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10 **SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
11 **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**
12

13 **CADYN CATHERS**, individually and on behalf
of himself all others similarly situated,

14 Plaintiff,

15 vs.

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17 **MOUNT SAINT MARY’S UNIVERSITY**, a
18 California Non-Profit Corporation,

19 Defendant.
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CASE NO. 22STCV02941

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Date: October 17, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Dept. 7

1 This matter is before the Court on Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action
2 Settlement based on a Settlement Agreement in the above-titled case, which is attached hereto as **Exhibit**
3 **1**. The motion, having been fully considered by the Court, and it appearing to the Court, upon preliminary
4 examination, that the Settlement set forth herein is within the range of reasonableness, and that a hearing
5 should and will be held after notice to the Class to confirm that the Settlement Agreement is fair,
6 adequate, and reasonable, and to determine whether a judgment should be entered in this action thereon,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

7 1. This Order hereby incorporates by reference the definitions in the Settlement Agreement,
8 and all terms used herein shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

9 2. For purposes of settlement, the Court preliminarily approves the Settlement Agreement
10 and finds that it is within the range of reasonableness as to the Settlement Class and Defendant, and is
11 the product of good faith, arm's length negotiations between the Parties.

12 3. The Court certifies, for the purposes of this Settlement, a provisional class defined as: all
13 persons who are or have been employed by Defendant in California as adjunct instructors from January
14 25, 2018 to May 9, 2023. The Court's conditional certification of a class for settlement purposes only is
15 not deemed a concession or admission by Defendant. If the settlement is not finally approved, Defendant
16 retains all rights to assert the action should not be certified as a class, and the Settlement and all actions
17 taken to effectuate it shall be vacated and not offered, received or construed as evidence for any purpose.

18 4. The Court finds that for the purposes of settlement, Plaintiff has established in the moving
19 papers and supporting declarations the requirements for certification of a provisional settlement class
20 pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 3.769(d).

21 5. The Court appoints and designates Simpluris, Inc. as Settlement Administrator. The Court
22 further preliminarily approves the payment of the settlement administration costs as provided in the
23 Settlement Agreement.

24 6. The Court appoints and designates Plaintiff as the Class Representatives, and
25 HammondLaw, P.C. as Class Counsel.

26 7. The Court preliminarily approves the settlement of PAGA claims as set forth in the
27 Settlement Agreement as reasonable.

28 8. The Court preliminarily approves the Gross Settlement Amount and payment from the
Gross Settlement Amount of the Service Awards to Plaintiff, payment of attorneys' fees and costs to
Class Counsel, payment to the LWDA, and payment of the Net Settlement Amount to the settlement

1 Class Members, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement. Final approval of those awards will be
2 determined following the class notice process and Plaintiffs' submission of final approval papers.

3 9. The Court approves the Class Notice in the form of **Exhibit A** to the Settlement
4 Agreement ("Class Notice"), and finds that the Class Notice, the method of disseminating the Class
5 Notice and the deadlines for doing so as set forth in paragraph 10 of this Order and in the Settlement
6 Agreement, meets the requirements of due process, is the best notice practicable under the circumstances,
and shall constitute valid, due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto.

7 10. Notice shall be provided to Class Members in the following manner: Within fifteen (15)
8 days of entry of this Order, Defendant shall provide the Class Data List to the Settlement Administrator.
9 Within fourteen (14) days of entry of the Class list, the Settlement Administrator will send the Class
10 Notice to the Class by first class mail.

11 11. Class Members will have forty-five (45) calendar days from the date of the first mailing
12 to submit requests for exclusion or objections (extended for 14 calendar days for those individuals for
13 whom re-mailing is required) (the "Response Deadline"). Unless a Class Member submits a valid and
14 timely Request for Exclusion as provided in the Settlement Agreement, he or she will automatically
15 become a Settlement Class Member. All exclusions and objections must be mailed to the Settlement
16 Administrator and postmarked no later than the Response Deadline. Counsel for the Parties shall file any
responses to any objections at the time the Motion for Final Approval is filed.

17 12. If any Class Member timely disputes the calculation of the settlement allocation listed on
18 his or her Class Notice, the dispute will be submitted to the Settlement Administrator, who will examine
19 the records, address the dispute with Defendant if needed, and either verify the calculation or provide a
20 corrected calculation. Disputes must be in writing and submitted to the Settlement Administrator,
21 postmarked on or before the Response Deadline. The Settlement Administrator's determination of
disputes will be final and non-appealable.

22 13. The Court approves the procedure for Settlement Class Members to participate in, to opt
23 out of, and to object to, the Settlement as set forth in the Notice and finds that those procedures are in
accord with the due process rights of the Settlement Class Members.

24 14. The Final Approval Hearing shall be held on _____, or an
25 alternative date set by the Court, to determine whether the Settlement Agreement is fair, adequate,
26 reasonable, and should be approved. Plaintiff's Motion for Final Approval and supporting papers, as
27 well as Motion for Approval of Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Class Representative Service Award (to be
28 heard on the same day and at the same time as the Final Approval Hearing), shall be filed and served at

1 least 16 court days before the hearing. The Court reserves the right to continue the date of the Final
2 Approval Hearing and all dates provided for in the Settlement Agreement without further notice to Class
3 Members, and retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the
4 proposed Settlement.

5 15. The Action is stayed and all other dates are vacated, subject to further orders of the Court
6 at or before the Final Approval Hearing.

7 16. The Court reserves the right to adjourn or continue the date of the Final Approval hearing
8 and all other dates provided for in this Order and the settlement, without further notice to the settlement
9 Class Members and to approve the settlement with modifications, if any, expressly consented to by Class
10 Counsel and Defendant's counsel, without further class notice.

11 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

12 Date: _____, 2023

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14 _____
15 Hon. Lawrence Riff
16 Judge of the Superior Court
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EXHIBIT 1

CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between Cadyn Cathers (“Plaintiff”) and Mount Saint Mary’s University (“Defendant”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiffs and Defendant collectively as “Parties,” or individually as “Party.”

