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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

ANGEL ARMENTA and JAKKOB ROMERO, individually, on behalf of all others similarly situated, and on behalf of the State of California and other aggrieved persons, *Plaintiffs*, v. BLUE BEACON INTERNATIONAL, INCORPORATED, a corporation; BLUE BEACON U.S.A., L.P., a limited partnership; BLUE BEACON U.S.A. II, L.P., a limited partnership; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, *Defendants*.	Case No. CIVSB2206415 **CLASS ACTION** [*Assigned to:* Hon. Jessica Morgan, Dept. S-26] **DECLARATION OF JUSTIN F. MARQUEZ IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT** FINAL APPROVAL HEARING Date: October 4, 2023 Time: 9:00 a.m. Dept: S-26

DECLARATION OF JUSTIN F. MARQUEZ

I, Justin F. Marquez, declare as follows:

1. I am admitted, in good standing, to practice as an attorney in the State of California, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States District Courts for the Central, Southern, Eastern, and Northern Districts of California. I am a Senior Partner at Wilshire Law Firm, PLC, counsel of record for Plaintiff Angel Armenta ("Plaintiff Armenta" and together with Plaintiff Jakkob Romero, the "Plaintiffs"). I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration and could and would competently testify to them under oath if called as a witness. This Declaration is submitted in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement.

CASE BACKGROUND

2. This is a wage and hour class and Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2699, *et seq.*) representative action. Plaintiffs and the putative class members worked in California as hourly-paid or non-exempt employees for Defendants Blue Beacon International, Incorporated, Blue Beacon U.S.A., L.P., and Blue Beacon U.S.A. II, L.P. ("Defendants") during the class period. Defendants own, operate, and manage a chain of truck washing facilities throughout the United States, including in San Bernardino County.

3. Plaintiffs allege that Defendants' payroll, timekeeping, and wage and hour practices resulted in numerous Labor Code violations. Specifically, Plaintiffs allege that Defendants failed to, *inter alia*, pay for all hours worked, provide employees with legally compliant meal and rest periods, indemnify employees for all necessary business expenses, and provide timely wages. Plaintiffs also allege that Defendants had a policy and practice of not providing adequate written disclosures to applicants and employees before procuring credit reports or causing credit reports to be procured. Based on these allegations, Plaintiffs assert claims against Defendants for failure to pay minimum and straight time wages, failure to pay overtime wages, failure to provide meal periods, failure to authorize and permit rest periods, failure to indemnify for necessary business expenses, failure to timely pay all final wages at termination, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, unfair business practices, civil penalties under PAGA, and failure to conduct

lawful background checks.

4. On March 25, 2022, Plaintiff Armenta filed a putative wage and hour class action complaint against Defendants for: (1) failure to pay minimum and straight time wages (Labor Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, and 1197); (2) failure to pay overtime wages (Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1198); (3) failure to provide meal periods (Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512); (4) failure to authorize and permit rest periods (Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512); (5) failure to timely pay final wages at termination (Labor Code §§ 201-203); (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements (Labor Code § 226); and (7) unfair business practices (Business and Professions Code 17200, *et seq*.).

5. On March 29, 2023, Plaintiffs filed a first amended complaint, which added, among other things, Plaintiff Romero as a class representative and Plaintiff Romero's class and representative causes of action.

DISCOVERY AND INVESTIGATION

6. Following the filing of the initial Complaint, the Parties exchanged documents and information before mediating this action. Defendants produced a sample of timekeeping and pay records for class members. Defendants also provided documents of its wage and hour policies and practices during the class period and information regarding the total number of current and former employees in its informal discovery responses. In total, Defendants produced nearly 18,000 pages of policies, time records, wage records, and other relevant documents in advance of mediation.

7. After reviewing documents regarding Defendants' wage and hour policies and practices, analyzing Defendant's timekeeping and payroll records, and interviewing Class Members, Class Counsel was able to evaluate the probability of class certification, success on the merits, and Defendants' maximum monetary exposure for all claims. Class Counsel also investigated the applicable law regarding the claims and defenses asserted in the Litigation. Class Counsel reviewed these records and utilized an expert to prepare a damages analysis prior to mediation.

SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, PRELIMINARY APPROVAL, AND CLASS SIZE

8. On November 16, 2022, the Parties participated in private mediation with

experienced class action mediator Gail A. Glick, Esq. The mediation was conducted via Zoom. The settlement negotiations were at arm's length and, although conducted in a professional manner, were adversarial. The Parties went into the mediation willing to explore the potential for a settlement of the dispute, but each side was also prepared to litigate their position through trial and appeal if a settlement had not been reached.

9. After extensive negotiations and discussions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of Plaintiffs' claims and Defendants' defenses, the Parties reached a settlement following the issuance of a mediator's proposal, the material terms of which were subsequently incorporated in the Parties' proposed Settlement Agreement. Attached as **Exhibit 1** is a true and correct copy of the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Class Notice ("Settlement" or "Settlement Agreement").

10. The Settlement includes $50,000.00 allocated to Plaintiffs' claims under PAGA, with 75% of which ($37,500.00) being paid to the LWDA and 25% ($12,500.00) will be paid to eligible members of the PAGA Class. Class Counsel previously submitted the proposed settlement to the LWDA before filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval and will be submitting this Motion for Final Approval to the LWDA before the hearing.

11. The Settlement provides that Defendant will not oppose a fee application of up to 33 1/3% ($533,333.33) of the Settlement Amount, plus out-of-pocket costs not to exceed $15,000.00.

12. Class Counsel submitted the proposed Settlement and accompanying papers to the LWDA before filing this Motion for Final Approval. Attached as **Exhibit 2** is a true and correct copy of the online forms submitted to the LWDA regarding this proposed settlement of PAGA claims.

13. Class Counsel has conducted a thorough investigation into the facts of this case. Based on the foregoing discovery and their own independent investigation and evaluation, Class Counsel is of the opinion that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interests of the Settlement Class Members in light of all known facts and circumstances, the risk of significant delay, the defenses that could be asserted by Defendant both to certification and on

the merits, trial risk, and appellate risk. While Plaintiffs are confident in the merits of his claims, a legitimate controversy exists as to each cause of action. Plaintiffs also recognize that proving the amount of wages due to each Class Member would be an expensive, time-consuming, and uncertain proposition. Furthermore, even if Plaintiffs obtained certification of all or some of the claims, continued litigation would be expensive, involving a trial and possible appeals, and would substantially delay and reduce any recovery by the class.

ENHANCEMENT AWARD FOR PLAINTIFF IS REASONABLE

14. Class Counsel represent that Plaintiffs devoted a great deal of time and work assisting counsel in the case, communicated with counsel very frequently for litigation and to prepare for mediation, and was frequently in contact with Class Counsel during the mediation. Plaintiffs' requested service awards are reasonable particularly in light of the substantial benefits they generated for all class members.

15. Throughout this Litigation, Plaintiff Armenta, who is a former employee of Defendants, has cooperated immensely with my office and have taken many actions to protect the interests of the class. Plaintiff Armenta provided valuable information regarding the "off-the-clock," meal period, and rest period claims. Plaintiff Armenta also informed my office of developments and information relevant to this action, participated in decisions concerning this action, made himself available to answer questions during the mediation, and provided my office with the names and contact information of potential witnesses in this action. Before we filed this case, Plaintiff Armenta provided my office with documents regarding the claims alleged in this action. The information and documentation provided by Plaintiff Armenta was instrumental in establishing the alleged wage and hour violations alleged in this action, and the recovery provided for in the Settlement Agreement would have been impossible to obtain without Plaintiff Armenta's participation.

16. At the same time, Plaintiffs faced many risks in adding himself as the class representative in this matter. Plaintiffs faced actual risks with their future employment, as putting themselves on public record in an employment lawsuit could also very well affect his likelihood for future employment. Furthermore, as part of this Settlement, Plaintiffs are executing a general

release of all claims against Defendants.

