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FILED
 Superior Court of California
 County of Los Angeles
 12/16/2022

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court
 By: V. Salas Deputy

Attorneys for Plaintiff

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

MATTHEW CORDOVA, individually,
 and on behalf of aggrieved employees
 pursuant to the Private Attorneys General
 Act ("PAGA");

Plaintiff,

v.

JAKKS PACIFIC, INC., a Delaware
 corporation; and DOES 1 through 100,
 inclusive;

Defendants.

Case No.: 22PSCV00149

Assigned for All Purposes to:
 Honorable Salvatore Sirna
 Department A

**AMENDED ~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER
 AND JUDGMENT GRANTING
 APPROVAL OF PRIVATE
 ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT
 (LABOR CODE §§ 2698, ET SEQ.)
 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND
 ATTORNEYS' FEES AWARD,
 LITIGATION COSTS AWARD, AND
 ENHANCEMENT AWARD**

[Reservation ID: 040058197516]

Hearing Date: November 30, 2022
 Hearing Time: 8:30 a.m.
 Hearing Place: Department A

Complaint Filed: February 15, 2022
 Trial Date: None Set

1 This matter has come before the Honorable Salvatore Sirna in Department A of the Los
2 Angeles Superior Court (Pomona Courthouse South), located at 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona,
3 California 91766, on Plaintiff Matthew Cordova's ("Plaintiff") Motion for Approval of Private
4 Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*) Settlement Agreement and Attorneys' Fees
5 Award, Litigation Costs Award, and Enhancement Award. This Court reviewed the papers
6 submitted by Plaintiff in support of approval of the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release
7 ("Settlement Agreement," "Settlement," and "Agreement") pursuant to the Private Attorneys
8 General Act of 2004, Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.* ("PAGA"). The Settlement Agreement is
9 attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**. Based upon this review, and the findings below, the Court finds good
10 cause to enter this order.

11 **FINDINGS:**

12 1. Unless otherwise specified, defined terms in this Order and Judgment have the same
13 definition as the terms in the Settlement Agreement.

14 2. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this litigation over all current
15 and former hourly-paid employees who worked at a facility owned or operated by JAKKS Pacific,
16 Inc. ("JAKKS Pacific") in California at any time from December 8, 2020 to April 29, 2022, whether
17 or not employed by JAKKS Pacific, Workforce Enterprises, Inc. ("WFE"), or another staffing
18 agency. The PAGA Group excludes individuals covered by the PAGA settlement in *Mata v.*
19 *Disguise, Inc., et al*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV47518, which received court
20 approval on March 18, 2022 ("PAGA Group," "PAGA Group Member," and "PAGA Period").
21 JAKKS Pacific and WFE are collectively known as "Defendant") The Court also has jurisdiction
22 over those persons or entities undertaking affirmative obligations under the Settlement Agreement.

23 3. On or about December 8, 2021, Plaintiff served a notice letter to the California Labor
24 and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and JAKKS Pacific, pursuant to Labor Code
25 section 2699.3, to notify the LWDA and Defendants of the alleged Labor Code violations.

26 4. On February 15, 2022, Plaintiff filed this representative PAGA action against
27 Defendants, on behalf of California, to represent himself and all PAGA Group Members.

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1 5. The Parties expressly acknowledge the Settlement Agreement is entered solely for
2 the purpose of compromising significantly disputed claims and that nothing contained therein is an
3 admission of liability or wrongdoing by Defendants.

4 6. The Court determines there is sufficient evidence to suggest the Settlement was
5 entered in good faith, the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate under the circumstances, and
6 the Parties have satisfied the standards and applicable requirements for approval of a settlement of
7 claims brought under PAGA.

8 7. The Court finds, pursuant to Labor Code sections 2699(1)(2) and (1)(4), the LWDA
9 was given timely notice of the Agreement. On July 22, 2022, Plaintiff submitted to the LWDA a
10 Notice of Settlement, attached to which was a copy of the Agreement. Plaintiff's Notice of
11 Settlement complied with the requirements of Labor Code section 2699(1)(2).

12 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

13 1. The terms of the Settlement Agreement are fair, adequate, and reasonable, and the
14 Settlement is approved under Labor Code section 2699(1)(2).

15 2. The Court affirms approval of the Settlement as to the following group of
16 individuals, collectively referred to as the "PAGA Group Members":

17 All current and former hourly-paid employees who worked at a
18 facility owned or operated by JAKKS Pacific in California at any
19 time from December 8, 2020 to April 29, 2022, whether or not
20 employed by JAKKS Pacific, WFE, or another staffing agency.
21 The PAGA Group excludes individuals covered by the PAGA
settlement in *Mata v. Disguise, Inc., et al*, Los Angeles Superior
Court Case No. 21STCV47518, which received court approval on
March 18, 2022.

22 3. The Released Claims include, but are not limited to, claims under the PAGA for
23 civil penalties for alleged violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221,
24 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800,
25 and 2802; and claims for attorneys' fees, costs, or interest resulting therefrom ("Released Claims").

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1 4. The Released Entities are Defendants, United Employment Solutions, Inc., and
2 LaborNow, Inc., and each of their respective affiliated entities, officers, directors, representatives,
3 owners, partners, subsidiaries, parent companies, joint venturers, clients, venders, members, joint
4 employers, predecessors, successors-in-interest, assigns, and current and former employees,
5 including but not limited to agents, insurers, and attorneys (“Released Entities”).

6 5. The Gross Settlement Amount of \$360,000, the PAGA Penalties Fund of
7 approximately \$185,631.64, and the methodology used to calculate and pay each Individual
8 Settlement Awards, in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, is approved under Labor Code
9 section 2699(1)(2).