1. DEFINITIONS.

- 1.1 “Action” means the Plaintiff’s lawsuit against Defendant captioned *Cathers v Mount Saint Mary’s University* initiated on January 25, 2022 and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles.
- 1.2 “Administrator” means Simpluris, the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.
- 1.3 “Administration Expenses Payment” means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s “not to exceed” bid submitted to the Court in connection with Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.4 “Aggrieved Employee” means all adjunct instructors who worked for Defendant in California during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5 “Class” refers means all adjunct instructors who worked for Defendant in California during the Class Period.
- 1.6 “Class Counsel” means the attorneys of record for the Class Representative, i.e., HammondLaw, P.C.
- 1.7 “Class Counsel Fees Payment” and “Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment” mean the amounts allocated to Class Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action.
- 1.8 “Class Data” means Class Member identifying information in Defendant’s possession including the Class Member’s name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, and number of Class Pay Periods and PAGA Pay Periods.
- 1.9 “Class Member” or “Settlement Class Member” means a member of the Class, as either a Participating Class Member or Non-Participating Class Member (including a Non- Participating Class Member who qualifies as an Aggrieved Employee).
- 1.10 “Class Member Address Search” means the Administrator’s investigation and search for current Class Member mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address database, skip traces, and direct contact by the Administrator with Class Members.
- 1.11 “Class Notice” means the COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL, to be

mailed to Class Members in English in the form, without material variation, attached as **Exhibit A** and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

- 1.12 “Class Period” means the period from January 25, 2018 to May 9, 2023.
- 1.13 “Class Representative” means the named Plaintiff in the operative complaint in the Action seeking Court approval to serve as a Class Representative.
- 1.14 “Class Representative Service Payment” means the payment to the Class Representative for initiating the Action and providing services in support of the Action.
- 1.15 “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.
- 1.16 “Defendant” means Mount Saint Mary’s University (“MSMU”).
- 1.17 “Defense Counsel” means the attorneys of records for Defendant, i.e., Lagasse Branch Bell + Kinkead LLP.
- 1.18 “Effective Date” means the date by when both of the following have occurred: (a) the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement; and (b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment (i.e., 61 days after the Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement is signed); or if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur.
- 1.19 “Final Approval” means the Court’s order granting final approval of the Settlement.
- 1.20 “Final Approval Hearing” means the Court’s hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.21 “Final Judgment” means the Judgment Entered by the Court upon Granting Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.22 “Gross Settlement Amount” (“GSA”) means \$1,110,000 which is the total amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement, in addition to the employer-side payroll tax. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Counsel Fees approved by the Court, Class Counsel Expenses approved by the Court, Class Representative Service Payment as approved by the Court and the Administrator’s Expenses approved by the Court.
- 1.23 “Individual Class Payment” means the Participating Class Member’s pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Pay Periods worked during the Class Period.
- 1.24 “Individual PAGA Payment” means the Aggrieved Employee’s pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of Pay Periods worked during the PAGA Period.

- 1.25 “Judgment” means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.
- 1.26 “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.27 “LWDA PAGA Payment” means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.28 “Net Settlement Amount” (“NSA”) means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members as Individual Class Payments.
- 1.29 “Non-Participating Class Member” means any Class Member who opts out of the Settlement by sending the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.
- 1.30 “Operative Complaint” means the First Amended Complaint filed April 5, 2023.
- 1.31 “Pay Period” means any pay period during the Class Period in which a Class Member, or any pay period during the PAGA Period in which an Aggrieved Employee, worked for Defendant for at least one day.
- 1.32 “PAGA Period” means October 26, 2020 to May 9, 2023.
- 1.33 “PAGA” means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).
- 1.34 “PAGA Notice” means Plaintiff’s January 10, 2022 PAGA letter to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.
- 1.35 “PAGA Penalties” means the \$30,000 allocated to PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employee and 75% to the LWDA in settlement of PAGA claims.
- 1.36 “Participating Class Member” means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.
- 1.37 “Plaintiff” mean Cadyn Cathers, the named plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.38 “Preliminary Approval” means the Court’s Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.39 "Preliminary Approval Order" means the proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval.
- 1.40 “Released Class Claims” means the claims being released as described in Paragraph - 5.1 below.

- 1.41 “Released PAGA Claims” means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.2 below.
- 1.42 “Released Parties” means MSMU and all of its affiliated entities including its founders and members (the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet), as well as any of its past, present and future officers, agents, directors, shareholders, principals, partners, owners, trustees, supervisors, administrators, staff members, non-Class Member employees, representatives, parents, subsidiaries, attorneys, sureties, bonding companies, insurers, risk pooling trusts, and legal predecessors, successors, heirs, executors, administrators, assigns, and all persons acting by, through, under, or in concert with any of them.
- 1.43 “Request for Exclusion” means a Class Member’s submission of a written request to be excluded from the Class Settlement signed by the Class Member.
- 1.44 “Response Deadline” means forty-five (45) days after the Administrator mails Notice to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees, and shall be the last date on which Class Members may: (a) fax, email, or mail Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, or (b) fax, email, or mail his or her Objection to the Settlement. Class Members to whom Notice Packets are resent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator shall have an additional fourteen (14) calendar days beyond the Response Deadline has expired.
- 1.45 “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.

2. RECITALS.

- 2.1 On January 25, 2022, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a Complaint alleging causes of action against Defendant for its (i) failure to pay wages for all hours worked in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.2, 1194, and 1194.2; (ii) failure to pay hourly and separately for rest breaks and to authorize and permit paid off-duty rest breaks in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.2, 226.7; (iii) failure to issue accurate itemized wage statements in violation of Labor Code §§ 226(a) & (e), 226.2; (iv) failure to pay compensation due upon discharge from employment under Labor Code §§ 201-203; (v) failure to reimburse business-related expenses in violation of Labor Code § 2802; and (vi) unfair, unlawful or fraudulent business practices in violation of Business & Professions Code section 17200. On April 5, 2023, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint adding a claim for PAGA Penalties based upon the alleged Labor Code violations. Defendant denies the allegations in the Operative Complaint, denies any failure to comply with the laws identified in in the Operative Complaint and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged therein, or that it owes any monies or penalties as a result thereof.
- 2.2 Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.

- 2.3 On February 9, 2023, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by Lisa Klerman, Esq. which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.
- 2.4 Prior to mediation, Plaintiff obtained, through investigation and informal discovery, (a) Course data including the title of each course, start time and end time of each course, start time and end time of each class and day(s) of the week on which classes are held, course location, and course credits; (b) pay data for each course including the course rate, number of installments, and date of the first and last installments; (c) Employee and Faculty Handbooks, (d) samples of Adjunct Contracts from each year of the Class Period; (e) sample itemized wage statements from each year of the Class Period; and (f) COVID-19 Temporary Voluntary Remote work policy. Plaintiff's investigation was sufficient to satisfy the criteria for court approval set forth in *Dunk v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1801 and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116, 129-130 ("*Dunk/Kullar*").
- 2.5 The Court has not granted class certification because the Parties engaged in early mediation prior to the filing of a motion for class certification.
- 2.6 The Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by the Settlement.