17. In turn, class members will now have the opportunity to participate in a settlement, reimbursing them for alleged wage violations they may have never known about on their own or been willing to pursue on their own. If these class members would have each tried to pursue their legal remedies on their own, that would have resulted in each having to expend a significant amount of their own monetary resources and time, which were obviated by Plaintiffs putting themselves on the line on behalf of these other class members.

18. In the final analysis, this class action would not have been possible without the aid of Plaintiffs, who put their own time and effort into this Litigation, sacrificed the value of their own individual claims, and placed themselves at risk for the sake of the class members. The requested service award for Plaintiffs for their service as the class representatives and for their general release of all individual claims is a relatively small amount of money when the time and effort put into the Litigation are considered and in comparison to enhancements granted in other class actions. The requested incentive awards are therefore reasonable to compensate Plaintiffs for their active participation in this lawsuit. Indeed, in *Karl Adams, III, et al. v. MarketStar Corporation*, et al., No. 2:14-cv-02509-TLN-DB, a wage and hour class action alleging that class members were misclassified as exempt outside salespersons, I was co-lead Class Counsel and helped negotiate a $2.5 million class action settlement for 339 class members, and the court approved a $25,000.00 class representative incentive award for each named plaintiff.

<u>THE REQUEST FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS IS REASONABLE</u>

19. The Settlement provides for attorneys' fees payable to Class Counsel in an amount up to one-third (33 1/3%) of the Settlement Amount, for a maximum fees award of $533,333.33, plus actual costs and expenses not to exceed $15,000.00. The proposed award of attorneys' fees to Class Counsel in this case can be justified under either method – lodestar or percentage recovery. Class Counsel, however, intend to base the proposed award of fees, costs and expenses on the percentage method as many of the entries in the time records will have to be redacted to preserve attorney-client and attorney work product privileges.

20. The total current lodestar for Wilshire Law Firm, PLC is not less than the following:

Person	Role	Hours	Rate	Lodestar
Justin F. Marquez	Senior Partner (14+ years)	64	$950	$60,800
Benjamin H. Haber	Associate Attorney (7th Year)	93	$650	$60,450
Arrash T. Fattahi	Associate Attorney (3rd Year)	81	$500	$40,500
Min Jee Kim	Senior Paralegal	15	$150	$2,250
Total:		**253**		**$164,000**

21. Class Counsel has spent over 253 hours litigating this Action to bring it to resolution, not including time which will be expended monitoring the administration of the settlement and distribution of funds to the Class Members. The efforts expended by Plaintiff Armenta's counsel to achieve this result include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. the investigation of the matter, including meeting with Plaintiff Armenta, reviewing Defendants' policies, and requesting and reviewing Plaintiff's time and pay records, personnel files, and exploring the corporate structure of Defendants;
b. filing the Action;
c. attending status conferences and meeting and conferring with Defendants regarding the case;
d. meeting and conferring with Defendants and co-counsel regarding mediation, exchange of informal discovery beforehand, and negotiating with opposing counsel regarding the parameters thereof;
e. selecting a mediator and mediation date;
f. working with opposing counsel and expert consultants for the receipt of a representative sampling and analyzing the same with the aid of expert consultants and Plaintiffs to perform analyses of liability and exposure prior to attendance of the mediation in this matter;
g. reviewing policy documents from Defendants and researching applicable defenses;
h. working with co-counsel to review materials provided by Defendants and prepare a mediation brief and damages model for use at mediation;

i. attendance at mediation by all Parties and Counsel;

j. communicating with Plaintiff Armenta;

k. negotiating, finalizing and fully executing the settlement agreement with all Parties;

l. preparing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval and supporting documents;

m. attending the hearing on Motion for Preliminary Approval;

n. communicating with class members who sought additional information regarding the settlement, including answering questions regarding the settlement and obtaining updated addresses from class members for purposes of receiving the class notices and administering the settlement checks;

o. communicating with the Settlement Administrator to ensure the Class Notice was properly distributed and engaging in extensive follow-up communications with eh Settlement Administrator regarding class members who sought additional information about the Settlement;

p. communicating with counsel for class members who sought additional information regarding the settlement and opt-out process; and

q. working with co-counsel to prepare the instant Motion for Final Approval and supporting documents.

22. There are additional hours devoted by me (and by my colleagues) to this litigation that are not reflected in Class Counsel's request for attorney's fees.

23. We can provide additional billing records in the event the Court requests them, but would request the opportunity to redact attorney-client privileged information and any other privileged information.

24. I am informed and believe that the fee and costs provision is reasonable. The fee percentage requested is less than that charged by my office for most employment cases. My office invested significant time and resources into the case, with payment deferred to the end of the case, and then, of course, contingent on the outcome.

25. It is further estimated that my office will need to expend at least another 10 to 20

hours to monitor the process leading up to payments made to the class. My office also bears the risk of taking whatever actions are necessary if Defendants fail to pay.

26. There is also a fee split between Wilshire Law Firm and Crosner Legal. Accordingly, hours devoted by Crosner Legal should also be considered for the lodestar analysis.

27. The risk to my office has been very significant, particularly if we would not be successful in pursuing this class action. In that case, we would have been left with no compensation for all the time taken in litigating this case. Indeed, I have taken on a number of class action cases that have resulted in thousands of attorney hours being expended and ultimately having certification denied or the defendant company going bankrupt. The contingent risk in these types of cases is very real and they do occur regularly. Furthermore, we were precluded from focusing on, or taking on, other cases which could have resulted in a larger, and less risky, monetary gain.

28. Because most individuals cannot afford to pay for representation in litigation on an hourly basis, Wilshire Law Firm, PLC represents virtually all of its employment law clients on a contingency fee basis. Pursuant to this arrangement, we are not compensated for our time unless we prevail at trial or successfully settle our clients' cases. Because Wilshire Law Firm, PLC is taking the risk that we will not be reimbursed for our time unless our client settles or wins his or her case, we cannot afford to represent an individual employee on a contingency basis if, at the end of our representation, all we are to receive is our regular hourly rate for services. It is essential that we recover more than our regular hourly rate when we win if we are to remain in practice so as to be able to continue representing other individuals in civil rights employment disputes.

29. As of the drafting of this motion, my office has incurred around $7,733.48 in expenses litigating this action, and we anticipate accruing additional costs up to Final Approval of the Settlement. These expenses were reasonably necessary to the litigation and were actually incurred by my office. We also anticipate additional costs in the amount of $100.00, which includes the cost for appearing at the Motion for Final Approval hearing. Accordingly, my office respectfully requests reimbursements of $7,833.48 in expenses. Attached as **Exhibit 3** is a list of the costs and the categories of costs for the costs incurred in this case to date.

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MY EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

30. Wilshire Law Firm was selected by Best Lawyers and U.S. News & World Report as one of the nation's Best Law Firms for every year since 2020 and is comprised of over 66 attorneys and over 300 employees. Wilshire Law Firm is actively and continuously practicing in employment litigation, representing employees in both individual and class actions in both state and federal courts throughout California.

31. Wilshire Law Firm is qualified to handle this litigation because its attorneys are experienced in litigating Labor Code violations in both individual, class action, and representative action cases. Wilshire Law Firm has handled, and is currently handling, numerous wage and hour class action lawsuits, as well as class actions involving consumer rights and data privacy litigation.

32. I graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles's College Honors Program in 2004 with Bachelor of Arts degrees in History and Japanese, *magna cum laude* and *Phi Beta Kappa*. As an undergraduate, I also received a scholarship to study abroad for one year at Tokyo University in Tokyo, Japan. I received my Juris Doctor from Notre Dame Law School in 2008.

33. My practice is focused on advocating for the rights of consumers and employees in class action litigation and appellate litigation. I am currently the primary attorney in charge of litigating several class action cases in state and federal courts across the United States.

34. I have received numerous awards for my legal work. From 2017 to 2020, Super Lawyers selected me as a "Southern California Rising Star," and in 2022 and 2023 I was selected as a "Southern California Super Lawyer." I was selected as one of the "Best Lawyers in America" in 2023. In 2016 and 2017, the National Trial Lawyers selected me as a "Top 40 Under 40" attorney. I am also rated 10.0 ("Superb") by Avvo.com.

