

Larry W. Lee (State Bar No. 228175)
Kristen M. Agnew (State Bar No. 247656)
DIVERSITY LAW GROUP, P.C.
515 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1250
Los Angeles, CA 90071
(213) 488-6555
(213) 488-6554 facsimile
lwlee@diversitylaw.com
kagnew@diversitylaw.com

William L. Marder (State Bar No. 170131)
bill@polarislawgroup.com
Polaris Law Group
501 San Benito Street, Suite 200
Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 531-4214
(831) 634-0333 facsimile

Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Class

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOSE VALENCIA, an individual,
BRANDON JEROUE, an individual, and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

SENTINEL TRANSPORTION, LLC, a
Delaware limited liability company; and
DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 22CV00951

[Assigned for all purposes to the Hon. James F.
Rigali, Department SM Dept. 2]

**DECLARATION OF LARRY W. LEE IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS AND
REPRESENTATIVE ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Date: June 25, 2024

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Dept.: SM Dept. 2

Action Filed: April 29, 2022

Trial Date: None Set

1 I, Larry W. Lee, declare as follows:

2 1. I am an attorney at law, duly licensed to practice before all Courts in the State of
3 California, and am with the law firm Diversity Law Group, P.C., counsel of record for Plaintiffs
4 Jose Valencia and Brandon Jeroue (“Class Representatives” or “Plaintiffs”). I have personal
5 knowledge of the facts set forth below and if called to testify I could and would do so
6 competently.

7 2. The Joint Stipulation of Class Action Settlement (“Settlement Agreement” or
8 “Agreement”) was the product of arm’s length negotiations between highly able and experienced
9 attorneys on both sides who possessed the relevant data and extensive legal research which they
10 had carefully analyzed. Class Counsel engaged in extensive factual investigation before settling.
11 The Parties also participated in a full day of mediation with a highly experienced and well-
12 known mediator, Francis J. Ortman, III.

13 3. I have spent significant time researching and pursuing the claims that have been
14 alleged in this action. Based on my independent investigations and evaluations, I am of the
15 opinion that the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in the best interests
16 of the Class Members, in light of all known facts and circumstances, and the expenses and risks
17 inherent in litigation. The settlement was negotiated at arm’s length and was facilitated by an
18 experienced and neutral mediator. Thus, this settlement should be granted final approval.

19 4. My qualifications are as follows: I received my J.D. from Arizona State
20 University College of Law in 2003. During law school, I was a summer associate at the law firm
21 of Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison. I graduated cum laude from Arizona State University College
22 of Law in the top 10% of my class. While I was in law school, I was the Associate Managing
23 Editor of the Arizona State University College of Law, Law Journal. Upon graduation, I
24 practiced law as an associate at the Los Angeles County offices of Ogletree Deakins Nash
25 Smoak & Stewart, P.C., a national employment defense law firm that represents a significant
26 number of Fortune 500 companies.

27 5. My primary practice is employment law. I have handled a number of wage and
28 hour matters including class actions and individual actions, on both plaintiff and defense sides. I

1 have a practice that encompasses cases throughout the State of California, including but not
2 limited to the Los Angeles Superior Courts, the Orange County Superior Courts, the San
3 Francisco County Superior Courts, the San Diego County Superior Courts, and the United States
4 District Courts for the Central, Eastern, Northern, and Southern Districts of California. I have
5 been named as class counsel in a number of class actions that have been granted final approval
6 by the Superior Courts of Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Francisco County, Alameda
7 County, Contra Costa County, Monterey County, San Bernardino County, Santa Clara County,
8 Sonoma County, and the United States District Court for the Central, Eastern, and Northern
9 Districts of California, including but not limited to the following class actions: *Chan Lanier v.*
10 *Citigroup, Inc. et al.*, San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CGC-05-445143; *Naqvi v. Acoustic*
11 *Home Loans et al.*, Orange County Superior Court Case No. 05CC00263; *Ortega v. AIG*, Central
12 District of California Case No. CV 06-0196-RSWL (PJWx); *Universal Protection Overtime*
13 *Cases*, Orange County Superior Court, Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4480; *Tse*
14 *v. Best Buy*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC392717; *Hernandez v. CVS Corp. et al.*,
15 Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4539; *Padilla v. Safeway*, San Benito County
16 Superior Court Case No. CU-16-00182; *Valles v. Community Hospital of the Monterey*
17 *Peninsula*, Monterey County Superior Court Case No. 17CV003452; *DirecTv Wage and Hour*
18 *Cases*, Santa Clara Superior Court Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4850; *Perez v.*
19 *Standard Drywall, Inc.*, Alameda County Superior Court Case No. RG15761142; and *Davis v.*
20 *Nugget Market, Inc.*, Yolo County Superior Court Case No. CV-18-558.