10 6. The Court approves the Attorneys’ Fees Award to Plaintiff’s Counsel of \$126,000,
11 which represents thirty-five percent (35%) of the Gross Settlement Amount, Litigation Costs Award
12 to Plaintiff’s Counsel as reimbursement of documented actual litigation costs and expenses of
13 \$18,368.36, an Enhancement Award to Plaintiff of \$5,000, and Settlement Administration Costs of
14 up to \$20,000 to CPT Group, Inc. the Settlement Administrator, all payable from the Gross
15 Settlement Amount. The Court finds the amounts requested are fair and reasonable.

16 7. After deducting the above-mentioned payments, the balance of the settlement
17 amount will be \$185,631.64 (“PAGA Penalties Fund”). Under the terms of the Settlement, seventy-
18 five (75%) of the PAGA Penalties Fund (\$139,223.73) will be paid to the LWDA, and the remaining
19 twenty-five percent (25%) of the PAGA Penalties Fund (\$46,407.91) will be paid to the PAGA
20 Group Members, on a pro rata basis, as their Individual Settlement Awards.

21 8. The Court authorizes the Settlement Administrator to calculate and pay the
22 Individual Settlement Awards in accordance with the terms of the Settlement.

23 9. Within fourteen (14) calendar days after the Effective Date, Defendants shall deposit
24 the Gross Settlement Amount with the Settlement Administrator.

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1 10. Within fourteen (14) calendar days of the funding of the Settlement, the Settlement
2 Administrator will issue the payments required by section 7 of the Agreement to the appropriate
3 entities or persons. Individual Settlement Awards will be paid in the form of a check delivered to
4 each PAGA Group Member at the last known address on file with Defendants or as updated by the
5 Settlement Administrator. Each Individual Settlement Award will be accompanied by an
6 explanatory letter (attached as **Exhibit A** to the Agreement).

7 11. Individual Settlement Award checks will remain negotiable for one hundred twenty
8 (120) days after the date of their issuance (the “Check Stale Date”). Any Individual Settlement
9 Award checks that are not cashed, deposited, or negotiated after the Check Stale Date will be void
10 and sent to a *cy pres* organization to be jointly selected by the Parties.

11 12. Plaintiff’s Counsel will not seek or be entitled to any attorneys’ fees and/or expenses
12 related to the claims encompassed by the Agreement, other than those set forth above.

13 13. Plaintiff’s compliance with the notice procedures described in the Settlement
14 Agreement shall constitute due and sufficient notice to the LWDA and shall be deemed to satisfy
15 any requirement of due process. Nothing else shall be required of, or done by, the Parties, Plaintiff’s
16 Counsel, or Defendants’ Counsel to provide notice of the Settlement.

17 14. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6, the Court shall retain continuing
18 jurisdiction over this representative PAGA action and the Parties to the fullest extent necessary to
19 enforce and effectuate the terms and intent of the Agreement.

20 15. Nothing in this Order and Judgment or the Settlement Agreement shall be construed
21 as evidence of an admission or concession by any Party. The Settlement and this resulting Order
22 and Judgment simply represents a compromise of significantly disputed allegations.

23 16. Within ten (10) calendar days of entry of this Order and Judgment, Plaintiff shall
24 provide a copy of this Order and Judgment to the LWDA, pursuant to Labor Code section 2699,
25 subdivisions (1)(3) and (1)(4).

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EXHIBIT 1

CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

Subject to approval by the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles (the "Superior Court"), this Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release ("Agreement") is made and entered into by and between Plaintiff Matthew Cordova ("Plaintiff"), on behalf of himself and as a representative aggrieved employee pursuant to the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA"), California Labor Code section, 2698 *et seq.*, and Defendants JAKKS Pacific, Inc. ("JAKKS Pacific") and Workforce Enterprises, Inc. ("WFE") (collectively, "Defendants") to settle the civil action entitled *Cordova v. Jakks Pacific, Inc., et al.*, Case Number 22PSCV001149 (the "Lawsuit"), in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Plaintiff and Defendants are collectively referred to herein as the "Parties," and each may be individually referred to herein as a "Party."

RECITALS

This Agreement is made in consideration of the following facts:

A. Plaintiff Matthew Cordova ("Plaintiff Cordova") is a former hourly-paid non-exempt employee of WFE, who worked as a clerk in the receiving/displays/shipping department of a warehouse operated by JAKKS Pacific from approximately May 2015 to December 2019. Plaintiff alleges that he was jointly employed by WFE and JAKKS Pacific.

B. Plaintiff contends that he suffered one or more violations of the California Labor Code during his work at JAKKS Pacific and that he is therefore an "aggrieved employee" under PAGA, Labor Code section 2698 *et seq.*, pursuant to which an "aggrieved employee" may, after exhausting administrative remedies with the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (the "LWDA"), act as an agent of the State of California to bring an action to recover civil penalties from his or her former employer on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees for violations of the California Labor Code.

C. Pursuant to PAGA, on December 8, 2021, Plaintiff submitted a letter to the LWDA (the "PAGA Notice"), alleging that Defendants subjected Plaintiff and other current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of Defendants within the State of California to certain violations of the California Labor Code, including sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, premised upon Defendants' alleged failure to compensate their hourly-paid or non-exempt employees for all hours worked, failure to pay all minimum and overtime wages, failure to provide, authorize, and/or permit meal and rest breaks (or pay premiums in lieu thereof), failure to keep and provide complete and accurate wage statements, failure to reimburse employees for all necessary business expenses and related costs, failure to timely pay all wages due during employment and upon termination, and failure to maintain accurate and complete payroll records, all of which are collectively referred to herein as the "PAGA Claims."