35. I am on the California Employment Lawyers Association (CELA)'s Wage and Hour Committee and Mentor Committee, and I was selected to speak at CELA's 2019 Advanced Wage & Hour Seminar on the topic of manageability of class actions. Since 2013, I have actively mentored young attorneys through CELA's mentorship program.

36. I am also an active member of the Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC). In

2020, I was selected for a position on CAOC's Board of Directors. I am also a past member of CAOC's Diversity Committee, and I help assist the CAOC in defeating bills that harm employees. Indeed, I recently helped assist Jacqueline Serna, Esq., Legislative Counsel for CAOC, in defeating AB 443, which proposed legislation that sought to limit the enforceability of California Labor Code § 226.

37. As the attorney responsible for day-to-day management of this matter at the Wilshire Law Firm, I have over fourteen years of experience with litigating wage and hour class actions. Over the last fourteen years, I have managed and assisted with the litigation and settlement of several wage and hour class actions. In those class actions, I performed similar tasks as those performed in the course of prosecuting this action. My litigation experience includes:

a. I served as lead or co-lead in negotiating class action settlements worth over $10 million in gross recovery to lass members for each year since 2020, including over $37.5 million in 2022 and over $50 million in 2023.

b. I was part of the team of attorneys that prevailed in *Moore v. Centrelake Medical Group, Inc.* (2022) 83 Cal.App.5th 515, the first California appellate decision in a data breach class action holding that consumer plaintiffs adequately alleged injury in fact under the benefit of the bargain theory and monitoring-costs theory.

c. In 2022, Top Verdict recognized Wilshire Law Firm and myself for having one case in the Top 20 Labor & Employment Settlements (including number 19 for the $4.1 million settlement in *In re: The FPI Management Wage and Hour Cases*) and four additional cases in the Top 50 Labor & Employment Settlements (numbers 36, 39, 41, and 49).

d. In 2021, *Top Verdict* recognized Wilshire Law Firm and myself for having one case in the Top 20 Labor & Employment Settlements (including number 20 for the $1.6 million settlement in *Moreno v. Pretium Packaging, L.L.C*) and three additional cases in the Top 50 Labor & Employment Settlements (numbers 30, 34, and 38).

e. To my knowledge, I am the only attorney to appear on each of the following *Top Verdict* lists for 2018 in California: Top 20 Civil Rights Violation Verdicts, Top 20

Labor & Employment Settlements, and Top 50 Class Action Settlements.

f. As lead counsel, on April 29, 2021, I prevailed against CVS Pharmacy, Inc. by winning class certification on behalf of hundreds of thousands of consumers for misleading advertising claims in *Joseph Mier v. CVS Pharmacy, Inc.*, U.S. Dist. Ct. C.D. Cal. no. SA CV 20-1979-DOC-(ADSx).

g. As lead counsel, I prevailed against Bank of America by: winning class certification on behalf of thousands of employees for California Labor Code violations; defeating appellate review of the court's order certifying the class; defeating summary judgment; and defeating a motion to dismiss. (*Frausto v. Bank of America, N.A.* (N.D. Cal. 2019) 334 F.R.D. 192, 2020 WL 1290302 (9th Cir. Feb. 27, 2020), 2019 WL 5626640 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 31, 2019), 2018 W.L. 3659251 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 2, 2018).). The decision certifying the class in *Frausto* is also discussed in *Class Certification Under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 in Action by Information Technology or Call Center Employees for Violation of State Law Wage and Hour Rules*, 35 A.L.R. Fed. 3d Art. 8.

h. I was the primary author of the class certification and expert briefs in *ABM Industries Overtime Cases* (2017) 19 Cal.App.5th 277, a wage and hour class action for over 40,000 class members for off-the-clock, meal period, split shift, and reimbursement claims. *ABM Industries Overtime Cases* is the first published California appellate authority to hold that an employer's "auto-deduct policy for meal breaks in light of the recordkeeping requirements for California employers is also an issue amenable to classwide resolution." (*Id*. at p. 310.)[1] Notably, the Court of Appeal also held that expert analysis of timekeeping records can also support the predominance requirement for class certification. (*Id*. at p. 310-311.) In 2021, the case settled for $140 million, making it one of the largest ever wage and hour class

[1] As a California district court observed before the *ABM Industries Overtime* decision, "[t]he case law regarding certification of auto-deduct classes is mixed." (*Wilson v. TE Connectivity Networks, Inc.* (N.D. Cal. Feb. 9, 2017) No. 14-CV-04872-EDL, 2017 WL 1758048, *7.)

action settlements for hourly-paid employees in California.

i. I briefed, argued, and won *Yocupicio v. PAE Group, LLC* (9th Cir. 2015) 795 F.3d 1057. The Ninth Circuit ruled in my client's favor and held that non-class claims under California's Private Attorney Generals Act ("PAGA") cannot be used to calculate the amount in controversy under the Class Action Fairness Act ("CAFA"). This case is cited in several leading treatises such as *Wright & Miller's Federal Practice & Procedure*, and *Newberg on Class Actions*. In October 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court denied review of a case that primarily concerned *Yocupicio*. That effort was led by Theodore J. Boutrous, who brought the cert petition, with amicus support from a brief authored by Andrew J. Pincus.[2] Considering that leading Supreme Court practitioners from the class action defense bar were very motivated in undermining *Yocupicio* case, but failed, this demonstrates the national importance of the *Yocupicio* decision.

j. On December 13, 2018, the United States District Court granted final approval of the $2,500,000 class action settlement in *Mark Brulee, et al. v. DAL Global Services, LLC* (C.D. Cal. Dec. 13, 2018) No. CV 17-6433 JVS(JCGx), 2018 WL 6616659 in which I served as lead counsel. In doing so, the Court found: "Class Counsel's declarations show that the attorneys are experienced and successful litigators." (*Id*. at p. *10.)

k. *Gasio v. Target Corp.* (C.D. Cal. Sep. 12, 2014) 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 129852, a reported decision permitting class-wide discovery even though the employer has a lawful policy because "[t]he fact that a company has a policy of not violating the law does not mean that the employees follow it, which is the issue here." The court also ordered defendant to pay for the cost of *Belaire-West* notice.

l. In 2013, I represented a whistleblower that reported that his former employer was defrauding the State of California with the help of bribes to public employees. The

[2] http://www.chamberlitigation.com/cases/abm-industries-inc-v-castro

case, a false claims (*qui tam*) action, resulted in the arrest and criminal prosecution of State of California employees by the California Attorney General's Office.

m. In 2013, I was part of a team of attorneys that obtained conditional certification for over 2,000,000 class members in a federal labor law case for misclassification of independent contractors that did crowdsourced work on the Internet, *Otey v. CrowdFlower, Inc*., N.D. Cal. Case No. 12-cv-05524-JST (MEJ), resulting in the following pro-plaintiff reported decisions:

1) 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 151846 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 22, 2013) (holding that an unaccepted Rule 68 offer doesn't moot plaintiff's claims, and granting plaintiff's motion to strike defendant's affirmative defenses based on *Twombly/Iqbal*).

2) 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 122007 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 27, 2013) (order granting conditional collective certification).

3) 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 95687 (N.D. Cal. July 8, 2013) (affirming the magistrate judge's discovery ruling which held that "evidence of other sources of income is irrelevant to the question of whether a plaintiff is an employee within the meaning of the FLSA").

4) 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 91771 (N.D. Cal. June 20, 2013) (granting broad discovery because "an FLSA plaintiff is entitled to discovery from locations where he never worked if he can provide some evidence to indicate company-wide violations").

m. From 2012 to 2013, I was part of a team of attorneys that obtained class certification for over 60,000 class members for off-the-clock claims, *Linares v. Securitas Security Services USA, Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court No. BC416555. We also successfully opposed subsequent appeals to the California Court of Appeal and California Supreme Court.

