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BRUCE CENICEROS, and ANDREA CENICEROS

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**

JOE HART, individually and on behalf of all
other similarly situated employees,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ALUMINUM COATING TECHNOLOGIES,
INC., a California Corporation;
BRUCE CENICEROS, an individual;
ANDREA CENICEROS, an individual; and
DOES 1 to 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 34-2022-00320564

**JOINT STIPULATION REGARDING CLASS
ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AND
RELEASE**

Filed: May 23, 2022
FAC Filed: July 29, 2022
SAC Filed: June 13, 2023
TAC Filed: August 25, 2023
Trial Date: None set

1 This Joint Stipulation Regarding Class Action and PAGA Settlement and Release is made and
2 entered into between the Plaintiffs Clint Davidson and Patrick Wirth (“Plaintiffs”), on behalf of themselves,
3 the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, Class Members, and Aggrieved Employees, and
4 Defendants Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc., Bruce Cenicerros, and Andrea Cenicerros
5 (“Defendants”). This Agreement is subject to the terms and conditions set forth below and the approval of
6 the Court.

7 **1. DEFINITIONS**

8 The following terms, when used in this Agreement, have the following meanings:

9 1.1 “Action” means the above stated lawsuit, *Hart v. Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc.*,
10 Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2022-00320564, filed May 23, 2022.

11 1.2 “Aggrieved Employee(s)” means all individuals who have, or continue to, for Defendants
12 in California during the PAGA Claim Period. The estimated number of Aggrieved Employees is 64.

13 1.3 “Agreement” or “Settlement” or “Settlement Agreement” means this Joint Stipulation
14 Regarding Class Action and PAGA Settlement and Release.

15 1.4 “Class Counsel” means Galen T. Shimoda, Justin P. Rodriguez and Brittany V. Berzin of
16 Shimoda & Rodriguez Law, PC.

17 1.5 “Class Member(s)” means all individuals who have, or continue to, work for Defendants as
18 non-exempt employees in California during the Class Period. The estimated number of Class Members is
19 159.

20 1.6 “Class Period” means from May 23, 2018 up to the Preliminary Approval Date.

21 1.7 “Class Representatives” means Plaintiffs Clint Davidson and Patrick Wirth.

22 1.8 “Complaint” means the operative Third Amended Complaint on file in the Action with the
23 Court.

24 1.9 “Court” means the Sacramento County Superior Court.

25 1.10 “Defendants” means Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc., Bruce Cenicerros, and Andrea
26 Cenicerros.

27 1.11 “Defendants’ Counsel” means Rosasco Law Group, APC.

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1 1.12 “Enhancement Payment” means the amount approved by the Court to be paid to the Class
2 Representatives in recognition of the time and effort expended on behalf of Class Members for the benefit
3 of Class Members, which is in addition to any Individual Settlement Amount paid to the Class
4 Representatives as Participating Class Members.

5 1.13 “Effective Date” means the date Plaintiffs serve Defendants with the signed order granting
6 final approval of the settlement, unless there is a timely objection lodged that has not later been withdrawn,
7 in which case the Effective Date will be either (a) the 60th calendar day after a signed order approving this
8 settlement has been filed provided no appellate proceeding having been filed; or (b) seventh (7th) calendar
9 day after any appellate proceeding opposing the settlement has been finally dismissed with no material
10 change to the terms of this settlement and there is no right to pursue further remedies or relief, whichever
11 is later.

12 1.14 “Final Approval Date” means the date a signed order granting final approval of this
13 Agreement is filed with the Court.

14 1.15 “Gross Settlement Amount” is the sum of Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars
15 and No Cents (225,000).

16 1.16 “Individual Settlement Amount” means an individual Class Member’s and Aggrieved
17 Employee’s allocation of the Net Settlement Amount and PAGA Payment respectively, as defined in
18 Sections 5.5, and 5.8.

19 1.17 “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

20 1.18 “Net Settlement Amount” is the portion of the Gross Settlement Amount available for
21 distribution to Class Members, as described in this Agreement, after deduction of Class Counsel’s
22 attorneys’ fees and litigation costs, Settlement Administrator Costs, the PAGA Payment, and Enhancement
23 Payment to the Class Representatives.

24 1.19 “Notice of Settlement” means the document substantially in the form attached hereto as
25 Exhibit 1.