D. The Lawsuit includes the Complaint Plaintiff filed on February 15, 2022, which sought to recover civil penalties and attorneys' fees based on the PAGA Claims.

E. Defendants deny all of the allegations in the Lawsuit and any contention that Defendants committed any misconduct, wrongdoing, or any other actionable conduct of any kind, including any violation of the California Labor Code.

F. The Parties have each independently analyzed and investigated the facts and law relevant to the Lawsuit through informal discovery. Pursuant to this informal discovery, Defendants produced, and Plaintiff reviewed, a substantial amount of documents and data, including, but not limited to, information pertaining to the employment policies, practices, and procedures implicated by the PAGA Claims, such as Defendants' meal and rest period, overtime, timekeeping, and payroll policies; a sampling of timekeeping and payroll records; wage statements for Plaintiff and other hourly-paid or non-exempt employees on whose behalf Plaintiff brought the PAGA Claims asserted in the Lawsuit; and summaries of data pertaining to the number of employees allegedly affected by the PAGA Claims.

G. After evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of their respective positions; considering the time, expense, and risk associated with litigating the Lawsuit to judgment; and engaging in arm's-length settlement negotiations at an all-day mediation session with mediator Deborah Saxe, an experienced and well-respected mediator, the Parties desire, and have agreed, to fully and finally settle any and all claims in the Lawsuit up to and through the Settlement Period (as defined herein).

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and agreements contained herein, the Parties agree to, and, pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(1)(2), seek approval of, the following settlement terms.

SETTLEMENT TERMS

1. **Superior Court Approval of the Agreement.** In accordance with California Labor Code section 2699(1)(2), the Parties will present this Agreement to the Superior Court for its review and approval via stipulation or a noticed motion.

2. **Delivery of Agreement to the LWDA.** As required by California Labor Code section 2699(1)(2), Plaintiff will cause this Agreement to be submitted to the LWDA at the same time that this Agreement is submitted to the Superior Court for approval.

3. **Effective Date.** The "Effective Date" shall be the latest of the following dates: (1) the date the Superior Court enters an order dismissing *Villarica v. JAKKS Pacific, Inc., et al*, Case No. 21STCV18836; (2) sixty-five (65) days after the date the Superior Court enters an order approving this Settlement; or (3) if the LWDA files an objection to this Settlement, the date there is a final resolution of the objection or appeal.

4. **No Admission of Liability.** The Parties acknowledge and agree that this Agreement is the result of, and evidences, a compromise and settlement of disputed claims in the Lawsuit and that this Agreement is made and entered into without any admission of liability or wrongdoing of any kind whatsoever by Defendants, who expressly deny and disclaim any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever. Accordingly, neither the execution of this Agreement, its creation, the

payment of any sum or consideration hereunder, nor the performance of any obligation required by this Agreement is, or shall be construed as, an admission of wrongdoing or liability on the part of Defendants. Additionally, neither the execution of this Agreement, its creation, the payment of any sum or consideration hereunder, nor the performance of any obligation required by this Agreement is, or shall be construed as, an admission of the truth or accuracy of any allegation made by Plaintiff or Plaintiff's Counsel in the Lawsuit.

5. **Persons and Entities Covered by this Agreement.**

(a) **The PAGA Period.** This Agreement shall cover the period from December 8, 2020 to the earlier of June 30, 2022 or the date of approval of this Settlement, inclusive (the "PAGA Period").

(b) **The PAGA Group.** This Agreement shall cover all current and former hourly-paid employees who worked at a facility owned or operated by JAKKS Pacific in California at any time from December 8, 2020 to the earlier of June 30, 2022 or the date of approval of this Settlement, whether or not employed by JAKKS Pacific, WFE, or another staffing agency. The PAGA Group excludes individuals covered by the PAGA settlement in *Mata v. Disguise, Inc., et al*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV47518, which received court approval on March 18, 2022. Such employees shall be collectively referred to herein as the "PAGA Group." Each employee within the PAGA Group may be individually referred to herein as a "PAGA Group Member."

6. **Settlement Administration.**

(a) The Parties will retain CPT Group ("CPT"), to act as the "Settlement Administrator" with respect to this Agreement.

(b) The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for establishing a qualified settlement fund pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 486B, making all payments required by this Agreement, handling all required state and federal tax withholding and reporting related thereto to the extent necessary, and issuing all appropriate tax forms to Plaintiff, Plaintiff's Counsel, the PAGA Group, and the LWDA resulting from the settlement payments under this agreement.

(c) Any disputes concerning administration of the Agreement may be submitted to Deborah Saxe, the mediator who facilitated the negotiation of this Agreement. If the Parties cannot resolve their dispute with the mediator's assistance, the dispute may be submitted to and resolved by the Superior Court.

7. **Settlement Payments.**

(a) **Gross Settlement Amount.** In consideration of, and subject to, the promises, terms, and conditions set forth in this Agreement – including the releases set forth in Section 9 of this Agreement – Defendants shall pay the maximum gross sum of Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$360,000.00) (the "Gross Settlement Amount"), in the manner and method set forth in this Agreement, to fully, finally, and completely settle the Lawsuit and the

PAGA Claims alleged therein on behalf of the PAGA Group, including any and all associated claims for civil penalties, attorneys' fees, and litigation costs and expenses. Nothing in this Agreement, aside from the conditions set forth in Section 10, shall require Defendants to pay, or make Defendants liable for, more than the Gross Settlement Amount to fully, finally, and completely settle the Lawsuit and all claims alleged therein.