38. My current contingent billing rate of $950.00 per hour is consistent with my practice area, lead appellate experience in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, numerous awards received,

legal market and accepted hourly rates:

a. In the December 8, 2008 article "Billable Hours Aren't the Only Game in Town Anymore," *NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL*, the following hourly billing rates were reported by Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, a leading firm in the defense of wage-and-hour class actions that I opposed when litigating wage-and-hour class actions: Partners: $475-$795; Associates: 1st Year - $275, 2nd Year - $310, 3rd Year - $335, 4th Year - $365, 5th Year - $390, 6th Year - $415, 7th Year - $435, 8th Year - $455. I am a 14th year attorney and Senior Partner, with most of my experience in class action litigation as a primary practice area. Having successfully briefed and argued a published appeal in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals involving CAFA and PAGA, having experience certifying large class actions (including *ABM Industries Overtime Cases*, which was decided on appeal), and having received numerous awards for my legal work, my hourly rate should be adjusted upward.

b. On May 6, 2022 the Hon. Jay A. Garcia-Gregory of the United States District Court in Puerto Rico approved my previous $850 hourly rate when he granted final approval of the class action settlement in *Serrano v. Inmediata Corp.*, No. 3:19-cv-01811-JAG, Dkt. 57 (U.S. Dist. Ct. P.R. May 6, 2022).

c. On September 9, 2021, the Hon. Peter Wilson of the Orange County Superior Court approved my previous $800 hourly rate when he granted final approval of the class action settlement in *Ricardo Campos Hernandez v. Adams Iron Co., Inc.*, No. 30-2019-01066522-CU-OE-CXC.

d. On August 6, 2021, the Hon. Stanley Blumenfeld, Jr. of the United States District Court granted final approval of the $1,600,000 class action settlement in *Carlos Moreno v. Pretium Packaging, Inc.* (C.D. Cal. Aug. 6, 2021) No. 8:19-cv-02500-SB-DFM, 2021 WL 3673845 in which I served as lead counsel. In doing so, the Court approved my then $750 hourly rate after finding it was "reasonable, given the qualifications of the attorneys who worked on this matter." (*Id.* at p. *3.)

e. On January 19, 2021, the Hon. Elihu M. Berle of the Los Angeles County Superior Court approved my $750 hourly rate when he granted final approval of the class action settlement in *Faye Zhang v. Richemont North America, Inc.,* Case No. 19STCV32396.

39. Benjamin H. Haber is a seventh-year Associate Attorney at Wilshire Law Firm. His current hourly rate is $650. He graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, and received his Juris Doctor from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 2016. During law school, he was a member of the executive board for the *Hastings Law Journal* and student mediator at the San Francisco Superior Court, Small Claims Division. Since graduating from law school, he has focused his legal work primarily on wage-and-hour litigation and has helped obtain dozens of settlements on behalf of tens of thousands of workers in California.

40. Arrash T. Fattahi is a third-year Associate Attorney at Wilshire Law Firm, PLC. He was admitted to practice law in the State of California and the Central and Southern Districts of California in January 2021. Arrash graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, *summa cum laude*. He received his Juris Doctor from The George Washington University Law School. During law school, he was a member of the student editorial board for the *Federal Circuit Bar Journal*. Since January 2021, his practice has mainly been focused on wage and hour class action litigation. His current contingent billing rate for this case is $500 per hour.

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41. Min Jee Kim is a Senior Paralegal at Wilshire Law Firm with eleven years of experience working at law firms, including over five years of experience working on class action cases. She is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Economics.

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

Executed on September 11, 2023, at Los Angeles, California.

Justin F. Marquez, Esq.

Exhibit 1

CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is made by and between Plaintiffs Jakkob Romero and Angel Armenta ("Plaintiffs") and defendants Blue Beacon International, Incorporated, Blue Beacon U.S.A., L.P., and Blue Beacon U.S.A. II, L.P. (collectively, "Blue Beacon"). The Agreement refers to Plaintiffs and Blue Beacon collectively as "Parties," or individually as "Party."

1. DEFINITIONS.

1.1 "**Actions**" means Plaintiffs' lawsuits alleging wage and hour violations against Blue Beacon captioned: *Jakkob Romero v. Blue Beacon International, Incorporated, et al.,* initiated on June 24, 2022, and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Bernardino; *Jakkob Romero v. Blue Beacon International, Incorporated, et al.,* initiated on June 17, 2022, and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Bernardino; *Angel Armenta v. Blue Beacon International, Incorporated, et al.,* initiated on March 25, 2022, and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Bernardino; and *Angel Armenta v. Blue Beacon International, Incorporated, et al.,* initiated on June 3, 2022, and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Bernardino.

1.2 "**Administrator**" means Simpluris, Inc., 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 a person employed by Blue Beacon in California and classified as a non-exempt employee who worked for Blue Beacon during the PAGA Period.

1.5 "**Blue Beacon**" or "**Defendants**" mean named Defendants Blue Beacon International, Incorporated, Blue Beacon U.S.A., L.P., and Blue Beacon U.S.A. II, L.P.

1.6 "**Class**" means all persons employed by Blue Beacon in California and classified as a non-exempt employee who worked for Blue Beacon during the Class Period.

1.7 "**Class Counsel**" means Michael Crosner, Zach Crosner, Jamie Serb, and Jonathan Stilz of Crosner Legal, PC, and Benjamin Haber, Justin Marquez, and Arrash Fattahi of Wilshire Law Firm, PLC.

1.8 "**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 Actions.

1.9 "**Class Data**" means Class Member identifying information in Blue Beacon's possession including the Class Member's name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, email address (if available), and number of Class Period Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods.

1.10 "**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).

1.11 "**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.

1.12 "**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 with a Spanish translation, in the form, without material variation, attached as **Exhibit A** and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

1.13 "**Class Period**" means the period from March 25, 2018 to December 31, 2022.

1.14 "**Class Representatives**" means the named Plaintiffs in the Operative Complaint seeking Court approval to serve as the Class Representatives.

1.15 "**Class Representatives' Service Payments**" means the payments to the Class Representatives for initiating the Actions and providing services in support of the Actions.

1.16 "**Court**" means the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino.

1.17 "**Defense Counsel**" means Lonnie Giamela and Danielle Zobel of Fisher & Phillips, 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 latest of the following occurrences: (a) if no Participating Class Member objects to the Settlement, the day the Court enters Judgment; (b) if one or more Participating Class Members objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment; 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**" or "**Final Approval Order**" 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**" means $1,600,000.00 which is the total amount Blue Beacon agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph 8 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, Class Representatives' Service Payments and the Administrator's Expenses.

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 Workweeks 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 Workweeks 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**" means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Representatives' Service Payments, 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 Plaintiff Armenta's First Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint, of which the Parties filed a Joint Stipulation seeking the Court's leave to file on or around January 17, 2023.

1.31 "**PAGA Pay Period**" means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Blue Beacon for at least one day during the PAGA Period.

1.32 "**PAGA Period**" means the period from March 25, 2021 to December 31, 2022.

1.33 "**PAGA**" means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).

1.34 "**PAGA Notices**" means Plaintiff Armenta's March 28, 2022 letter to Blue Beacon and the LWDA and Plaintiff Romero's April 14, 2022 letter to Blue Beacon and the LWDA, providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a).

1.35 "**PAGA Penalties**" means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties ($50,000.00) to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees ($12,500.00) and the 75% to LWDA ($37,500.00) 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 "**Plaintiffs**" mean Jakkob Romero and Angel Armenta, the named Plaintiffs in the Actions.

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 of the Settlement.

1.40 "**Released Class Claims**" means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.2 below.

1.41 "**Released PAGA Claims**" means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.3 below.

1.42 "**Released Parties**" means: Blue Beacon and each of its former and present directors, officers, shareholders, employees, owners, members, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates.

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 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 14 calendar days beyond the Response Deadline has expired.