3. MONETARY TERMS.

- 3.1 Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 8 below, Defendant promises to pay \$1,110,000.00 as the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant will separately pay the employer's share of payroll taxes on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 4.3 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant.
- 3.2 Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Final Approval:
- 3.2.1 To Plaintiff: Class Representative Service Payment to the Plaintiff of not more than \$10,000.00 (in addition to any Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment the Class Representative is entitled to receive as a Participating Class Member). Defendant will not oppose Plaintiff's request for Class Representative Service Payments that does not exceed the amount of \$10,000.00. As part of the motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment, Plaintiff will seek Court approval for any Class Representative Service Payments no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing or other deadline set by the Court. If the Court approves a Class Representative Service Payment less than the amount

requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will pay the Class Representative Service Payments using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiff assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the Class Representative Service Payments.

- 3.2.2 To Class Counsel: A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than 35% which is currently estimated to be \$388,500.00 and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$25,000.00. Defendant will not oppose requests for these payments provided that they do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will file a motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing or other deadline set by the Court. If the Court approves a Class Counsel Fees Payment and/or a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to Class Counsel or any other Plaintiff's Counsel arising from any claim to any portion any Class Counsel Fee Payment and/or Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the Class Counsel Fees Payment and the Class Counsel Expenses Payment in accordance with proper IRS reporting. Class Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the Class Counsel Fees Payment and the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds MSMU harmless, and indemnifies MSMU, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these Payments.
- 3.2.3 To the Administrator: An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed \$12,000.00 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the Administration Expenses are less or the Court approves payment less than \$12,000.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.
- 3.2.4 To Each Participating Class Member: Class Members shall be paid out of the NSA pro rata based on the number of pay periods worked as a Class Member during the Class Period. Defendant's payroll records shall be determinative for purposes of calculating the number of pay periods.
- 3.2.5 Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. Payments from the NSA will be allocated two-thirds (2/3) to non-wage payments, penalties and interest, that are not subject to wage withholdings and will be reported on IRS 1099 Forms; and one-third (1/3) as wages and reported on an IRS Form W-2. The Settlement Administrator will make required tax withholdings from each Individual Class Payment made for the portion allocated to Form W- 2 income and will remit the withholding to the appropriate taxing authorities. Participating Class Members assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual Class Payment.
- 3.2.6 Effect of Non-Participating Class Members on Calculation of Individual Class Payments. Non-Participating Class Members will not receive any Individual

Class Payments. The Administrator will retain amounts equal to their Individual Class Payments in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis.

- 3.2.7 To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties in the amount of \$30,000.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% (\$22,500.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (\$7,500.00) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.

3.2.7.1 The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalties by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Period Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

3.2.7.2 If the Court approves PAGA Penalties of less than the amount requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

4. SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.

- 4.1 Class Size. Based on a review of its records to date, Defendant estimates that, as of the time of mediation, there were approximately 840 Class Members.
- 4.2 Class Data. Not later than fifteen (15) days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendant will deliver the Class Data to the Administrator in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Class Members' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Class Data in confidence, use the Class Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Class Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Class Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify Class Counsel if it discovers that the Class Data omitted class member identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Class Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendant must send the Class Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Class Data.
- 4.3 Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Within fourteen (14) days of the Effective Date, Defendant shall transmit the GSA to the Settlement Administrator, along with the employers share of payroll tax on the wage portion of the Individual Class Payments.
- 4.4 Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within fourteen (14) business days after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail

checks or initiate wire transfers for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment. Disbursement of the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and the Class Representative Service Payment shall not precede disbursement of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments.

- 4.4.1 The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual Class Payments and/or Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Class Members via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (180 days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided. The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. The Administrator will send checks for Individual Settlement Payments to all Participating Class Members (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator will send checks for Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees including Non-Participating Class Members who qualify as Aggrieved Employees (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator may send Participating Class Members a single check combining the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment. Before mailing any checks, the Settlement Administrator must update the recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.
- 4.4.2 The Administrator must conduct a Class Member Address Search for all other Class Members whose checks are returned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within seven (7) days of receiving a returned check the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Class Member Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to deliver checks to Class Members whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Class Member whose original check was lost or misplaced, requested by the Class Member prior to the void date.
- 4.4.3 For any Class Member whose Individual Class Payment check or Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to the State Controller's Office of Unclaimed Property.

5. RELEASE OF CLAIMS. Effective on the date when MSMU fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount and funds all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion on the Individual Class Payments, Plaintiff, Class Members, and Class Counsel will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

- 5.1 Release of Class Claims: Each and all Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, shall be deemed to release MSMU and the Released Parties from all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been

alleged, based on the Class Period facts alleged on their behalves in the operative First Amended Complaint, and arising during the Class Period, including claims under Labor Code §§ 226.2, 1194, 1194.2, 226.7, 226(a) & (e), 201-203, and 2802; and Business and Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.* Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.

5.2 PAGA Released Claims: Each and all Aggrieved Employee, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, shall be deemed to release MSMU and the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties for all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Operative First Amended Complaint and in the PAGA Notice, and arising during the PAGA Period.

5.3 Plaintiff's Release. Plaintiff also releases Defendant for any claims, whether known or unknown, arising on or before the date she signs this Agreement, including any claims relating to or arising out of any aspect of her relationship with Defendant, or the termination of that relationship, any claims for unpaid compensation, wages, reimbursement for business expenses, penalties, or waiting time penalties under the California Labor Code, the California Business and Professions Code, or any state, county or city law or ordinance regarding wages or compensation. However, this release shall not apply to claims for workers' compensation benefits, unemployment insurance benefits, pension or retirement benefits, or any other claim or right that as a matter of law cannot be waived or released.

5.3.1 Plaintiff's Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542. For purposes of Plaintiff's Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or Released Party.

6. **MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL**. The Parties agree to jointly prepare and file a motion for preliminary approval ("Motion for Preliminary Approval") that complies with the Court's current checklist for Preliminary Approvals.

6.1 Defendant's Declaration in Support of Preliminary Approval. Not later than fourteen (14) days before the date by which Plaintiff is required to file the Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendant will prepare and deliver to Class Counsel a signed Declaration from Defendant and Defense Counsel disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with the Administrator. In their Declarations, Defense Counsel and Defendant shall aver that they are not aware

of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.