(b) **Allocation of Gross Settlement Amount.** The Gross Settlement Amount shall consist of the following categories of payments: the proposed award of attorneys' fees to Plaintiff's Counsel in the Lawsuit, the proposed award of litigation costs and expenses to Plaintiff's Counsel, the proposed payment of settlement administration costs to the Settlement Administrator, the proposed payments of civil penalties to the LWDA and the PAGA Group, and the proposed enhancement award to Plaintiff in the amount of \$10,000.00 for his time and effort and for the risk he undertook in bringing and prosecuting the Lawsuit. Subject to approval by the Superior Court, these amounts shall be paid and allocated as set forth below in Sections 7(b)(i) through 7(b)(vi) of this Agreement.

(i) **Attorneys' Fees Award.**

(A) Plaintiff's attorneys in the Lawsuit – Douglas Han, Shunt Tatavos-Gharajeh, and Josh B. Tran of Justice Law Corporation ("Plaintiff's Counsel") – may submit a combined application to the Superior Court for an award of attorneys' fees in an amount not to exceed the gross sum of One Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$126,000.00) (35% of the Gross Settlement Amount) (the "Attorneys' Fees Award"). Defendants will not oppose or object to this application.

(B) Any Attorneys' Fees Award approved by the Superior Court will be paid by Defendants out of the Gross Settlement Amount and shall constitute a full and complete satisfaction of all claims Plaintiff may have for attorneys' fees arising out of the Lawsuit through the Effective Date of this Agreement, including work not yet performed.

(C) This Agreement is not contingent upon the Superior Court approving an Attorneys' Fees Award in an amount equal to the maximum amount authorized by Section 7(b)(i)(A) of this Agreement. This Agreement shall remain fully effective and enforceable notwithstanding any decision by the Superior Court to approve an Attorneys' Fees Award that is less than the amount authorized by Section 7(b)(i)(A) of this Agreement or the amount requested by Plaintiff's Counsel.

(D) In the event that any portion of the Attorneys' Fees Award authorized by Section 7(b)(i)(A) of this Agreement is not approved by the Superior Court, only the approved amount shall be paid, and the payment of that amount shall constitute satisfaction of Defendants' obligations with respect to the Attorneys' Fees Award. Additionally, any difference between the Attorneys' Fees Award authorized by Section 7(b)(i)(A) and the Attorneys' Fees Award approved by the Superior Court will become part of the Net Settlement Amount.

(ii) **Litigation Costs Award.**

(A) Plaintiff's Counsel may submit an application to the Superior Court for an award for reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses incurred by Plaintiff's Counsel in connection with the Lawsuit that is currently estimated not to exceed the combined gross sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) (the "Litigation Costs Award"). Defendants will not oppose or object to this application.

(B) Any Litigation Costs Award approved by the Superior Court will be paid by Defendants out of the Gross Settlement Amount and shall constitute a full and complete satisfaction of all claims Plaintiff may have for litigation costs and expenses arising out of the Lawsuit through the Effective Date of this Agreement, including litigation costs and expenses not yet incurred.

(C) This Agreement is not contingent upon the Superior Court approving a Litigation Costs Award in an amount equal to the maximum amount authorized by Section 7(b)(ii)(A) of this Agreement. This Agreement shall remain fully effective and enforceable notwithstanding any decision by the Superior Court to approve a Litigation Costs Award that is less than the amount authorized by Section 7(b)(ii)(A) of this Agreement or the amount requested by Plaintiff's Counsel.

(D) In the event that any portion of the Litigation Costs Award authorized by Section 7(b)(ii)(A) of this Agreement is not approved by the Superior Court, only the approved amount shall be paid, and the payment of that amount shall constitute satisfaction of Defendants' obligations with respect to the Litigation Costs Award. Additionally, any difference between the Litigation Costs Award authorized by Section 7(b)(ii)(A) and the Litigation Costs Award approved by the Superior Court will become part of the Net Settlement Amount.

(iii) **Settlement Administration Costs.**

(A) Subject to approval by the Superior Court, an amount currently estimated at Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00), but not to exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) will be paid to the Settlement Administrator out of the Gross Settlement Amount to cover the costs of the settlement administration process ("Administration Costs"). If the actual costs of the settlement administration process are less than the amount approved by the Superior Court, the balance will become part of the Net Settlement Amount.

(B) Any Administration Costs approved by the Superior Court will be paid by Defendants out of the Gross Settlement Amount and shall constitute a full and complete satisfaction of any settlement administration costs.

(C) This Agreement is not contingent upon the Superior Court approving Administration Costs in an amount equal to the maximum amount authorized by Section 7(b)(iii)(A) of this Agreement. This Agreement shall remain fully effective and enforceable notwithstanding any decision by the Superior Court to approve Administration Costs in an amount that is less than the amount authorized by Section 7(b)(iii)(A) of this Agreement.

(D) In the event that any portion of the Administration Costs authorized by Section 7(b)(iii)(A) of this Agreement is not approved by the Superior Court, no more than the approved amount shall be paid to the Settlement Administrator out of the Gross Settlement Amount. Additionally, the difference between the Administration Costs authorized by Section 7(b)(iii)(A) and the Administration Costs approved by the Superior Court will become part of the Net Settlement Amount.

(iv) **Plaintiff Cordova's Enhancement Award.**

(A) Plaintiff Cordova may submit an application to the Superior Court for an award of an enhancement award in an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for Plaintiff's time and effort and for the risk he undertook in bringing and prosecuting the Lawsuit ("Enhancement Award"). Defendants shall not oppose any requests by Plaintiff for the Enhancement Award, which will be paid out of the Gross Settlement Amount.