1.45 "**Settlement**" means the disposition of the Actions effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.

1.46 "**Workweek**" means any week during which a Class Member worked for Blue Beacon for at least one day, during the Class Period.

2. RECITALS.

2.1 On June 24, 2022, Plaintiff Romero commenced his action by filing a Class Action Complaint alleging causes of action against Blue Beacon for Recovery of Unpaid Minimum Wages and Unpaid Overtime, Failure to Provide Meal and Rest Periods, Failure to Provide Accurate Wage Statements, Failure to Pay All Wages Due at Separation, Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses, and Violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act. On June 17, 2022, Plaintiff Romero commenced his action by filing a PAGA Representative Complaint alleging causes of action against Blue Beacon for Violation of the Private Attorneys General Act. On March 25, 2022, Plaintiff Armenta commenced his action by filing a Class Action Complaint alleging causes of action against Blue Beacon for Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages, Failure to Pay Overtime Wages, Failure to Provide Meal Periods, Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods, Failure to Timely Pay Final Wages at Termination, Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements, Failure to Indemnify Employees for Expenditures, and Unfair Business Practices. On June 3, 2022, Plaintiff Armenta commenced his action by filing a PAGA Representative Complaint alleging causes of action against Blue Beacon for Violation of the Private Attorneys General Act. On or around January 17, 2023, Plaintiff Armenta filed a Joint Stipulation seeking the Court's leave to file a First Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint (the "Operative Complaint") to combine the Actions, as well as add claims for Defendant's failure to comply with the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681 ("FCRA") and the Investigative Consumer Reporting Agency Act, Civil Code § 1786.10, et seq. ("ICRAA"). Plaintiffs will file the First Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint after the Court grants leave to do so. Blue Beacon 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.

2.2 Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a), Plaintiffs gave timely written notice to Blue Beacon and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notices.

2.3 On November 22, 2022, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by Gail Glick which led to this Agreement to settle the Actions.

2.4 Prior to mediation, Plaintiffs obtained, through informal discovery, including Plaintiffs' personnel files and a sampling of time and pay data for the Class Members. Plaintiffs' 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.

3. MONETARY TERMS.

3.1 **Gross Settlement Amount**. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 8 below, Blue Beacon promises to pay $1,600,000.00 and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount and to separately pay any and all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments. Blue Beacon has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount (or any payroll taxes) 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 Blue Beacon.

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 Order:

3.2.1 **To Plaintiffs**: Class Representatives' Service Payments to the Class Representatives of not more than $10,000.00 for each Plaintiff (in addition to any Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment the Class Representative is entitled to receive as a Participating Class Member). Blue Beacon will not oppose Plaintiffs' request for Service Payments that does not exceed this amount. As part of the Final Approval motion, Plaintiffs will seek Court approval for any Service Payments no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. 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 Representatives' Service Payments using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiffs assumes full responsibility and liability for employee taxes owed on the Class Representatives' Service Payments.

3.2.2 **To Class Counsel**: A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than 33 1/3%, which is currently estimated to be $533,333.33 and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than $15,000.00. Blue Beacon will not oppose requests for these payments provided that do not exceed these amounts. As part of the Final Approval motion, Plaintiffs and/or Class Counsel will request approval of the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment. 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 Plaintiffs' 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 Class Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. 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 Blue Beacon harmless, and indemnifies Blue Beacon, 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 $15,000.00 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 $15,000.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.

3.2.4 **To Each Participating Class Member**: An Individual Class Payment calculated by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Participating Class Member's Workweeks.

3.2.4.1 **Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments**. One-third of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portions are subject to tax withholding and will be reported on an IRS W-2 Form. The remaining two-thirds of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of claims for [e.g., interest and penalties] (the "Non-Wage Portion"). The Non-Wage Portions are not subject to wage withholdings and will be reported on IRS 1099 Forms. Participating Class Members assume full responsibility and liability for any employee taxes owed on their Individual Class Payment.

3.2.4.2 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.

3.2.5 **To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees**: PAGA Penalties in the amount of $50,000.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75%

($37,500.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% ($12,500.00) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.

3.2.5.1 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.

3.2.5.2 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 Workweeks and Aggrieved Employee Pay Periods**. Based on a review of its records to date, Blue Beacon estimates there are 1,398 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 59,919 Workweeks, and 788 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total 11,020 PAGA Pay Periods.

4.2 **Class Data**. Not later than 15 days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Blue Beacon will simultaneously 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. Blue Beacon 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 Blue Beacon 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**. Blue Beacon shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount, and also fund the amounts necessary to fully pay Blue Beacon's share of payroll taxes by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than 14 days after the Effective Date.

4.4 **Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount**. Within 14 days after Blue Beacon funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks 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 Representatives' Service Payments. Disbursement of the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and the Class Representatives' Service Payments 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 Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (not less than 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 Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees whose checks are retuned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within 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 Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Participating Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee whose original check was lost or misplaced, requested by the Participating Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee prior to the void date.

4.4.3 For any Participating Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee 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 California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Class Member thereby leaving no "unpaid residue" subject to the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 384, subd. (b).

4.4.4 The payment of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Blue Beacon to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses) beyond those specified in this Agreement.

5. **RELEASES OF CLAIMS.** Effective on the date when Blue Beacon fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount and funds all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments, Plaintiffs, and Class Members will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

5.1 **Plaintiffs' Release**. Plaintiffs and their respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all claims, transactions, or occurrences that occurred during the Class Period, including, but not limited to: (a) all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained, in the Operative Complaint and (b) all PAGA claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged based on facts contained in the Operative Complaint, Plaintiffs' PAGA Notices ("Plaintiffs' Release"). Plaintiffs' Release does not extend to any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time, or based on occurrences outside the Class Period. Plaintiffs acknowledge that Plaintiffs may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiffs now know or believe to be true but agree, nonetheless, that Plaintiffs' Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiffs' discovery of them. Expressly excluded from this release are the causes of action currently alleged by Plaintiff Jakkob Romero in the lawsuit pending in the United States District Court, Central District of California, titled *Romero v. Blue Beacon International, Incorporated*, case number 5:22-cv-00616-JGB-SP.

5.1.1 **Plaintiffs' Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542**. For purposes of Plaintiffs' Release, Plaintiffs expressly waive and relinquish 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.

5.2 **Release by Participating Class Members**: All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release the Released Parties from all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts stated in the Operative Complaint, including, any and all claims involving any recovery of unpaid minimum wages and unpaid overtime (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198), failure to provide meal and rest periods (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512), failure to provide accurate wage statements (Cal. Lab. Code § 226), failure to pay all wages due at separation (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-203), failure to reimburse business expenses (Cal. Lab. Code § 2802), violation of Unfair Business Practices (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.), violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act (29 USC § 203), violation of the Federal Credit Reporting Act (15 USC § 1681, et seq.), and violation of the Investigative Consumer Reporting Agency Act (Cal. Civil Code §§ 1786.10 – 1786.40) during the Class Period. Participating Class Members only release these claims for the duration of the Class Period. Except as set forth in Section 5.3 of this Agreement, 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.

5.3 **Release by Aggrieved Employees**: All Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notices, including any and all claims involving any alleged failure to pay minimum wages or overtime, failure to provide meal and rest periods, failure to provide accurate wage statements, failure to pay all wages due at separation, and failure to reimburse business expenses, including Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 210, 216, 223, 225.5, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 245-248.5, 256, 432, 432.5, 432.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1024.5, 1174, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2699, 2699.3, 2802, 2810.5 during the PAGA Period. Aggrieved Employees only release these claims for the duration of the PAGA Period.

6. **MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL.** The Parties agree to jointly prepare and file a motion for preliminary approval ("Motion for Preliminary Approval"), which will be filed in *Angel Armenta v. Blue Beacon International, Incorporated, et al*, Case No. CIVSB2206415, that complies with the Court's current checklist for Preliminary Approvals.