- 6.2 Plaintiff's Responsibilities. Plaintiff will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all documents necessary for obtaining Preliminary Approval, including: (i) a draft of the notice, and memorandum in support, of the Motion for Preliminary Approval that includes an analysis of the Settlement under *Dunk/Kullar* and a request for approval of the PAGA Settlement under Labor Code Section 2699, subd. (f)(2)); (ii) a draft proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval; (iii) a draft proposed Class Notice; (iv) a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its "not to exceed" bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve; competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Class Data; amounts of insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members; and the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiff, Class Counsel or Defense Counsel; (v) a signed declaration from Plaintiff confirming willingness and competency to serve and disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members; (vi) a signed declaration from Class Counsel attesting to its competency to represent the Class Members; its timely transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (initial notice of violations (Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a)), Operative Complaint (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(2)); (vii) a redlined version of the parties' Agreement showing all modifications made to the Model Agreement ready for filing with the Court; and (viii) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members, the Administrator.
- 6.3 Responsibilities of Counsel. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than 45 days after the full execution of this Agreement; obtaining a prompt hearing date for the Motion for Preliminary Approval; and for appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the Motion for Preliminary Approval. Class Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Preliminary Approval to the Administrator.
- 6.4 Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed Motion for Preliminary Approval and/or the supporting declarations and documents, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does not grant Preliminary Approval or conditions Preliminary Approval on any material change to this Agreement, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

7. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

- 7.1 Selection of Administrator. The Parties have jointly selected Simpluris to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, Simpluris agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this

Agreement in exchange for payment of Administration Expenses. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.

- 7.2 Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports state and federal tax authorities.
- 7.3 Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund (“QSF”) under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1.
- 7.4 Notice to Class Members.
 - 7.4.1 No later than three (3) business days after receipt of the Class Data, the Administrator shall notify Class Counsel that the list has been received and state the number of Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, and Pay Periods in the Class Data.
 - 7.4.2 Using best efforts to perform as soon as possible, and in no event later than fourteen (14) days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator will send to all Class Members identified in the Class Data, via first-class United States Postal Service (“USPS”) mail, the Class Notice substantially in the form attached to this Agreement as **Exhibit A**. The first page of the Class Notice shall prominently estimate the dollar amounts of any Individual Class Payment payable to the Class Member, and the number of pay periods used to calculate these amounts. Before mailing Class Notices, the Administrator shall update Class Member addresses using the National Change of Address database.
 - 7.4.3 Not later than three (3) business days after the Administrator’s receipt of any Class Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the Class Notice using any forwarding address provided by the USPS. If the USPS does not provide a forwarding address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class Member Address Search, and re-mail the Class Notice to the most current address obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further attempts to locate or send Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by the USPS a second time.
 - 7.4.4 The deadlines for Class Members’ written objections, challenges to Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional fourteen (14) days beyond the forty-five (45) days otherwise provided in the Class Notice for all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.
 - 7.4.5 If the Administrator, Defendant or Class Counsel is contacted by or otherwise discovers any persons who believe they should have been included in the Class

Data and should have received Class Notice, the Parties will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, in an effort to agree on whether to include them as Class Members. If the Parties agree, such persons will be Class Members entitled to the same rights as other Class Members, and the Administrator will send, via email or overnight delivery, a Class Notice requiring them to exercise options under this Agreement not later than fourteen (14) days after receipt of Class Notice, or the deadline dates in the Class Notice, whichever are later.

7.5 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs).

- 7.5.1 Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) the Class Settlement must send the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail, a signed written Request for Exclusion not later than forty-five (45) days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional fourteen (14) days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed). A Request for Exclusion is a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative that reasonably communicates the Class Member's election to be excluded from the Settlement and includes the Class Member's name, address and email address or telephone number. To be valid, a Request for Exclusion must be timely faxed, emailed, or postmarked by the Response Deadline.
- 7.5.2 The Administrator may not reject a Request for Exclusion as invalid because it fails to contain all the information specified in the Class Notice. The Administrator shall accept any Request for Exclusion as valid if the Administrator can reasonably ascertain the identity of the person as a Class Member and the Class Member's desire to be excluded. The Administrator's determination shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. If the Administrator has reason to question the authenticity of a Request for Exclusion, the Administrator may demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity. The Administrator's determination of authenticity shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.
- 7.5.3 Every Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion is deemed to be a Participating Class Member under this Agreement, entitled to all benefits and bound by all terms and conditions of the Settlement, including the Participating Class Members' Releases under Paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 of this Agreement, regardless whether the Participating Class Member actually receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.
- 7.5.4 Every Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion is a Non-Participating Class Member and shall not receive an Individual Class Payment or have the right to object to the class action components of the Settlement. Because future PAGA claims are subject to claim preclusion upon entry of the Judgment, Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release the claims identified in Paragraph 5.2 of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.

- 7.6 Challenges to Calculation of Pay Periods. Each Class Member shall have forty-five (45) days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional fourteen (14) days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Pay Periods (if any) allocated to the Class Member in the Class Notice. The Class Member may challenge the allocation by communicating with the Administrator via fax, email or mail. The Administrator must encourage the challenging Class Member to submit supporting documentation. In the absence of any contrary documentation, the Administrator is entitled to presume that the Pay Periods contained in the Class Notice are correct so long as they are consistent with the Class Data. The Administrator's determination of each Class Member's allocation of Pay Periods shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. The Administrator shall promptly provide copies of all challenges to calculation of Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel and the Administrator's determination on the challenges.
- 7.7 Objections to Settlement.
- 7.7.1 Only Participating Class Members may object to the class action components of the Settlement and/or this Agreement, including contesting the fairness of the Settlement, and/or amounts requested for the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Class Representative Service Payment.
- 7.7.2 Participating Class Members may send written objections to the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail. In the alternative, Participating Class Members may appear in Court (or hire an attorney to appear in Court) to present verbal objections at the Final Approval Hearing. A Participating Class Member who elects to send a written objection to the Administrator must do so not later than forty-five (45) days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional fourteen (14) days for Class Members whose Class Notice was re-mailed).
- 7.7.3 Non-Participating Class Members have no right to object to any of the class action components of the Settlement.
- 7.8 Administrator Duties. The Administrator has a duty to perform or observe all tasks to be performed or observed by the Administrator contained in this Agreement or otherwise.
- 7.8.1 Website, Email Address and Toll-Free Number. The Administrator will establish and maintain and use an internet website to post information of interest to Class Members including the date, time and location for the Final Approval Hearing and copies of the Settlement Agreement, Motion for Preliminary Approval, the Preliminary Approval, the Class Notice, the Motion for Final Approval, the Motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and Class Representative Service Payment, the Final Approval and the Judgment. The Administrator will also

maintain and monitor an email address and a toll-free telephone number to receive Class Member calls, faxes and emails.