21 6. In addition, I was certified as class counsel by the United States District Court,
22 Central District of California in the cases *Abdullah v. U.S. Security* (Case Number CV 09-09554
23 GHK), *Avilez v. Pinkerton Government Services, Inc.* (Case Number SACV 11-0493-DOC),
24 *Dynabursky v. Allied Barton Security Services* (Case Number SACV 12-02210 JST); and *Pace v.*
25 *Petsmart, Inc.* (Case Number SACV 13-500-DOC); by the Northern District of California in the
26 cases of *Harris v. Vector Marketing Corp.*, (Case Number CV 08 5198 EMC), and *Lemus et al.*
27 *v. H&R Block Enterprises, LLC* (Case Number CV-09-03179-SI); and by the Superior Court of
28 California, Orange County in the cases of *De la Cruz v. Abercrombie & Fitch Co. et al.* (Case

1 Number 30-2007-00036240) and *Wu v. General Nutrition Corporation* (Case Number 30-2012-
2 00593759), all as part of the Courts' orders granting class certification pursuant to Rule 23 of the
3 FRCP and California Code of Civil Procedure § 382. I served as lead counsel on these cases.

4 7. To date, I have incurred approximately 26.90 hours in connection with the
5 litigation of this lawsuit. Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is a summary of the hours I have incurred
6 to date.

7 8. As of January 1, 2024, my hourly rate in class and representative actions is \$900
8 per hour. I was recently approved at an hourly rate of \$800 in the matters of *Robert Jordan v.*
9 *Mondelez Global, LLC*, San Bernardino County Superior Court Case No. CIVSB2202758. I have
10 previously been approved at an hourly rate of \$850 by various courts in a number of matters,
11 including most recently in *Audycki v. Stanford Health Care*, Santa Clara Superior Court Case No.
12 19CV347173 and *Palomino v. Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation*, Santa Clara Superior
13 Court Case No. 19CV345534. Thus, I anticipate the total amount of my fees incurred in this case
14 to be approximately \$24,210 based on an hourly rate of \$900.00 per hour.

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

17 Executed on this 31st day of May 2024, at Los Angeles, California.

18 
19 _____
20 Larry W. Lee

EXHIBIT A

Valencia v. Sentinel Transportation
Time and Task Chart for Larry W. Lee

Hours	Description of Work
2.90	Review initial intake meeting notes; communications with co-counsel re potential causes of actions; prepare analysis re likely cost investment to fund the case as a class action.
1.60	Review and revise PAGA Notices, Class Action Complaint and Representative PAGA Complaint; communications with co-counsel re same.
3.90	Review Defendant's notice of removal; communications with co-counsel re analysis of remand; review and revise motion to remand; review Defendant's opposition to motion to remand.
1.30	Review initial written discovery; communications with co-counsel re same.
.50	Communications with co-counsel re consolidation of class and related PAGA action.
1.70	Review Defendant's initial written discovery responses; review meet and confer correspondence re discovery responses; communications with co-counsel re same.
1.20	Communications with co-counsel re merits of defenses to liability; review correspondence with defense counsel re merits of claims and defenses.
.90	Review and comment on data requests for mediation; communications with co-counsel re same.
2.00	Review mediation statement and exposure analysis; communications with co-counsel re strategy for mediation.
1.60	Review and provide feedback on Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU"); communications with co-counsel re same.
2.10	Review class and representative action settlement agreement; communications with co-counsel re same; review correspondence with defense counsel re proposed revisions to settlement agreement.
3.20	Review and revise motion for preliminary approval and supporting declarations.
1.40	Review court's tentative ruling re motion for preliminary approval; prepare co-counsel for appearance at hearing on motion.
2.60	Review and revise motion for final approval and supporting declarations.
26.90	<u>TOTAL HOURS</u>