26 1.20 “Notice Period” means sixty (60) calendar days from the initial mailing of the Notice of
27 Settlement to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees.

28 1.21 “PAGA” means Private Attorneys General Act.

1 1.22 “PAGA Payment” means the amount allocated from the Gross Settlement Amount towards
2 resolving claims under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code §§ 2698 *et seq.*

3 1.23 “PAGA Claim Period” means from May 17, 2021, up to the Preliminary Approval Date.

4 1.24 “Parties” mean Defendants and Plaintiffs.

5 1.25 “Participating Class Member” means any and all Class Members who have not made any
6 timely request to opt-out of the Agreement.

7 1.26 “Preliminary Approval Date” means the date a signed order granting preliminary approval
8 of this Agreement is served on Defendants by the Court or Class Counsel.

9 1.27 “QSF” means a Qualified Settlement Fund set up by the Settlement Administrator for the
10 benefit of the Participating Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees and from which the payments
11 under this Agreement shall be made. Any amounts Defendants have agreed to pay under this Agreement
12 shall remain the property of Defendants until the payments required under the Agreement are made.

13 1.28 “Qualifying Workweeks” are the Workweeks worked by Class Members and/or Aggrieved
14 Employees during the Class Period and/or PAGA Claim Period, respectively, in California.

15 1.29 “Released Class Claims” means any and all class claims that are alleged in the Complaint,
16 and any additional wage and hour claims that could have been brought based on the facts alleged in the
17 Complaint, through the Class Period. This release excludes the release of claims not permitted by law.
18 The Released Class Claims exclude claims for workers’ compensation or unemployment insurance
19 benefits. This release will cover all Class Members who do not opt out.

20 1.30 “Released PAGA Claims” means any and all claims that were brought under the Private
21 Attorneys General Act, Labor Code §§ 2698 *et seq.*, contained in the Complaint and any additional wage
22 and hour PAGA claims that could have been brought based on the facts alleged in the Complaint during
23 the PAGA Claim Period. Aggrieved Employees cannot opt out of this waiver of claims.

24 1.31 “Released Parties” means Defendants, as well as Defendants’ officers, shareholders,
25 directors, agents, employees, attorneys, and insurers.

26 1.32 “Settlement Administrator” means and refers to Apex Class Action, the third-party entity
27 that will administer the Agreement as outlined in Sections 4 and 7, or any other third-party administrator
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1 agreed to by the Parties and approved by the Court for the purposes of administering this Agreement. The
2 Parties each represent that they do not have any financial interest in the Settlement Administrator.

3 1.33 “Settlement Administrator Costs” means the fees and expenses reasonably incurred by the
4 Settlement Administrator as a result of the procedures and processes expressly required by this Agreement,
5 and shall include all costs of administering the Agreement, including, but not limited to, all tax document
6 preparation, custodial fees, and accounting fees incurred by the Settlement Administrator; all costs and fees
7 associated with preparing, issuing and mailing any and all notices and other correspondence to Class
8 Members and/or Aggrieved Employees; all costs and fees associated with communicating with Class
9 Members and/or Aggrieved Employees, Class Counsel, and Defendants’ Counsel; all costs and fees
10 associated with computing, processing, reviewing, and paying the Individual Settlement Amounts, and
11 resolving disputes; all costs and fees associated with calculating tax withholdings and payroll taxes, if any,
12 making related payment to federal and state tax authorities, if any, and issuing tax forms relating to
13 payments made under the Agreement; all costs and fees associated with preparing any tax returns and any
14 other filings required by any governmental taxing authority or agency; all costs and fees associated with
15 preparing any other notices, reports, or filings to be prepared in the course of administering Individual
16 Settlement Amounts; and any other costs and fees incurred and/or charged by the Settlement Administrator
17 in connection with the execution of its duties under this Agreement.

18 1.34 “Total Length of Service” means the number of days, inclusive of weekends, between a
19 Class Member’s first day of work for Defendants in California and a) the end of the Class Period and/or
20 PAGA Claim Period or b) the date of the Class Members’ last day of work for Defendants in California,
21 whichever is earlier; less any days between a Class Member’s termination or resignation and his or her
22 subsequent re-hire.