- 7.8.2 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-outs) and Exclusion List. The Administrator will promptly review on a rolling basis Requests for Exclusion to ascertain their validity. Not later than five (5) days after the expiration of the deadline for submitting Requests for Exclusion, the Administrator shall email a list to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel containing (a) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have timely submitted valid Requests for Exclusion (“Exclusion List”); (b) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have submitted invalid Requests for Exclusion; (c) copies of all Requests for Exclusion from Settlement submitted (whether valid or invalid).
- 7.8.3 Weekly Reports. The Administrator must, on a weekly basis, provide written reports to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel that, among other things, tally the number of: Class Notices mailed or re-mailed, Class Notices returned undelivered, Requests for Exclusion (whether valid or invalid) received, objections received, challenges to Pay Periods received and/or resolved, and checks mailed for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments (“Weekly Report”). The Weekly Reports must provide the Administrator’s assessment of the validity of Requests for Exclusion and attach copies of all Requests for Exclusion and objections received.
- 7.8.4 Pay Period Challenges. The Administrator has the authority to address and make final decisions consistent with the terms of this Agreement on all Class Member challenges over the calculation of Pay Periods. The Administrator’s decision shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.
- 7.8.5 Administrator’s Declaration. Not later than thirty (30) days before the date by which Plaintiff is required to file the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, the Administrator will provide to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its due diligence and compliance with all of its obligations under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, its mailing of Class Notice, the Class Notices returned as undelivered, the re-mailing of Class Notices, attempts to locate Class Members, the total number of Requests for Exclusion from Settlement it received (both valid or invalid), the number of written objections and attach the Exclusion List. The Administrator will supplement its declaration as needed or requested by the Parties and/or the Court. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator’s declaration(s) in Court.
- 7.8.6 Final Report by Settlement Administrator. Within thirty (30) days after the Administrator disburses all funds in the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will provide Class Counsel and Defense Counsel with a final report detailing its disbursements by employee identification number only of all payments made under this Agreement. At least fifteen (15) days before any

deadline set by the Court, the Administrator will prepare, and submit to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its disbursement of all payments required under this Agreement. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration in Court.

8. **ESCALATOR CLAUSE.** If the total number of Class Members exceeds 840 by 7.5% or more (i.e. 903 or more), the Gross Settlement shall increase by the same percentage by which the number of Class Members exceeds 903.
9. **MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.** Not later than sixteen (16) court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff will file in Court, a motion for final approval of the Settlement that includes a request for approval of the PAGA settlement under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l), a Proposed Final Approval Order and a proposed Judgment (collectively “Motion for Final Approval”). Plaintiff shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel not later than seven days prior to filing the Motion for Final Approval. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve any disagreements concerning the Motion for Final Approval.
 - 9.1 Response to Objections. Each Party retains the right to respond to any objection raised by a Participating Class Member, including the right to file responsive documents in Court, no later than five court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered or accepted by the Court.
 - 9.2 Duty to Cooperate. If the Court does not grant Final Approval or conditions Final Approval on any material change to the Settlement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), the Parties will expeditiously work together in good faith to address the Court’s concerns by revising the Agreement as necessary to obtain Final Approval. The Court’s decision to award less than the amounts requested for the Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Administrator Expenses Payment shall not constitute a material modification to the Agreement within the meaning of this paragraph.
 - 9.3 Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court. The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.
 - 9.4 Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment reflected set forth in this Settlement, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Participating Class Members who did not object to the Settlement as provided in this Agreement, waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs,

and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If an objector appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.

- 9.5 Appellate Court Orders to Vacate, Reverse, or Materially Modify Judgment. If the reviewing Court vacates, reverses, or modifies the Judgment in a manner that requires a material modification of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), this Agreement shall be null and void. The Parties shall nevertheless expeditiously work together in good faith to address the appellate court's concerns and to obtain Final Approval and entry of Judgment, sharing, on a 50-50 basis, any additional Administration Expenses reasonably incurred after remittitur. An appellate decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of the Class Representative Service Payment or any payments to Class Counsel shall not constitute a material modification of the Judgment within the meaning of this paragraph, as long as the Gross Settlement Amount remains unchanged.

10. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

- 10.1 No Admission of Liability, Class Certification or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by Defendant that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that Defendant has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendant's defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree that class certification and representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason the Court does not grant Preliminary Approval, Final Approval or enter Judgment, Defendant reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reasons or treatment of any person as aggrieved, and Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiff reserves the right to move for class certification on any grounds available and to contest Defendant's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement and Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation (except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement).
- 10.2 Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree that, until the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement is filed, they and each of them will not disclose, disseminate and/or publicize, or cause or permit another person to disclose, disseminate or publicize, any of the terms of the Agreement directly or indirectly, specifically or generally, to any person, corporation, association, government agency, or other entity except: (1) to the Parties' attorneys (and the attorneys' independent contractors), accountants, or spouses, all of whom will be instructed to keep this Agreement confidential; (2) counsel in a related matter; (3) to the extent necessary to report income to appropriate taxing authorities; (4) in response to a court order or 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 Defense Counsel separately agree not to, directly or indirectly, initiate any conversation or other communication, before the filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval, 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.

- 10.3 References for Named Plaintiff. Defendant agree that all inquiries about Plaintiff’s employment shall be referred to Human Resources, who will confirm Plaintiff’s dates of employment and position held. No other information concerning Plaintiff’s work history will be provided by Human Resources.
- 10.4 No Solicitation. The Parties separately agree that they and their respective counsel and employees will not solicit any Class Member to opt out of or object to the Settlement, or appeal from the Judgment. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to restrict Class Counsel’s ability to communicate with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel’s ethical obligations owed to Class Members.
- 10.5 Integrated Agreement. Upon execution by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement together with its attached exhibits executed by the Parties shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement, superseding the Memorandum of Understanding and any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements made to or by any Party.
- 10.6 Attorney Authorization. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff and Defendant, respectively, 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 reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.
- 10.7 Cooperation. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts, in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying the Settlement Agreement, submitting supplemental evidence and supplementing points and authorities as requested by the Court. In the event the Parties are unable to agree upon the form or content of any document necessary to implement the Settlement, or on any modification of the Agreement that may become necessary to implement the Settlement, the Parties will seek the assistance of a mediator and/or the Court for resolution.
- 10.8 Enforcement Action. In the event that any Party institutes any legal action or other proceeding against another Party or Parties to enforce the provisions of this Settlement, the successful Party or Parties will be entitled to recover from the

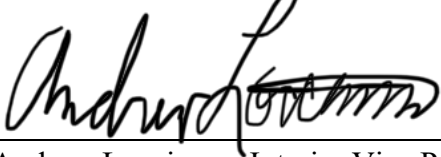
unsuccessful Party or Parties reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, including expert witness fees, incurred in connection with any enforcement action.

- 10.9 No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.
- 10.10 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant nor Defense Counsel are providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.
- 10.11 Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.
- 10.12 Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 10.13 Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the state of California, without regard to conflict of law principles.
- 10.14 Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.
- 10.15 Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made, and orders entered during Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.
- 10.16 Use and Return of Class Data. Information provided to Class Counsel pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §1152, and all copies and summaries of the Class Data 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) days after the date when the Court discharges the Administrator's obligation to provide a Declaration confirming the final pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy, all paper and electronic versions of Class Data received from MSMU unless, prior to the Court's discharge of the Administrator's obligation, MSMU makes a written request to Class Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of Class Data.