6.1 **Plaintiffs' Responsibilities**. Plaintiffs 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 Plaintiffs, Class Counsel or Defense Counsel; (v) a signed declaration from Plaintiffs confirming willingness and competency to serve and disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members, and/or the Administrator; (v) a signed declaration from each Class Counsel firm 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)); and (vi) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members, the Administrator.

6.2 **Responsibilities of Counsel**. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than 30 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.

6.3 **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 to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, Simpluris, Inc. 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, PAGA Members, Workweeks, 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 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 with Spanish translation, 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 and/or Individual PAGA Payment payable to the Class Member, and the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if applicable) 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 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 Workweeks and/or Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional 14 days beyond the 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, Blue Beacon 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 14 days after receipt of Class Notice, or the deadline dates in the Class Notice, which ever 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 45 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 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' Release and Aggrieved Employee Release under Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of this

Agreement, regardless of 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 5.3 of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.

7.6 **Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks**. Each Class Member shall have 45 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Class Workweeks and PAGA 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 Workweeks 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 Workweeks and/or 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 Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel and the Administrator's determination 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 Representatives' Service Payments.

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 45 days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional 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 **Email Address and Toll-Free Number**. The Administrator will 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 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 Workweeks and/or Pay Periods received and/or resolved, and checks mailed for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments ("Weekly Report"). The Weekly Reports must include 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 **Workweek and/or 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 Workweeks and/or 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 14 days after the Response Deadline, 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 the Class Notice, the total number of Class Notices returned as undelivered, the re-mailing of Class Notices, attempts to locate Class Members, the total number of Requests for Exclusion from the 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 10 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 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. CLASS SIZE ESTIMATES AND ESCALATOR CLAUSE.

8.1 Based on its records, Blue Beacon estimates that, as of the date of this Settlement Agreement, (1) there are 1,398 Class Members and 59,919 Total Workweeks during the Class Period; and (2) there are 788 Aggrieved Employees who worked 11,020 Pay Periods during the PAGA Period.

8.2 The Gross Settlement Amount was agreed upon based on Blue Beacon's representations of the total number of Workweeks in the Class Period and total number of Pay Periods in the PAGA Period. If the number of Pay Periods during the PAGA Period exceeds 11,020 by more than ten percent (10%) or the number of Workweeks during the Class Period exceeds 59,919 by more than ten percent (10%), the Gross Settlement Amount shall be increased on a pro rata basis per Pay Period or Workweek exceeding the 10% increase (i.e., if the number increases by 11%, the Gross Settlement Amount shall be increased by 1%).

9. BLUE BEACON'S RIGHT TO WITHDRAW. If the number of valid Requests for Exclusion identified in the Exclusion List exceeds 10% of the total of all Class Members, Blue Beacon may, but is not obligated, elect to withdraw from the Settlement. The Parties agree that, if Blue Beacon withdraws, the Settlement shall be void ab initio, have no force or effect whatsoever, and that neither Party will have any further obligation to perform under this Agreement; provided, however, Blue Beacon will remain responsible for paying all Settlement Administration Expenses incurred to that point. Blue Beacon must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its election to withdraw not later than seven days after the Administrator sends the final Exclusion List to Defense Counsel; late elections will have no effect.

10. MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL. Not later than 16 court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiffs 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"). Plaintiffs shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel as soon as practicable 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.

10.1 **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.

10.2 **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 Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees), 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 Representatives' Service Payments, 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.

10.3 **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.

10.4 **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.

10.5 **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 Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees), 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 Representatives' Service Payments 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.

11. AMENDED JUDGMENT. If any amended judgment is required under Code of Civil Procedure section 384, the Parties will work together in good faith to jointly submit and a proposed amended judgment.

12. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

12.1 **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 Blue Beacon that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that Blue Beacon has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiffs that Blue Beacon's defenses in the Actions 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 grant Preliminary Approval, Final Approval or enter Judgment, Blue Beacon reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reasons, and Blue Beacon reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Actions, and Plaintiffs reserve the right to move for class certification on any grounds available and to contest Blue Beacon's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement, and the Parties' willingness to settle the Actions 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).

12.2 **Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval**. Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Blue Beacon 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, 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. Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Blue Beacon 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.

12.3 **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.

12.4 **Integrated Agreement**. Upon execution by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement together with its attached exhibits shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement, superseding any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements made to or by any Party.

12.5 **Attorney Authorization**. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiffs and Blue Beacon, 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.

12.6 **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.

12.7 **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.

12.8 **No Tax Advice**. Neither Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Blue Beacon 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.

12.9 **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.

12.10 **Agreement Binding on Successors**. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.

12.11 **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.

12.12 **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.

12.13 **Confidentiality**. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made, and orders entered during Actions and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.

12.14 **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 Blue Beacon 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 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, Plaintiffs shall destroy, all paper and electronic versions of Class Data received from Blue Beacon unless, prior to the Court's discharge of the Administrator's obligation, Blue Beacon makes a written request to Class Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of Class Data.

12.15 **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.

12.16 **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.

12.17 **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 Plaintiffs:

Zachary Crosner
zach@crosnerlegal.com
Michael Crosner
mike@crosnerlegal.com
Jamie Serb
jamie@crosnerlegal.com
CROSNER LEGAL, PC
9440 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 301
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Justin Marquez
justin@wilshirelawfirm.com
Benjamin Haber
benjamin@wilshirelawfirm.com
Arrash Fattahi
afattahi@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM, PLC
3055 Wilshire Blvd., 12^{th} Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90010

To Defendants:

Lonnie Giamela
lgiamela@fisherphillips.com
Danielle Zobel
dzobel@fisherphillips.com
FISHER & PHILLIPS, LLP
444 South Flower Street, Suite 1500
Los Angeles, CA 90071

12.18 **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.

12.19 **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.

Dated: 01 / 18 / 2023 ____________________

Plaintiff Jakkob Romero

Dated: ____________ ____________________

Plaintiff Angel Armenta

Dated: ____________ ____________________

____________ for:

Defendants

Dated: January 18, 2023 **CROSNER LEGAL, PC**

____

Zachary Crosner, Esq.
Michael Crosner, Esq.
Jamie Serb, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff Romero and the Class

Dated: ____________ **WILSHIRE LAW FIRM, PLC**

____

Justin F. Marquez, Esq.
Benjamin H. Haber, Esq.
Arrash T. Fattahi, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff Armenta and the Class

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Dated: ____________ ______________________________

Plaintiff Jakkob Romero

Dated: ____________ ______________________________

Plaintiff Angel Armenta

Dated: 2-13-23 Pat Sullivan

Vice President of Human Resources for:

Defendants

Dated: ____________ **CROSNER LEGAL, PC**

____

Zachary Crosner, Esq.
Michael Crosner, Esq.
Jamie Serb, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff Romero and the Class

Dated: ____________ **WILSHIRE LAW FIRM, PLC**

____

Justin F. Marquez, Esq.
Benjamin H. Haber, Esq.
Arrash T. Fattahi, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff Armenta and the Class

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Dated: ______________ ____

Plaintiff Jakkob Romero

Dated: 1/18/2023

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Plaintiff Angel Armenta

Dated: ______________ ____

____________________ for:

Defendants

Dated: ______________ **CROSNER LEGAL, PC**

____

Zachary Crosner, Esq.
Michael Crosner, Esq.
Jamie Serb, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff Romero and the Class

Dated: January 18, 2023 **WILSHIRE LAW FIRM, PLC**

Justin F. Marquez, Esq.
Benjamin H. Haber, Esq.
Arrash T. Fattahi, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff Armenta and the Class

Dated: January 18, 2023

FISHER & PHILLIPS, LLP

Lonnie Giamela, Esq.
Danielle Zobel, Esq.
Attorneys for Defendants

EXHIBIT A

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

Angel Armenta, et al. v. Blue Beacon International, Incorporated, et al., San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVSB2206415

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 Blue Beacon International, Incorporated, Blue Beacon U.S.A., L.P., and Blue Beacon U.S.A. II, L.P. (collectively, "BLUE BEACON") for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by former BLUE BEACON employees ("Plaintiffs") and seeks payment of: (1) back wages and other relief for a class of hourly, non-exempt employees ("Class Members") who worked for BLUE BEACON during the Class Period (March 25, 2018 to December 31, 2022); and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") for all hourly, non-exempt employees who worked for BLUE BEACON during the PAGA Period (March 25, 2021 to December 31, 2022) ("Aggrieved Employees").