23 1.35 “Workweeks” shall be defined as the Total Length of Service during the Class Period and/or
24 PAGA Claim Period divided by seven. The calculation of a Class Member’s and/or Aggrieved Employee’s
25 workweeks and a determination as to whether a Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee was actively
26 employed in California in a particular workweek shall be construed from Defendants’ records.

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1 **2. DESCRIPTION OF THE LITIGATION**

2 2.1 On or about May 17, 2022, former class representative, Joe Hart, sent notice to the LWDA
3 to exhaust administrative remedies under the PAGA for failure to pay overtime wages, failure to provide
4 meal periods or pay premiums in lieu thereof, failure to provide rest periods or pay premiums in lieu thereof,
5 failure to provide accurate wage statements, failure to pay final wages, violation of provisions regulating
6 hours and days of work in the Industrial Welfare Commission Order, failure to maintain accurate records,
7 failure to provide paid sick leave, failure to pay reimbursements for expenses, and failure to pay split shift
8 premiums. On June 9, 2023, an amended notice was submitted to the LWDA adding the current Class
9 Representatives, Clint Davidson and Patrick Wirth, to exhaust administrative remedies. The facts, theories,
10 and claims alleged were unchanged. The LWDA did not respond to the notices within the statutorily
11 required time frame and, as such, Plaintiffs became authorized to act as a Private Attorneys General on all
12 alleged PAGA claims.

13 2.2 On May 23, 2022, Joe Hart filed a class action Complaint in Sacramento County Superior
14 Court on behalf of himself and Class Members alleging claims for failure to pay overtime wages, failure
15 to pay split shift premiums, meal period violations, rest period violations, wage statement violations,
16 waiting time penalties, failure to reimburse expenses, and unfair competition. Joe Hart filed a First
17 Amended Complaint on July 29, 2022 to add a PAGA cause of action based on the violations alleged to
18 the LWDA on behalf of himself and Aggrieved Employees. On February 27, 2023, the Court entered an
19 order dismissing Joe Hart from the action and permitted a notice be sent to Class Members in order to
20 ascertain a new class representative. On June 12, 2023, a Second Amended Complaint was filed adding
21 Clint Davidson and Patrick Wirth as the new class representatives. On August 25, 2023, after the LWDA
22 did not respond to Plaintiffs' PAGA notice, a Third Amended Complaint was filed adding language to
23 specify that Plaintiffs exhausted administrative remedies under the PAGA.

24 2.3 Through informal discovery, Defendants and Defendants' Counsel provided Class
25 Counsel with Plaintiffs' personnel files, the total number of Class Members, Class Members' dates of
26 employment and any interim start/stop dates, a 20% randomly selected sample of Class Members'
27 timecards and paystubs, all employee handbooks (prior and current versions) during the Class Period, all
28 policies and memorandums covering the subject matter of the claims during the Class Period, the total

1 number of Class Members who signed arbitration agreements (these individuals were also identified by
2 employee ID so Plaintiffs' counsel could determine how many weeks they worked in the Class Period),
3 and information regarding any bonuses or profit sharing any Class Members were eligible to receive
4 during the Class Period.

5 2.4 On December 13, 2023, the Parties participated in a full day mediation with private
6 mediator, Judge Howard Broadman (Ret.). At the conclusion of the mediation, the Parties were able to
7 come to a resolution after a mediator's proposal. At all times, the Parties' settlement negotiations have
8 been non-collusive, adversarial, and at arm's length.

9 2.5 Discussions between Plaintiffs and Class Counsel, between counsel for the Parties,
10 document productions, extensive legal analysis, the provision of information by Defendants to Plaintiffs
11 and the detailed analysis of the records, have permitted each side to assess the relative merits of the claims
12 and the defenses to those claims.

13 2.6 In the Action, Plaintiffs contend that Defendants violated California law by 1) failing to pay
14 overtime wages and sick time at the correct rates due to Defendants' failure to incorporate the value of
15 nondiscretionary bonuses into Class Members' regular rates of pay; 2) failing to provide all meal periods
16 and providing late meal periods; 3) failing to provide all rest periods; 4) failing to pay Class Members for
17 all overtime hours worked; 5) failing to reimburse Class Members for the use of their personal cellphones;
18 and 6) failing to pay split shift premiums. The waiting time, wage statement, unfair competition, and
19 PAGA claims are derivative of the above violations. Defendants have denied each of Plaintiffs' claims
20 and Defendants have denied that this Action is appropriate for class certification for anything other than
21 settlement purposes. The agreed upon Gross Settlement Amount was reached after evaluating the Parties'
22 theories of potential exposure for the underlying claims and the class data supporting these claims. The
23 Parties, with the assistance of the mediator, also assessed appropriate discounts to the potential liability
24 based on Defendants' factual and legal contentions and defenses.