- 10.17 Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.
- 10.18 Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to “days” in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.
- 10.19 Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:
- To Plaintiff: Julian Hammond, Esq., HammondLaw, P.C., 1201 Pacific Avenue,
Suite 600, Tacoma, WA 98402; Telephone: (310) 601-6766.
- To Defendant: Heather Stone, Esq., Lagasse Branch Bell Kinhead LLP, 4365
Executive Dr., Suite 950, San Diego, CA 92121; Tel: 858.345.2268.
- 10.20 Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.
- 10.21 Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

MOUNT SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Dated: June 30, 2023

By: 
Andrew Loccisano, Interim Vice President
of Administration and Finance

Dated: _____

Cadyn Cathers

- 10.17 Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.
- 10.18 Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to “days” in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.
- 10.19 Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:
- To Plaintiff: Julian Hammond, Esq., HammondLaw, P.C., 1201 Pacific Avenue, Suite 600, Tacoma, WA 98402; Telephone: (310) 601-6766.
- To Defendant: Heather Stone, Esq., Lagasse Branch Bell Kinkad LLP, 4365 Executive Dr., Suite 950, San Diego, CA 92121; Tel: 858.345.2268.
- 10.20 Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.
- 10.21 Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

MOUNT SAINT MARY’S UNIVERSITY

Dated: June __, 2023

By: _____
Andrew Loccisano, Interim Vice President
of Administration and Finance

Dated: 6/30/2023



Cadyn Cathers

AGREED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

Dated: June 30, 2023

LAGASSE BRANCH BELL + KINKEAD LLP



Heather N. Stone, Attorneys for Defendant

Dated: June 30, 2023

HAMMONDLAW, P.C.



Julian Hammond
Ari Cherniak
Attorneys for Plaintiff

EXHIBIT A

**COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING
DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL**

(Cathers v Mount Saint Mary's University)

***The Superior Court for the State of California authorized this Notice. Read it carefully!
It's not junk mail, spam, an advertisement, or solicitation by a lawyer. You are not being sued.***

You may be eligible to receive money from an employee class action lawsuit ("Action") against Mount Saint Mary's University ("MSMU") for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by former MSMU employee Cadyn Cathers ("Plaintiff") and seeks (1) unpaid wages (including without limitation, pay for all hours worked, premium pay resulting from failing to authorize and permit paid rest breaks, and, when applicable, payment for all wages due at termination), penalties, and unreimbursed remote work/business expenses, incurred by adjunct instructors ("Class Members") who worked for MSMU during the Class Period (January 25, 2018 through _____); and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA") for adjunct employees who worked for MSMU during the PAGA Period (October 26, 2020 through _____) ("Aggrieved Employees").

The proposed Settlement has two main parts: (1) a Class Settlement requiring MSMU to fund Individual Class Payments, and (2) a PAGA Settlement requiring MSMU to fund Individual PAGA Payments and pay penalties to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA").

Based on MSMU's records, and the Parties' current assumptions, **your Individual Class Payment is estimated to be \$__ and your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$_____.** The actual amount you may receive likely will be different and will depend on several factors. (If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment, then according to MSMU's records you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you did not work during the PAGA Period.)

The above estimates are based on MSMU's records showing that **you worked ___ pay periods** during the Class Period and **you worked ___ pay periods** during the PAGA Period. If you believe that you worked more pay periods during either period, you can submit a challenge by the deadline date. See Section 4 of this Notice.

The Court has already preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement and approved this Notice. The Court has not yet decided whether to grant final approval. Your legal rights are affected whether you act or not act. Read this Notice carefully. You will be deemed to have carefully read and understood it. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will decide whether to finally approve the Settlement and how much of the Settlement will be paid to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's attorneys ("Class Counsel"). The Court will also decide whether to enter a judgment that requires MSMU to make payments under the Settlement and requires Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against MSMU.

If you worked for MSMU during the Class Period and/or the PAGA Period, you have two basic options under the Settlement:

- (1) **Do Nothing.** You do not have to do anything to participate in the proposed Settlement and be eligible for an Individual Class Payment and/or an Individual PAGA Payment. As a Participating Class Member, though, you will give up your right to assert Class Period wage claims and PAGA Period penalty claims against MSMU.
- (2) **Opt-Out of the Class Settlement.** You can exclude yourself from the Class Settlement (opt-out) by submitting the written Request for Exclusion or otherwise notifying the Administrator in writing. If you opt-out of the Settlement, you will not receive an Individual Class Payment. You will, however, preserve your right to personally pursue Class Period claims against MSMU, and, if you are an Aggrieved Employee, remain eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

MSMU will not retaliate against you for any actions you take with respect to the proposed Settlement.

SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT

You Do Not Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement	If you do nothing, you will be a Participating Class Member, eligible for an Individual Class Payment and an Individual PAGA Payment (if any). In exchange, you will give up your right to assert the wage claims against MSMU that are covered by this Settlement (Released Claims).
You Can Opt-out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement	If you do not want to fully participate in the proposed Settlement, you can opt-out of the Class Settlement by sending the Administrator a written Request for Exclusion. Once excluded, you will be a Non-Participating Class Member and no longer eligible for an Individual Class Payment. Non-Participating Class Members cannot object to any portion of the proposed Settlement. See Section 6 of this Notice.
The Opt-out Deadline is 	You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. MSMU must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees and the Aggrieved Employees must give up their rights to pursue Released Claims (defined below).

Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement Written Objections Must be Submitted by _____	All Class Members who do not opt-out (“Participating Class Members”) can object to any aspect of the proposed Settlement. The Court’s decision whether to finally approve the Settlement will include a determination of how much will be paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff who pursued the Action on behalf of the Class. You are not personally responsible for any payments to Class Counsel or Plaintiff, but every dollar paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff reduces the overall amount paid to Participating Class Members. You can object to the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiff if you think they are unreasonable. See Section 7 of this Notice.
You Can Participate in the ____ Final Approval Hearing	The Court’s Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on _____. You do not have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone or by using the Court’s virtual appearance platform. Participating Class Members can verbally object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing. See Section 8 of this Notice.
You Can Challenge the Calculation of Your Pay Periods Written Challenges Must be Submitted by _____	The amount of your Individual Class Payment and Individual PAGA Payment (if any) depend on how many pay periods in which you worked at least one day during the Class Period and how many pay periods you worked at least one day during the PAGA Period, respectively. The number Class Period and number of PAGA Period pay periods you worked according to MSMU’s records is stated on the first page of this Notice. If you disagree with either of these numbers, you must challenge it by _____. See Section 4 of this Notice.

1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?