(B) This Agreement is not contingent upon the Superior Court approving the Enhancement Award in an amount equal to the maximum amount authorized by Section 7(b)(iv)(A). This Agreement shall remain fully effective and enforceable notwithstanding any decision by the Superior Court to approve the Enhancement Award in an amount less than that authorized by Section 7(b)(iv)(A).

(C) In the event that any portion of the Enhancement Award authorized by Section 7(b)(iv)(A) is not approved by the Superior Court, no more than the approved amount shall be paid to Plaintiff from the Gross Settlement Amount. Additionally, any difference between the Enhancement Payment authorized by Section 7(b)(iv)(A) and the Enhancement Payment approved by the Superior Court will become part of the Net Settlement Amount.

(v) **PAGA Penalties Fund.** The portion of the Gross Settlement Amount remaining after the Attorneys' Fees Award, Litigation Costs Award, Enhancement Payment, and Administration Costs are paid shall be designated the "PAGA Penalties Fund," from which payments deemed to constitute a full and complete satisfaction of any and all claims in the Lawsuit for civil penalties under PAGA shall be made. Based on the terms of the Agreement, the PAGA Penalties Fund is estimated to be One Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$189,000.00). (This number may change if the Attorneys' Fees Award, Litigation Costs Award, Administration Costs and/or the Enhancement Award are awarded in amounts other than those set forth above.) Subject to approval by the Superior Court, the PAGA Penalties Fund shall be allocated and paid as follows:

(A) **The LWDA Payment.** The gross sum of One Hundred Forty-one Thousand Seven-Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$141,750.00), which represents seventy-five percent (75%) of the estimated PAGA Penalties Fund, will be paid to the LWDA for enforcement of California's labor laws, including the administration of PAGA, and for education of employers and employees about their rights and responsibilities under the California Labor Code.

(B) **Individual Settlement Awards.** The gross sum of Forty-Seven Thousand Two-Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$47,250.00), which represents twenty-five percent (25%) of the estimated PAGA Penalties Fund, shall be designated as the "Net Settlement Amount" and will be paid to the PAGA Group on a pro rata basis. Each PAGA Group Member will receive a pro-rated share of the Net Settlement Amount based on the total number of pay periods the PAGA Group Member worked at a facility owned or operated by JAKKS Pacific in California during the PAGA Period. The maximum amount that each PAGA Group Member is entitled to receive ("Individual Settlement Award") is determined by multiplying the Net Settlement Amount by a ratio that is determined by dividing the total number of pay periods worked by the PAGA Group Member at a facility owned or operated by JAKKS Pacific in California during the PAGA Period by the total number of pay periods worked by all PAGA Group Members at a facility owned or operated by JAKKS Pacific in California during the Settlement Period, as expressed in the following formula:

(1)
$$\text{PAGA Group Member Payment} = \frac{\text{Net Settlement Amount} \times \text{total number of pay periods worked by the PAGA Group Member}}{\text{total number of pay periods worked by all PAGA Group Members}}$$

(2) The Parties intend that the Net Settlement Amount shall be sufficient to pay all valid claims of PAGA Group Members in accordance with the formula set forth above. Accordingly, if for any reason the total value of payments to PAGA Group Members exceeds this amount, then payments to each PAGA Group Member will be adjusted on a pro-rata basis so that the total payout to PAGA Group Members does not exceed the Net Settlement Amount.

(c) **No Effect on Employee Benefits.** The payments made to PAGA Group Members pursuant to this Agreement shall not be utilized to calculate any additional benefits under any benefit plans to which any PAGA Group Members may be eligible, including, but not limited to, any profit-sharing plans, bonus plans, 401(k) plans, stock purchase plans, vacation plans, sick leave plans, PTO plans, or other benefit plans available to the PAGA Group. It is the Parties' intention that this Agreement will not affect any rights, contributions, or amounts to which any PAGA Group Members may be entitled under any benefit plans.

(i) **Payments to Plaintiff's Counsel.** The Attorneys' Fees Award and Litigation Costs Award shall be treated as IRS Form 1099 income. Accordingly, the Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 to Justice Law Corporation in connection with their Attorneys' Fees Award and Litigation Costs Award.

(ii) **Payments to the LWDA.** The seventy-five percent (75%) of the PAGA Penalties Fund payable to the LWDA under Section 7(b)(vi)(A) of this Agreement shall be deemed to consist entirely of civil penalties recovered under PAGA and subject to treatment as IRS Form 1099 income.

(iii) **Payments to the PAGA Group.** Individual Settlement Awards shall be deemed to consist entirely of civil penalties recovered under PAGA and subject to treatment as IRS Form 1099 income. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099

to each PAGA Group Member in connection with his or her Individual Settlement Award to the extent required by law.

(d) **Tax Indemnification.** Plaintiff, Plaintiff's Counsel, the PAGA Group, and applicable governmental authorities (including the LWDA) are solely responsible for all tax obligations, including all reporting and payment obligations, attributable to them that may arise as a consequence of this Agreement and the payment of the amounts set forth above in Section 7(b). Neither Defendants nor Defendants' attorneys make any express or implied promise, representation, or warranty regarding the tax consequences or tax treatment under federal or state tax laws for any sum paid pursuant to this Agreement.

8. **Distribution of Settlement Payments.**

(a) **Funding of Settlement by Defendants.** Fourteen (14) days after the Effective Date, Defendants shall deposit Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$360,000.00) with the Settlement Administrator.

(b) **Timing of Payment by Settlement Administrator.** Within fourteen (14) calendar days of the funding of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will issue the payments required by Section 7 of this Agreement to the appropriate entities or persons. The Settlement Administrator shall obtain approval from all counsel of the calculations before mailing Individual Settlement Awards.