25 2.7 The Parties agree that the above-described investigation and evaluation, as well as discovery
26 and the information exchanged to date, are more than sufficient to assess the merits of the respective
27 Parties' positions and to compromise the issues on a fair and equitable basis. Plaintiffs, Class Counsel,
28 Defendants, and Defendants' Counsel have concluded that it is desirable that the Action be settled in a

1 manner and upon such terms and conditions set forth herein in order to avoid further expense,
2 inconvenience and distraction of further legal proceedings, and the risk of an adverse outcome each of the
3 Parties potentially face in the Action. Therefore, the Parties desire to resolve the claims in the Action.
4 Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Defendants, and Defendants' Counsel are of the opinion that the Agreement for
5 the consideration and terms set forth herein is fair, reasonable, and adequate in light of all known facts and
6 circumstances.

7 **3. THE CONDITIONAL NATURE OF THIS AGREEMENT**

8 3.1 This Agreement and all associated exhibits or attachments are made for the sole purpose of
9 settling the Action. This Agreement and the settlement it evidences are made in compromise of disputed
10 claims. Because the Action was pled as a class action, this Agreement must receive preliminary and final
11 approval by the Court. Accordingly, the Parties enter into this Agreement and associated settlement on a
12 conditional basis. If the Final Approval Date does not occur, or if the Court's approval of the settlement is
13 reversed or materially modified on appellate review, this Agreement shall be deemed null and void; it shall
14 be of no force or effect whatsoever; it shall not be referred to or utilized for any purpose whatsoever; and
15 the negotiation, terms and entry of the Agreement shall remain subject to the provisions of California
16 Evidence Code Sections 1119 and 1152, Federal Rule of Evidence 408, and any other analogous rules of
17 evidence that may be applicable.

18 3.2 Defendants have denied all claims as to liability, damages, liquidated damages, penalties,
19 interest, fees, restitution, injunctive relief and all other forms of relief asserted in the Action. Defendants
20 have agreed to resolve the Action via this Agreement, but to the extent this Agreement is deemed void or
21 the Effective Date does not occur, Defendants do not waive, but rather expressly reserve, all rights to
22 challenge all such claims and allegations in the Action upon all procedural and factual grounds, including,
23 without limitation, the ability to challenge class or collective treatment on any grounds, as well as to assert
24 any and all other potential defenses or privileges.

25 **4. SCOPE OF THE CLASS**

26 4.1 The scope of the class of individuals encompassed under the Agreement and subject to all
27 obligations and duties required under the Agreement, shall include all Class Members as defined in Section
28 1.5 and all Aggrieved Employees as defined in Section 1.2. However, it shall not include any Class

1 Members who submit valid and timely requests to opt-out of the Agreement and settlement, as set forth in
2 Section 7.5.1.

3 4.2 Only Aggrieved Employees and Participating Class Members and are entitled to recover
4 under this Agreement.

5 4.3 Any person who believes that he or she is a Class Member or Aggrieved Employee and
6 wishes to participate in the Agreement, but did not receive a Notice of Settlement because his or her name
7 did not appear on the class list provided to the Settlement Administrator prior to mailing, may submit a
8 data request to the Settlement Administrator. The data request must contain all of the following
9 information: (a) the full name and, if applicable, Social Security Number of the individual making the
10 request; (b) the name used by such employee as of the time his or her employment with Defendants ended;
11 (c) the individual's dates of employment with Defendants; and (d) a return address to which a response
12 may be sent. Every data request must be postmarked on or before the conclusion of the Notice Period or
13 otherwise submitted to the Settlement Administrator such that it is received before the conclusion of the
14 Notice Period. Upon receipt of any data requests, the Settlement Administrator shall promptly (in no event
15 more than two business days) transmit the data requests to Defendants' Counsel and request that
16 Defendants review their records.