Plaintiff is a former MSMU employees. The Action accuses MSMU of violating California law by failing to to pay wages due for all hours worked, failing to provide legally-compliant rest breaks, failing to pay all wages owed upon separation from employment (when applicable), failing to furnish timely and accurate itemized wage statements, and failing to reimburse Class Members for their reasonable and necessarily incurred business expenses. Based on the same claim, Plaintiff has also asserted a claim for PAGA civil penalties. Plaintiff is represented by attorneys in the Action: HammondLaw, P.C. (“Class Counsel”). MSMU strongly denies violating any laws and contends it complied with all applicable laws.

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE ACTION HAS SETTLED?

So far, the Court has made no determination whether Plaintiff or MSMU are correct on the merits. In the meantime, Plaintiff and MSMU hired an experienced, neutral mediator in an effort to resolve the Action by negotiating an agreement to settle the case rather than continuing the expensive and time-consuming process of litigation. The negotiations were successful. By signing a lengthy written

settlement agreement (“Agreement”) and agreeing to jointly ask the Court to enter a judgment ending the Action and enforcing the Agreement, Plaintiff and MSMU have negotiated a proposed Settlement that is subject to the Court’s Final Approval. Both sides agree the proposed Settlement is a compromise of disputed claims. By agreeing to settle, MSMU does not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims.

Plaintiff and Class Counsel strongly believe that the Settlement is a good deal for you because: (1) MSMU agreed to pay a fair, reasonable and adequate amount considering the strength of the claims and the risks and uncertainties of continued litigation; and (2) it is in the best interests of the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. The Court preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, authorized this Notice, and scheduled a hearing to determine Final Approval.

3. WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT TERMS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

1. MSMU will pay \$1,110,000.00 as the Gross Settlement Amount (“Gross Settlement”). MSMU has agreed to deposit the Gross Settlement into an account controlled by the Administrator of the Settlement. The Administrator will use the Gross Settlement to pay the Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel’s attorney’s fees and expenses, the Administrator’s expenses, and penalties to be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”). Assuming the Court grants Final Approval, MSMU will fund the Gross Settlement not more than sixty-one (61) days after the Judgment entered by the Court becomes final. The Judgment will be final on the date the Court enters Judgment, or a later date if Participating Class Members object to the proposed Settlement or the Judgment is appealed.
2. Court Approved Deductions from Gross Settlement. At the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve the following deductions from the Gross Settlement, the amounts of which will be decided by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing:
 - A. Up to \$388,500.00 (35% of the Gross Settlement) to Class Counsel for attorneys’ fees and up to \$25,000.00 for their litigation expenses. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.
 - B. Up to \$10,00.00 for Plaintiff as a Class Representative Award for filing the Action, working with Class Counsel and representing the Class. A Class Representative Award will be the only monies Plaintiff will receive other than Plaintiffs Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment.
 - C. Up to \$15,000.00 to the Administrator for services administering the Settlement.

- D. \$30,000.00 for PAGA Penalties, allocated 75% to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% in Individual PAGA Payments to the Aggrieved Employees based on their PAGA Period Pay Periods.

Participating Class Members have the right to object to any of these deductions. The Court will consider all objections.

3. Net Settlement Distributed to Class Members. After making the above deductions in amounts approved by the Court, the Administrator will distribute the balance of the Gross Settlement (the “Net Settlement”) by making Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members based on their Class Period workweeks.
4. Taxes Owed on Payments to Class Members. The Administrator shall allocate allocated two-thirds (2/3) to non-wage payments, penalties and interest, that are not subject to wage withholdings and reported on IRS 1099 Forms; and one-third (1/3) as wages and reported on an IRS Form W-2. The Administrator will be responsible for issuing a IRS Tax Form to report these payments.

Although Plaintiff and MSMU have agreed to these allocations, neither side is giving you any advice on whether your Payments are taxable or how much you might owe in taxes. You are responsible for paying all taxes (including penalties and interest on back taxes) on any Payments received from the proposed Settlement. You should consult a tax advisor if you have any questions about the tax consequences of the proposed Settlement.

5. Need to Promptly Cash Payment Checks. The front of every check issued for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments will show the date when the check expires (the void date). If you do not cash it by the void date, your check will be automatically canceled, and the monies will be transmitted to the State Controller's Office of Unclaimed Property.
6. Requests for Exclusion from the Class Settlement (Opt-Outs). You will be treated as a Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Class Settlement, unless you notify the Administrator in writing, not later than __, that you wish to opt-out. The easiest way to notify the Administrator is to send a written and signed Request for Exclusion by the ____ Response Deadline. The Request for Exclusion should be a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative setting forth a Class Member's name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement electing to be excluded from the Settlement. Excluded Class Members (i.e., Non-Participating Class Members) will not receive Individual Class Payments but will preserve their rights to personally pursue wage and hour claims against MSMU.

You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Class Members who exclude themselves from the Class Settlement (Non-Participating Class Members) remain eligible for Individual PAGA Payments and are required to give up their right

to assert PAGA claims against MSMU based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action.

7. The Proposed Settlement Will be Void if the Court Denies Final Approval. It is possible the Court will decline to grant Final Approval of the Settlement or decline to enter a Judgment. It is also possible the Court will enter a Judgment that is reversed on appeal. Plaintiff and MSMU have agreed that, in either case, the Settlement will be void: MSMU will not pay any money and Class Members will not release any claims against MSMU.
8. Administrator. The Court has appointed a neutral company, Simpluris (the “Administrator”) to send this Notice, calculate and make payments, and process Class Members’ Requests for Exclusion and Objections. The Administrator will also decide Class Member Challenges to pay periods, mail and re- mail settlement checks and tax forms, and perform other tasks necessary to administer the Settlement. The Administrator’s contact information is contained in Section 9 of this Notice.
9. Participating Class Members’ Release. After the Judgment is final and MSMU has fully funded the Gross Settlement, Participating Class Members will be legally barred from asserting any of the claims released under the Settlement. This means that unless you opted out by validly excluding yourself from the Class Settlement, you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against MSMU or the Released Parties, for claims based on the facts and PAGA penalties based on the facts, alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement. Released Parties means MSMU and all of its affiliated entities including its founders and members (the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet), as well as any of its past, present and future officers, agents, directors, shareholders, principals, partners, owners, trustees, supervisors, administrators, staff members, non-Class Member employees, representatives, parents, subsidiaries, attorneys, sureties, bonding companies, insurers, risk pooling trusts, and legal predecessors, successors, heirs, executors, administrators, assigns, and all persons acting by, through, under, or in concert with any of them.