(c) **Payment of Individual Settlement Awards.**

(i) Individual Settlement Awards will be paid in the form of a check delivered to each PAGA Group Member at the last known address on file with Defendants or as updated by the Settlement Administrator. Each Individual Settlement Award will be accompanied by an explanatory letter, mutually approved by the Parties, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

(ii) Individual Settlement Award checks will remain negotiable for one hundred twenty (120) days after the date of their issuance (the "Check Stale Date"). Any Individual Settlement Award checks that are not cashed, deposited, or negotiated after the Check Stale Date will be void and the amount of those checks will be distributed to a *cy pres* organization to be jointly selected by the Parties.

(iii) Any checks to the PAGA Group that are returned as undeliverable on or before the Check Stale Date will be sent promptly via regular First-Class U.S. Mail to the forwarding address affixed thereto. If no forwarding address is provided, the Settlement Administrator will promptly attempt to determine the correct address using a skip trace or other reasonable method and will then perform a single remailing. Any PAGA Group Member who cannot be located after the above procedures are followed will continue to be bound by this Agreement, but the funds associated with his or her Individual Settlement Award will be directed to a *cy pres* organization to be jointly selected by the Parties.

9. **Releases.**

(a) **Released Entities.** The “Released Entities” are JAKKS Pacific, WFE, United Employment Solutions, Inc., and LaborNow, Inc., and each of their respective affiliated entities, officers, directors, representatives, owners, partners, subsidiaries, parent companies, joint venturers, clients, venders, members, joint employers, predecessors, successors-in-interest, assigns, and current and former employees, including but not limited to agents, insurers, and attorneys.

(b) **Release of PAGA Claims.** This Agreement and the judgment to be entered by the Superior Court following this Agreement, forever bar Plaintiff, the LWDA, and any other representative, proxy, or agent thereof, including, but not limited to, any and all PAGA Group Members, from pursuing any action against the Released Entities under the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”), Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.*, based on or arising out of violations of Labor Code sections alleged in the Lawsuit, and claims that could have been asserted in the Lawsuit based upon the facts alleged in Plaintiff’s Complaint through the end of the Settlement Period (“Released Claims”). The Released Claims include, but are not limited to, claims under the PAGA for civil penalties for alleged violations of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802; and claims for attorneys’ fees, costs, or interest resulting therefrom.

10. **Escalator Clause.** This Agreement was reached based on a total number of 10,905 pay periods collectively worked by PAGA Group Members between December 8, 2020 and March 12, 2022. If the number of pay periods as of the end date of the Settlement Period exceeds this figure by more than ten percent (10%), or 11,996 workweeks, then, at its option, Defendants may elect to (a) end the PAGA Period on the date the number of pay periods reaches 11,996 or (b) increase the Gross Settlement Amount in proportion to the increased percentage – for example, if the increase is 15% over 10,905, the Gross Settlement Amount will increase by 5%.

11. **Dismissal.** Upon the Superior Court’s approval of this Agreement and payment of all sums required by this Agreement, Plaintiff shall file a request for dismissal of the Action in its entirety as to Defendants with prejudice. Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6, the Superior Court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement.

12. **Dismissal of Class Action in Villarica and Settlement of Isaiah Villarica’s Individual Claims.** The Parties agree to enter into a separate agreement in which Plaintiff Isaiah Villarica, the named plaintiff in a related, previously filed putative class action entitled *Villarica v. Jakks Pacific, Inc., et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 21STCV18836, will receive \$15,000.00 in settlement of his individual claims, minus attorneys’ fees and costs, in return for dismissing his lawsuit without prejudice and releasing Defendants from any and all claims he has or may have against them, or any of them, including a waiver of any and all provisions of California Civil Code section 1542, except for his claims, if any, for Workers’ Compensation and his claims, of any, in *Cordova*.

13. **Acknowledgement of Fair and Reasonable Settlement.** The Parties have arrived at this Agreement after arm's-length negotiations between experienced counsel and facilitated by a full-day mediation with Deborah Saxe, an experienced and well-respected mediator. Each of the Parties acknowledges, agrees, and believes that this Agreement is a fair, adequate, and reasonable settlement of the Lawsuit. The Parties further acknowledge that they are each represented by competent counsel and that they have had an opportunity to consult with their counsel regarding the fairness and reasonableness of this Agreement. Each Party to this Agreement agrees and represents that it has investigated the facts relevant to this Agreement, and all matters pertaining thereto, to the full extent that each Party deems necessary. The Parties agree that this Agreement reflects their good faith compromise of the claims raised in the Lawsuit based on their assessment of the mutual risks and costs of further litigation and the assessments of their respective counsel.

14. **Authority to Enter into Agreement.** Each Party represents and warrants that it has the right and authority to execute this Agreement.

15. **Ownership of Claims.** The Parties represent that they have not transferred or assigned, or purported to transfer or assign, to any person or entity any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action or right herein released and discharged.

16. **Authorization of Counsel.** Counsel for all Parties warrant and represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Agreement and to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms and to execute any other documents required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement.

17. **Attorneys' Fees.** Except as set forth in this Agreement, each side shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees.

18. **Confidentiality.** Except as provided below to the extent necessary to effectuate the settlement or as required by court or legal process, the Parties and their respective Counsel will keep the facts relating to the existence of this Agreement, the negotiations leading to the execution of this Agreement, the terms of this Agreement, and the alleged factual basis for Plaintiff's claims, if any, confidential. Neither the Parties nor their respective Counsel shall issue a press release, hold a press conference, publish information about the settlement on any website or through any social media or otherwise publicize the settlement or communicate its terms in public or in private, unless ordered by the Court. However, for the limited purpose of establishing adequacy of counsel in future actions, Plaintiff's counsel may reference the Action only by name and case number in a declaration establishing adequacy as class or representative counsel.