17 4.4 If Defendants agree that the person listed in a data request is a Class Member and/or
18 Aggrieved Employee, the Settlement Administrator shall promptly mail a Notice of Settlement to the
19 person who submitted the data request, at the address designated for that purpose in the data request. All
20 provisions of this Agreement relating to the Notice of Settlement shall apply to Notice of Settlements sent
21 in response to data requests, and any person who submits a data request and is sent a Notice of Settlement
22 in response shall be treated by the Settlement Administrator as a Class Member and/or Aggrieved
23 Employee for all other purposes.

24 4.5 If Defendants do not agree that the person listed in a data request is a Class Member and/or
25 Aggrieved Employee, Defendants' Counsel and Class Counsel shall attempt to resolve any such dispute in
26 good faith within seven (7) calendar days of Class Counsel being advised in writing of the data request
27 dispute. Defendants' records shall control unless the individual submitting the data request provides
28 persuasive evidence to doubt the accuracy of those records. Each data request dispute that Defendants'

Counsel and Class Counsel cannot timely resolve shall be resolved by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator must accept and weigh all the evidence provided in a good faith attempt to resolve the dispute. The Settlement Administrator must resolve any dispute submitted to it within seven (7) calendar days after Defendants' Counsel and Class Counsel submit the dispute to the Settlement Administrator. The decision by the Settlement Administrator shall be final as between the parties, subject to Court review.

5. TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT

The Parties agree as follows:

5.1 Gross Settlement Amount: In consideration and exchange for the releases described in Section 6, Defendants shall pay the Gross Settlement Amount of Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (225,000). Funding of the Gross Settlement Amount shall occur within 21 calendar days after the Effective Date to be held in trust in a QSF by the Settlement Administrator. The Gross Settlement Amount includes payments to Participating Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, all attorneys' fees, costs and litigation expenses related to the Action incurred to date, as well as all such fees and costs incurred in documenting the Agreement, administering the Agreement (including Settlement Administrator Costs), and obtaining final approval of the Agreement, the Enhancement Payment to the Class Representatives and the PAGA Payment. Any monies necessary to satisfy Defendants' tax obligations (*e.g.* employer FICA, FUTA and SDI contributions on wage payments) on any monies distributed to Participating Class Members will be paid in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount.

5.2 Attorneys' Fees and Costs: Class Counsel will apply to the Court for attorney's fees of thirty-five percent (35%) of the Gross Settlement Amount, which shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendants have agreed to not oppose Class Counsel's application for attorneys' fees so long as it does not exceed the 35% threshold. Class Counsel will also be entitled to reimbursement for advanced litigation expenses not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$15,000), which shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendants have agreed to not oppose Class Counsel's request for reimbursement for advanced litigation expenses so long as they do not exceed the \$15,000 threshold. The Settlement Administrator will issue Class Counsel an IRS Form 1099 for the attorneys' fees and costs paid under this Agreement. In the event that the Court awards less than the requested attorney's fees and/or

costs, the portion of the requested amounts not awarded to Class Counsel shall be added to the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis.

5.3 Settlement Administrator Costs: The Settlement Administrator Costs shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount and shall not exceed Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$10,000). The difference between any actual costs and the allocated \$10,000 shall be added to the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis.

5.4 Enhancement Payment: Class Counsel, on behalf of Plaintiffs, shall apply to the Court for an Enhancement Payment to each of the Class Representatives in an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$10,000) to compensate for the risks, time, and expense of their involvement in the Action and securing the benefits of this Agreement for Class Members. The Enhancement Payments are in addition to the Individual Settlement Amount Plaintiffs would otherwise be due under the Agreement as a Participating Class Member. Defendants have agreed to not oppose Class Counsel's request for Enhancement Payments to Plaintiffs so long as it does not exceed the amount stated herein. The Enhancement Payments will be designated as a non-wage payment and reported on an IRS Form 1099-MISC. In the event that the Court awards less than the Enhancement Payment amount requested, then any portion of the requested amount not awarded to the Class Representatives shall be added to the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis.