The Participating Class Members will be bound by the following release:

- 1.1 Each and all Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, shall be deemed to release MSMU and the Released Parties from all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the Class Period facts alleged on their behalves in the operative First Amended Complaint, and arising during the Class Period, including claims under Labor Code §§ 226.2, 1194, 1194.2, 226.7, 226(a) & (e), 201-203, and 2802; and Business and Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.* Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers’ compensation, or claims based on

facts occurring outside the Class Period.

10. Aggrieved Employees' PAGA Release. After the Court's judgment is final, and MSMU has paid the Gross Settlement, all Aggrieved Employees will be barred from asserting PAGA claims against MSMU, whether or not they exclude themselves from the Settlement. This means that all Aggrieved Employees, including those who opt-out of the Class Settlement, cannot sue, continue to sue, or participate in any other PAGA claim against MSMU or the Released Parties based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action and resolved by this Agreement. The aggrieved employees will be bound by the following release:

Each and all Aggrieved Employee, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, shall be deemed to release MSMU and the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties for all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Operative First Amended Complaint and in the PAGA Notice, and arising during the PAGA Period.

4. HOW WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR CALCULATE MY PAYMENT?

1. Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual Class Payments by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of pay periods worked by all Participating Class Members, and (b) multiplying the result by the number of pay periods worked by each individual Participating Class Member.
2. Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing \$30,000.00 by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees and (b) multiplying the result by the number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by each individual Aggrieved Employee.
3. Pay Period Challenges. The number of Class pay periods you worked during the Class Period and the number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked during the PAGA Period, as recorded in MSMU's records, are stated in the first page of this Notice. You have until _____ to challenge the number of Pay Periods credited to you. You can submit your challenge by signing and sending a letter to the Administrator via mail, email or fax. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.
4. You need to support your challenge by sending copies of pay stubs or other records. The Administrator will accept MSMU's calculation of pay periods based on MSMU's records as accurate unless you send copies of records containing contrary information. You should send copies rather than originals because the documents will not be returned to you. The Administrator will resolve pay period challenges based on your submission and on input from Class Counsel (who will advocate on behalf of

Participating Class Members) and MSMU's Counsel. The Administrator's decision is final. You cannot appeal or otherwise challenge its final decision.

5. HOW WILL I GET PAID?

1. Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single check to every Participating Class Member (i.e., every Class Member who does not opt-out) including those who also qualify as Aggrieved Employees. The single check will combine the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment.
2. Non-Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single Individual PAGA Payment check to every Aggrieved Employee who opts out of the Class Settlement (i.e., every Non-Participating Class Member).

Your check will be sent to the same address as this Notice. If you change your address, be sure to notify the Administrator as soon as possible. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

6. HOW DO I OPT-OUT OF THE CLASS SETTLEMENT?

Submit a written and signed letter with your name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement that you do not want to participate in the Settlement. The Administrator will exclude you based on any writing communicating your request be excluded. Be sure to personally sign your request, identify the Action as *Cathers v Mount Saint Mary's University*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV02941, and include your identifying information (full name, address, telephone number, approximate dates of employment, and social security number for verification purposes). You must make the request yourself. If someone else makes the request for you, it will not be valid. **The Administrator must be sent your request to be excluded by _____, or it will be invalid.** Section 9 of the Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

7. HOW DO I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT?

Only Participating Class Members have the right to object to the Settlement. Before deciding whether to object, you may wish to see what Plaintiff and MSMU are asking the Court to approve. At least 16 court days before the _____ **Final Approval Hearing**, Class Counsel and/or Plaintiff will file in Court (1) a Motion for Final Approval that includes, among other things, the reasons why the proposed Settlement is fair, and (2) a Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Award stating (i) the amount Class Counsel is requesting for attorneys' fees and litigation expenses; and (ii) the amount Plaintiff are requesting as a Class Representative Service Award. Upon reasonable request, Class Counsel (whose contact information is in Section 9 of this Notice) will send you copies of these documents at no cost to you. You can also view them on the Administrator's Website [www.insert.com] or the Court's website <https://www.lacourt.org/>.

A Participating Class Member who disagrees with any aspect of the Agreement, the Motion for Final Approval and/or Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Award may wish to object, for example, that the proposed Settlement is unfair, or that the amounts requested by Class Counsel or

Plaintiff are too high or too low. **The deadline for sending written objections to the Administrator is _____.** Be sure to tell the Administrator what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. Make sure you identify the Action *Cathers v Mount Saint Mary's University*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV02941, and include your full name, current address, telephone number, and approximate dates of employment for MSMU and sign the objection. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

Alternatively, a Participating Class Member can object (or personally retain a lawyer to object at your own cost) by attending the Final Approval Hearing. You (or your attorney) should be ready to tell the Court what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. See Section 8 of this Notice (immediately below) for specifics regarding the Final Approval Hearing.

8. CAN I ATTEND THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING?

You can, but do not have to, attend the Final Approval Hearing on _ at (time) in [Department 7 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.] At the Hearing, the judge will decide whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and how much of the Gross Settlement will be paid to Class Counsel, Plaintiff, and the Administrator. The Court will invite comment from objectors, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel before making a decision. You can attend (or hire a lawyer to attend) either personally or virtually via LACourtConnect (<https://www.lacourt.org/lacc/>). Check the Court's website for the most current information.

It is possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the Administrator's website (www.simpluris.com) beforehand or contact Class Counsel to verify the date and time of the Final Approval Hearing.

9. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The Agreement sets forth everything MSMU and Plaintiff have promised to do under the proposed Settlement. The easiest way to read the Agreement, the Judgment or any other Settlement documents is to go to Simpluris's website at [www.insert.com]. You can also telephone or send an email to Class Counsel or the Administrator using the contact information listed below, or consult the Superior Court website by going to (<http://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/index.aspx>) and entering the Case Number for the Action, Case No. 22STCV02941. You can also make an appointment to personally review court documents in the Clerk's Office at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse by calling (213) 830-0800.

DO NOT TELEPHONE THE SUPERIOR COURT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT.

Class Counsel:

Name of Attorney: Julian Hammond, Esq.

Email Address: jammond@hammondlawpc.com

Name of Firm: HammondLaw, P.C.

Mailing Address: 1201 Pacific Avenue, Suite 600, Tacoma, WA 98402

Telephone: (310) 601-6766

Settlement Administrator:

Name of Company: Simpluris

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 26170, Santa Ana, CA 92799

Telephone: (888) 369-3780

Fax Number: _____

10. WHAT IF I LOSE MY SETTLEMENT CHECK?

If you lose or misplace your settlement check before cashing it, the Administrator will replace it as long as you request a replacement before the void date on the face of the original check. If your check is already void you will have no way to recover the money.

11. WHAT IF I CHANGE MY ADDRESS?

To receive your check, you should immediately notify the Administrator if you move or otherwise change your mailing address. See Section 9 for Administrator contact information.