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

Based on BLUE BEACON's records, and the Parties' current assumptions, your Individual Class Payment is estimated to be $________ (less withholding) and your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be $________. The actual amount you may receive likely will be different and will depend on a number of factors. (If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment, then according to BLUE BEACON's records you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you didn't work during the PAGA Period.)

The above estimates are based on BLUE BEACON's records showing that you worked ________ workweeks during the Class Period and you worked ________ pay periods during the PAGA Period. If you believe that you worked more workweeks 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 of the Settlement. 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 Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' attorneys ("Class Counsel"). The Court will also decide whether to enter a judgment that requires BLUE BEACON to make payments under the Settlement and requires Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against BLUE BEACON.

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

1. **Do Nothing**. You don't 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 BLUE BEACON.

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 wage claims against BLUE BEACON, 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.

BLUE BEACON 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 Don't 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 BLUE BEACON that are covered by this Settlement (Released Claims).

You Can Opt-Out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement. The Opt-out Deadline is DATE . If you don't 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.

You Cannot Opt-out of the PAGA Portion of the Proposed Settlement. BLUE BEACON 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 DATE. 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 Plaintiffs who pursued the Action on behalf of the Class. You are not personally responsible for any payments to Class Counsel or Plaintiffs. Other than the PAGA portion of this Settlement, you can object to any aspect of this Settlement. 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 DATE. You don't 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 Workweeks/Pay Periods. Written Challenges Must be Submitted by DATE. The amount of your Individual Class Payment and PAGA Payment (if any) depend on how many workweeks 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 of Workweeks and number of Pay Periods you worked according to BLUE BEACON's records is stated on the first page of this Notice. If you disagree with either of these numbers, you must challenge it by DATE. See Section 4 of this Notice.

1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?

Plaintiffs are former BLUE BEACON employees. The Action accuses BLUE BEACON of violating California labor laws by failing to pay minimum, straight time, and overtime wages, failing to provide meal and rest periods, failing to pay final wages upon termination, failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements, and failing to reimburse employees for expenditures. Based on the same claims, Plaintiffs have also asserted a claim for civil penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq.) ("PAGA"). The Action also alleges violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681 ("FCRA") and the Investigative Consumer Reporting Agency Act, Civil Code § 1786.10, et seq. ("ICRAA"). Plaintiffs are represented by attorneys ("Class Counsel") in the Action.

BLUE BEACON strongly denies violating any laws or failing to pay any wages 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 BLUE BEACON violated any laws. In the meantime, Plaintiffs and BLUE BEACON hired an experienced, neutral mediator in an effort to resolve the Action by negotiating an end to the case by agreement (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, Plaintiffs and BLUE BEACON 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, BLUE BEACON does not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims.

Plaintiffs and Class Counsel strongly believe the Settlement is a good deal for you because they believe that: (1) BLUE BEACON has 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) Settlement 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 whether to finally approve the Settlement.

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

BLUE BEACON Will Pay $1,600,000.00 as the Gross Settlement Amount (Gross Settlement). BLUE BEACON 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 Representatives' Service Payments, Class Counsel's attorneys' 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, BLUE BEACON will fund the Gross Settlement not more than 14 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.

Court Approved Deductions from Gross Settlement. At the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiffs 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:

- Up to $**533,333.33** (33 1/3% of the Gross Settlement) to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and up to $**15,000.00** for their litigation expenses. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.
- Up to $**10,000.00** each to Plaintiff for the Class Representatives' Service Payments for filing the Action, working with Class Counsel and representing the Class. The Class Representatives' Service Payments will be the only monies Plaintiffs will receive other than Plaintiffs' Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment.
- Up to $**15,000.00** to the Administrator for services administering the Settlement.
- Up to $**50,000.00** 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.

Net Settlement Distributed to Class Members. After making the above deductions in amounts approved by the Court, the Administrator will distribute the rest of the Gross Settlement (the "Net Settlement") by making Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members based on their Class Period Workweeks.

Taxes Owed on Payments to Class Members. Plaintiffs and BLUE BEACON are asking the Court to approve an allocation of **33**% of each Individual Class Payment to taxable wages ("Wage Portion") and **67**% to penalties and interest ("Non-Wage Portion.). The Wage Portion is subject to withholdings and will be reported on IRS W-2 Forms. BLUE BEACON will separately pay employer payroll taxes it owes on the Wage Portion. The Individual PAGA Payments are counted as penalties rather than wages for tax purposes. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments and the Non-Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

Although Plaintiffs and BLUE BEACON 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.

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 don't cash it by the void date, your check will be automatically cancelled, and the monies will be deposited with the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in your name. If the payment represented by your check is sent to the Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund, you should consult the rules of the Fund for instructions on how to retrieve your money.

Requests for Exclusion from the Class Settlement (Opt-Outs). You will be treated as a Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Settlement, unless you notify the Administrator in writing, not later than DATE, 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 you or your representative setting forth your 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 BLUE BEACON.

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 BLUE BEACON based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action.

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 enter a Judgment. It is also possible the Court will enter a Judgment that is reversed on appeal. Plaintiffs and BLUE BEACON have agreed that, in either case, the Settlement will be void: BLUE BEACON will not pay any money and Class Members will not release any claims against BLUE BEACON.

Administrator. The Court has appointed a neutral company, Simpluris, Inc. (the "Administrator") to send this Notice, calculate and make payments, and process Class Members' Requests for Exclusion. The Administrator will also decide Class Member Challenges over Workweeks, 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.

Participating Class Members' Release. After the Judgment is final and BLUE BEACON has fully funded the Gross Settlement and separately paid all employer payroll taxes, 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 BLUE BEACON or related entities for wages based on the Class Period facts and PAGA penalties based on the facts, as alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

Release by Participating Class Members: All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts stated in the Operative Complaint including any and all claims involving any recovery of unpaid minimum wages and unpaid overtime, failure to provide meal and rest periods, failure to provide accurate wage statements, failure to pay all wages due at separation, failure to reimburse business expenses, violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, violation of the FCRA, and violation of the ICRAA during the Class Period. Participating Class Members only release these claims for the duration of the Class Period. Except as set forth in Section 5.3 of the Settlement Agreement, 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.

Release by Aggrieved Employees: All Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties, from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notices, including any and all claims involving any alleged failure to pay minimum wages or overtime, failure to provide meal and rest periods, failure to provide accurate wage statements, failure to pay all wages due at separation, and failure to reimburse business expenses during the PAGA Period. Aggrieved Employees only release these claims for the duration of the PAGA Period.

4. HOW WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR CALCULATE MY PAYMENT?

Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual Class Payments by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members, and (b) multiplying the result by the number of Workweeks worked by each individual Participating Class Member.

Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing $__________ by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees and (b) multiplying the result by the number of Pay Periods worked by each individual Aggrieved Employee.

Workweek/Pay Period Challenges. The number of Workweeks you worked during the Class Period and the number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked during the PAGA Period, as recorded in BLUE BEACON's records, are stated in the first page of this Notice. You have until DATE to challenge the number of Workweeks and/or 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.

You need to support your challenge by sending copies of pay stubs or other records. The Administrator will accept BLUE BEACON's calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods based on BLUE BEACON'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 Workweek and/or Pay Period challenges based on your submission and on input from Class Counsel (who will advocate on behalf of Participating Class Members) and BLUE BEACON's Counsel. The Administrator's decision is final. You can't appeal or otherwise challenge its final decision.

5. HOW WILL I GET PAID?

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 doesn't opt-out) including those who also qualify as Aggrieved Employees. The single check will combine the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment.