19. **Duty to Cooperate.** Each Party agrees that it will abide by this Agreement, and that the Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other to effect the implementation of this Agreement. The Parties pledge their good faith and fair dealing in supporting the approval of this Agreement by the Superior Court, including, but not limited to, fully documenting the settlement, completing or filing any other documents or pleadings, arguing that the terms and conditions agreed upon should be enforced fully, commencing any required action (either in court or in arbitration), jointly appealing and/or otherwise exhausting judicial review of any adverse



ruling, etc. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Agreement or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Agreement, the Parties may seek the assistance of Deborah Saxe, the mediator who facilitated the negotiation of this Agreement. If the Parties cannot resolve their dispute with the assistance of the mediator, the Parties may seek the assistance of the Superior Court to resolve their disagreement.

20. **Nullification of Agreement.** Defendants' payment of the Gross Settlement Amount shall be subject to the Superior Court granting approval, and if the Superior Court fails to grant approval, the Parties shall be returned to their original respective positions as though this Agreement had never been entered into at all, with the exception that if any settlement administration costs are due and payable, the Parties agree to split those costs.

21. **Defendants' Option to Revoke.** Should the settlement, or any terms therein, be modified, vacated, altered, or become otherwise subject to challenge by law, including, but not limited to, any law that became effective after the execution of this Agreement, so that this Agreement is not approved by the Superior Court in its entirety and therefore the intent of the Parties cannot be accomplished after jointly taken efforts to enforce it have been exhausted, Defendants shall have the option to revoke this Agreement at their sole discretion.

22. **Severability.** Should any clause or provision of this Agreement be declared illegal or unenforceable, it shall be modified as minimally as necessary to be enforceable. If the provision cannot be modified to be enforceable, such provision shall immediately become null and void, leaving the remainder of this Agreement in full force and effect.

23. **Governing Law and Interpretation.** This Agreement shall be governed in accordance with the laws of the State of California. The Agreement shall be interpreted in accordance with the plain meaning of its terms and shall not be strictly interpreted for or against any of the Parties to this Agreement. Given that all Parties hereto had the opportunity to draft, review, and edit the language of this Agreement, the Parties expressly waive the benefit of any legal principle or rule providing that in cases of uncertainty the language of a contract should be interpreted against the Party who caused the uncertainty to exist.

24. **Continuing Jurisdiction of the Superior Court.** Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6, the Superior Court shall retain continuing jurisdiction over the Lawsuit and the Parties to the fullest extent necessary to enforce and effectuate the terms and intent of this Agreement.

25. **Admissibility of Agreement.** The Parties agree that this Agreement is admissible for the purposes of proving up and or enforcing the terms of the Agreement, as set forth herein, pursuant to California Evidence Code section 1123.

26. **Amendment and Modification.** This Agreement may not be modified, altered or changed, except by a written instrument signed by either the Parties or their successors-in-interest or counsel for all Parties.



27. **Binding on Successors and Assigns.** This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the Parties hereto and their respective agents, employees, representatives, officers, directors, parents, subsidiaries, assigns, heirs, executors, administrators, insurers, and successors in interest.

28. **No Representations.** The Parties acknowledge that, except as expressly set forth herein, no representation of any kind or character has been made to induce the execution of this Agreement.

29. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Signatures sent by facsimile transmission or scanned e-mail transmission have the same force, validity, and effect as original signatures.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties – Plaintiff Matthew Cordova and Defendants JAKKS Pacific, Inc., and their counsel – knowingly and voluntarily accept the terms of this Settlement Agreement and Release by affixing their signatures below.

PLAINTIFF MATTHEW CORDOVA

Dated: _____, 2022

By: _____
Matthew Cordova

DEFENDANT JAKKS PACIFIC, INC.

Dated: 18 May, 2022

By: Michael Dwyer SVP, Legal
Representative, on behalf of Defendant/
JAKKS Pacific, Inc.

DEFENDANTS WORKFORCE ENTERPRISES,
INC. ("WFE")

Dated: _____, 2022

By: _____
Representative, on behalf of Defendant
Workforce Enterprises, Inc.



27. **Binding on Successors and Assigns.** This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the Parties hereto and their respective agents, employees, representatives, officers, directors, parents, subsidiaries, assigns, heirs, executors, administrators, insurers, and successors in interest.

28. **No Representations.** The Parties acknowledge that, except as expressly set forth herein, no representation of any kind or character has been made to induce the execution of this Agreement.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties – Plaintiff Matthew Cordova and Defendants JAKKS Pacific, Inc., and their counsel – knowingly and voluntarily accept the terms of this Settlement Agreement and Release by affixing their signatures below.

PLAINTIFF MATTHEW CORDOVA

Dated: 05/05/2022, 2022

By: 
Matthew Cordova

DEFENDANT JAKKS PACIFIC, INC.

Dated: _____, 2022

By: _____
Representative, on behalf of Defendant
JAKKS Pacific, Inc.

DEFENDANTS WORKFORCE ENTERPRISES,
INC. ("WFE")

Dated: June 6, 2022

By: 
Representative, on behalf of Defendant
Workforce Enterprises, Inc.

JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION

Dated: May 10, 2022

By: 
Douglas Han
Shunt Tatavos-Gharajeh
Josh B. Tran
Attorneys for Plaintiff Matthew Cordova

CONSTANGY, BROOKS, SMITH &
PROPHETE, LLP

Dated: June 6, 2022

By: 
Kenneth D. Sulzer
Matthew A. Scholl
Renee T. Brook
Attorneys for Defendant JAKKS Pacific, Inc.

