exempt employees, and helping develop a strategy as to what documents and information to obtain from Defendants. I routinely checked in with my attorneys and their staff to make sure that they had all of my most current information and any additional information that

1 I had obtained.

2 4. Throughout my involvement in this matter, I was available to answer any
3 questions my attorneys had, and available to speak and meet with my attorneys whenever they
4 needed me. I responded to them as quickly as possible and gave them as much information and
5 identified as many documents as I could. I spent at least 10 additional hours speaking with my
6 attorneys about the case, identifying potential witnesses, providing my attorneys with documents
7 and information concerning the case, and also describing policies, practices, and procedures of
8 Defendants.

9 5. As far as the settlement is concerned, I was available to review documents and
10 answer any questions my attorneys had. I spent about 3 hours reviewing the settlement
11 agreement and about 2 hours asking questions and discussing the potential settlement with my
12 attorneys before signing the settlement agreement.

13 6. I believe that I have done everything that my attorneys have asked of me and have
14 tried, to the best of my ability, to seek relief as a PAGA representative and for the State of
15 California. I think my efforts helped to get the result obtained in this case, and as a PAGA
16 representative, I respectfully request that the Court award me a service payment in the amount of
17 \$7,500.00 for my active participation in this matter. Taking into consideration the time that I
18 have dedicated to this matter, I believe that this amount is reasonable.

19 7. I am not related to anyone associated with Lawyers *for* Justice, PC.

20 8. I have not entered into any undisclosed agreements, nor have I received any
21 undisclosed compensation in this case. The only compensation I will receive is whatever amount
22 the Court awards as a service payment as well as my share of the settlement as an aggrieved
23 employee.

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

26 Executed this ^{10/17/2023} ____ day of October 2023, at Marina Del Rey, California

27 Electronically Signed  2023-10-17 08:40:28 UTC - 50.196.189.177
Hintex AssureSign® 0e145d9e-0e79-4a5a-8efc-b09d013e76a8

28 Marko Asauluk