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 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 *Angel Armenta, et al. v. Blue Beacon International, Incorporated, et al.,* Case No. CIVSB2206415, 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 DATE, 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 Plaintiffs and BLUE BEACON are asking the Court to approve. At least 16 court days before the Final Approval Hearing, Class Counsel and/or Plaintiffs will file in Court (1) a Motion for Final Approval that includes, among other things, the reasons why the proposed Settlement is fair, and stating (i) the amount Class Counsel is requesting for attorneys' fees and litigation expenses; and (ii) the amount Plaintiffs are requesting as the Class

Representatives' Service Payments. 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 Court's website at https://cap.sb-court.org/search.

A Participating Class Member who disagrees with any aspect of the Agreement or the Motion for Final Approval may wish to object, for example, that the proposed Settlement is unfair, or that the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiffs are too high or too low. The deadline for sending written objections to the Administrator is DATE. 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 *Angel Armenta, et al. v. Blue Beacon International, Incorporated, et al.,* Case No. CIVSB2206415 and include your name, current address, telephone number, and approximate dates of employment with BLUE BEACON 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 don't have to, attend the Final Approval Hearing on DATE at TIME in Department ________ of the San Bernardino Superior Court, located at 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415. 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, Plaintiffs, 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. Check the Court's website for the most current information.

It's possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the Court's website 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 BLUE BEACON and Plaintiffs have promised to do under the proposed Settlement. To obtain more information, you can 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 (https://cap.sb-court.org/search) and entering the Case Number for the Action, Case No. CIVSB2206415.

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

Class Counsel:

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afattahi@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM, PLC
3055 Wilshire Blvd., 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Settlement Administrator:

Simpluris, Inc.
Email Address:
Mailing Address:
Telephone:
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 should consult the Unclaimed Property Fund for instructions on how to retrieve the funds.

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.

Exhibit 2

Ashley Narinyans

From: ANarinyans@wilshirelawfirm.com
To: Min Jee Kim
Subject: RE: Thank you for your Proposed Settlement Submission

-----Original Message-----
From: DIR PAGA Unit <lwdadonotreply@dir.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 12:02 PM
To: Min Jee Kim <minjee@wilshirelawfirm.com>
Subject: Thank you for your Proposed Settlement Submission

05/08/2023 12:00:28 PM

Thank you for your submission to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

Item submitted: Proposed Settlement
If you have questions or concerns regarding this submission or your case, please send an email to pagainfo@dir.ca.gov.

DIR PAGA Unit on behalf of
Labor and Workforce Development Agency

Website: http://labor.ca.gov/Private_Attorneys_General_Act.htm

State of California
Labor and Workforce Development Agency / Department of Industrial Relations

Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) - Filing

Proposed Settlement of PAGA case

PAGA Number (LWDA-CM-) : * 875832-22

Please enter only the eight digit number after "LWDA-CM-" in the following format, "XXXXXX-XX".
Search for PAGA Case number

The timing of the deposit of settlement checks is governed by the provisions of the State Administrative Manual. This ministerial, administrative act of depositing a settlement check mandated by state procedures should not be construed as nor does it constitute an unconditional, voluntary and/or absolute acceptance of settlement proceeds or approval of the terms of any settlement agreement or judgment related to that check.

Your Information (Person Who is Filing)

Your First Name *
Justin

Your Last Name *
Marquez

Your Email Address *
minjee@wilshirelawfirn

Your Street Name, Number and Suite/Apt *
3055 Wilshire Blvd. 12

Your Mobile Phone Number

Your City *
Los Angeles

Your Work Phone Number
2133819988

Your State *
California

Your Zip/Postal Code *
90010

Court and Hearing Information

Court *

Superior Court of the S

Court Case Number *

CIVSB2206415

Hearing Date (if any)

May 31, 2023

Hearing Time

10:00 a.m.

Hearing Location

San Bernardino County

Number of aggrieved employees *

788

Gross settlement amount *

1600000

Gross penalty amount *

37,500

Penalties to LWDA *

12,500

Date of proposed settlement *

02/13/2023

Proposed Settlement and Other Documents

Proposed Settlement *

Browse... 2023 05-08 Blue Beacon - MPA (FINAL).pdf

Other Attachment (if any)

Browse... 2023 05-08 Blue Beacon - JM Declaration (FINAL).pdf

Other Attachment (if any) Remove

Browse... 2023 05-08 Blue Beacon - Crosner Decl (FINAL).pdf

Other Attachment (if any) Remove

Browse... 2023 05-08 Blue Beacon - Dec of Plaintiff (FINAL).pdf

Other Attachment (if any) Remove

Browse... 2023 05-08 Blue Beacon - Proposed Order (FINAL).pdf

Add Another Attachment

Should you have questions regarding this online form, please contact PAGAInfo@dir.ca.gov

IMPORTANT NOTICE OF REDACTION RESPONSIBILITY: All filers must redact: Social Security or taxpayer identification numbers; personal addresses, personal telephone numbers, personal email addresses, dates of birth; names of minor children; & financial account numbers. This requirement applies to all documents, including attachments.

☑ I understand that, if I file, I must comply with the redaction rules consistent with this notice.

Previous Page Submit

Exhibit 3

Wilshire Law Firm, PLC

Transaction Detail by Account

All Transactions

9/7/2023

Accrual Basis

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Amount	Balance
COS					
Expert Fees					
	9/1/2022	574163	Mediation Fee	2,575.00	2,575.00
Total EXPERT FEES				2,575.00	2,575.00
Legal Expenses					
	3/8/2022	845970981	Legal Research	11.82	11.82
	3/29/2022		PAGA Fee	75.00	75.00
	4/6/2022	846130079	Legal Research	8.16	8.16
	7/18/2022	11552699	CourtCall	94.00	94.00
	12/6/2022	847456782	CourtCall	12.00	12.00
	1/19/2023	11644956	CourtCall	72.00	72.00
	3/14/2023	11669000	CourtCall	72.00	72.00
	3/14/2023	11668994	CourtCall	72.00	72.00
	6/1/2023	1171376	CourtCall	72.00	72.00
Total LEGAL EXPENSES				488.98	488.98
Process Service Fees					
	4/28/2022	46130	Attorney Services	1,722.50	1,722.50
	6/22/2022	48135	Attorney Services	618.50	618.50
	7/12/2022	49095	Attorney Services	300.00	300.00
	8/15/2022	49754	Attorney Services	135.00	135.00
	8/15/2022	47877	Attorney Services	135.00	135.00
	1/11/2023	54344	Attorney Services	159.95	159.95
	1/20/2023	54722	Attorney Services	135.00	135.00
	1/24/2023	54832	Attorney Services	135.00	135.00
	2/28/2023	56147	Attorney Services	135.00	135.00
	2/28/2023	56148	Attorney Services	135.00	135.00
	3/15/2023	56813	Attorney Services	197.95	197.95
	4/4/2023	57538	Attorney Services	182.00	182.00
	5/9/2023	59165	Attorney Services	255.00	255.00
	6/9/2023	60407	Attorney Services	135.00	135.00
Total PROCESS SERVICE FEES				4,380.90	4,380.90
Other Costs					
	2/14/2022	E-814139	Printing Cost	6.13	6.13
	2/14/2022	E-814140	Printing Cost	6.13	6.13
	3/28/2022	E-897970	Printing Cost	21.00	21.00
	11/22/2022		Lunch during mediation	211.06	211.06
	1/10/2023	E-2987495	Printing Cost	3.00	3.00
	1/18/2023	E-3116739	Printing Cost	1.89	1.89
	2/27/2023	E-3015563	Printing Cost	3.75	3.75
	3/14/2023	E-3036943	Printing Cost	1.25	1.25
	3/29/2023	E-3043830	Printing Cost	32.50	32.50
	5/4/2023	E-3140637	Printing Cost	1.89	1.89
Total OTHER COSTS				288.60	288.60
TOTAL				**7,733.48**	**7,733.48**