EXHIBIT A

TRANSMITTAL OF INDIVIDUAL SETTLEMENT AWARD

Matthew Cordova v. Jakks Pacific, Inc.
Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles
Case No. 22PSCV001149

Dear [PAGA Group Member's Name]:

Enclosed with this letter is a settlement check being paid to you pursuant to the settlement of the lawsuit filed in the Los Angeles County Superior Court as *Matthew Cordova v. Jakks Pacific, Inc.*, which has been designated case number 22PSCV001149 (the "Lawsuit"). The purpose of this letter is to provide you with basic information about the Lawsuit, the reasons why you are receiving the enclosed settlement check, and the effect of the settlement on your legal rights.

I. The Lawsuit

The Lawsuit was filed on February 15, 2022, by Plaintiff Matthew Cordova ("Plaintiff"), a former employee of Defendants JAKKS Pacific, Inc. ("JAKKS Pacific") and Workforce Enterprises, Inc. ("WFE") (collectively, "Defendants").

In the Lawsuit, Plaintiff alleged he and other current and former hourly-paid employees of Defendants experienced violations of the Labor Code. Specifically, Plaintiff alleged Defendants violated Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, premised upon Defendants' alleged: (1) failure to pay minimum and overtime wages; (2) failure to provide paid sick leave; (3) failure to provide meal period and rest breaks; (4) failure to timely pay wages during employment; (5) failure to timely pay wages upon termination; (6) failure to provide complete and accurate wage statements; (7) failure to keep complete and accurate payroll records; and (8) failure to reimburse business expenses. Based thereon, the Lawsuit sought civil penalties under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA"), which is codified at Labor Code section 2698 *et seq.*, on behalf of the State of California and all current and former hourly-paid employees of Defendants.

Defendants deny the allegations in the Lawsuit. Defendants contend they followed lawful policies and practices and that Plaintiff and the other hourly-paid employees at issue in the Lawsuit: (1) were properly paid for all hours worked; (2) were paid appropriate minimum wages, overtime wages, and paid sick leave; (3) were provided compliant meal and rest breaks (or were paid premiums in lieu thereof); (4) received compliant wage statements; (5) were reimbursed for all necessary business expenses; (6) were timely paid all wages due during employment and upon termination; and (7) that Defendants properly kept accurate and complete payroll records.

The merits of the Lawsuit have not been determined. However, on [Approval Date], the Los Angeles County Superior Court approved a settlement of the Lawsuit.

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II. Why the Settlement Check Is Being Sent to You

The settlement approved by the Los Angeles County Superior Court on [Approval Date] involves a payment of civil penalties and the reimbursement of attorneys' fees and litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff in furtherance of the Lawsuit.

In accordance with PAGA, seventy-five percent (75%) of the civil penalties paid under the settlement are being paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency. The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of the civil penalties paid under the settlement are being distributed to all current and former hourly-paid employees who worked at a facility owned or operated by JAKKS Pacific in California at any time from December 8, 2020 to April 29, 2022, whether or not employed by JAKKS Pacific, WFE, or another staffing agency. The PAGA Group excludes individuals covered by the PAGA settlement in *Mata v. Disguise, Inc., et al*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV47518, which received court approval on March 18, 2022 ("PAGA Group" and "PAGA Group Members"). The enclosed settlement check is being sent to you because you have been identified as a PAGA Group Member.

III. How the Amount of Your Settlement Check Was Determined

The enclosed settlement check was calculated based on the total number of pay periods the PAGA Group Member worked at a facility owned or operated by JAKKS Pacific in California during time from December 8, 2020 to April 29, 2022 ("PAGA Period") relative to the entire PAGA Group. Specifically, the enclosed settlement check was calculated as follows:

- Twenty-five percent (25%) of the PAGA Penalties Fund ("Net Settlement Amount"), multiplied by the total number of pay periods worked by the PAGA Group Member, divided by the total number of pay periods worked by all PAGA Group Members.
- You should obtain tax advice from your own tax advisor with respect to any payment resulting from this Settlement.

Your settlement check will remain negotiable for one hundred twenty (120) days after the date of their issuance ("Check Stale Date"). If you do not cash, deposit, or negotiate your settlement check by the Check Stale Date, the check will be void and the amount of your check will be distributed to a *cy pres* organization to be jointly selected by the Parties.

IV. Consequences of the Settlement

The Lawsuit was filed exclusively as a representative action under PAGA, which functions as a substitute for an enforcement action by California.

The Superior Court's order and judgment approving the settlement of the Lawsuit binds all persons, including nonparty employees, who would be bound by a judgment in an action brought by California itself. As a result, although you are not a "party" to the Lawsuit, the judgment entered upon settlement of the Lawsuit is binding on you with respect to any claims for civil penalties under PAGA encompassed by the settlement. That is true regardless of whether you choose to cash, deposit, or negotiate the enclosed settlement check.

V. Taxation of Your Individual Settlement Award

You will be issued an IRS Form 1099 in connection with the funds paid to you via the enclosed check. However, you are solely responsible for all tax obligations attributable to you that may arise as a result of receiving the settlement check. Should you seek tax advice or have tax questions relating to your receipt of the enclosed check, you should direct them your own personal tax advisor.

VI. Where to Get More Information

Do not call or contact the Los Angeles County Superior Court about this letter, the settlement, the settlement check sent to you, or the Lawsuit in general. If you have questions about the this letter, the settlement, the settlement check sent to you, or the Lawsuit in general, you may contact the Settlement Administrator, CPT Group, Inc., at [INSERT CONTACT INFORMATION].

Dated: [INSERT DATE]

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PROOF OF SERVICE