5.5 PAGA Payment: Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$10,000) of the Gross Settlement Amount shall be allocated to resolving claims under the PAGA. Seventy-Five percent (75%) of the PAGA Payment will be paid to the LWDA and Twenty-Five percent (25%) will be paid to Aggrieved Employees on a pro rata basis as described below in Section 5.8. Any amount not approved by the Court for the allocated PAGA Payment shall be added to the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis.

5.6 Treatment of Residue: For any portion of the Net Settlement Amount or PAGA Payment allocated to Participating Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees that were not claimed by cashing their respective settlement checks before the deadline to do so, that remaining amount shall be paid to the California State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund to be held in accordance with the unclaimed

property laws in the name of the affected Participating Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee. No portion of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendants for any reason.

5.7 No Additional Benefits Contributions: All Individual Settlement Amounts paid to Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees shall be deemed to be income solely in the year in which such amounts were actually received. It is expressly understood and agreed that the receipt of such Individual Settlement Amounts will not entitle any Participating Class Member or Aggrieved Employee to any new or additional compensation or benefits under any company bonus or other compensation or benefit plan or agreement in place during the period covered by the Agreement, nor will it entitle any Participating Class Member Aggrieved Employee to any increased retirement, 401(k) and/or 403(b) benefits or matching benefits, or deferred compensation benefits. It is the intent of this Agreement that the Individual Settlement Amounts provided for in this Agreement are the sole payments to be made by Defendants to the Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees in connection with this Agreement (notwithstanding any contrary language or agreement in any benefit or compensation plan document that might have been in effect during the period covered by this Agreement).

5.8 Pro Rata Distribution Formula: Payment to Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees of their Individual Settlement Amount will not require the submission of a claim form. A Net Settlement Amount will be determined by subtracting from the Gross Settlement Amount any amounts for approved attorneys' fees and costs, any Enhancement Payments to the Class Representatives, the Settlement Administrator Costs, and the PAGA Payment. Each Class Member's share will be initially determined by dividing their total Qualifying Workweeks within the Class Period by the total Qualifying Workweeks of all Class Members. That fraction will then be multiplied by the Net Settlement Amount to arrive at the Class Member's individual share of the Net Settlement Amount. Any funds allocated to Class Members under this formula who timely opt out of the Settlement will be redistributed to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis, *i.e.* each Participating Class Member's share will be determined by dividing their total Qualifying Workweeks within the Class Period by the total Qualifying Workweeks of all Participating Class Members and that fraction will then be multiplied by the Net Settlement Amount to arrive at the Participating Class Member's individual share of the Net Settlement Amount. Each Aggrieved Employee's share of the 25% portion of the PAGA Payment will be determined by dividing their total

Qualifying Workweeks within the PAGA Claim Period by the total Qualifying Workweeks by all Aggrieved Employees within the PAGA Claim Period. That fraction will then be multiplied by the 25% portion of the PAGA Payment to arrive at the Aggrieved Employee's individual share.

5.9 Tax Allocation: The Parties recognize that the Individual Settlement Amounts to be paid to Participating Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees reflect a settlement of a dispute over claimed penalties and wages. The Settlement Administrator shall calculate the employer's share of payroll taxes on the amounts paid to Participating Class Members as wages as well as calculating all required withholdings and deductions from said wage payments. The characterization of Individual Settlement Amounts to Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees are as follows:

5.9.1 One Third (1/3) of each Participating Class Members' Individual Settlement Amount shall be allocated for payment of disputed wages and shall be subject to required employer taxes. Participating Class Members shall receive an IRS Form W-2 for reporting of this portion of their Individual Settlement Amount.

5.9.2 Two Thirds (2/3) of each Participating Class Members' Individual Settlement Amount shall be allocated for disputed statutory penalties and interest, and no amount shall be deducted for any taxes. This portion of the Individual Settlement Amount consists of other income, not wages, for which the Participating Class Members shall receive an IRS Form 1099-MISC.

5.9.3 The entirety (100%) of each Aggrieved Employee's share of the 25% portion of the PAGA Payment shall be allocated for payment of disputed civil penalties, and no amount shall be deducted for any taxes. This portion of the Individual Settlement Amount consists of other income, not wages, for which the Aggrieved Employees shall receive an IRS Form 1099-MISC.

5.10 Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees shall be solely responsible for the reporting and payment of their share of any federal, state and/or municipal income or other taxes on payments made pursuant to this Agreement, and shall hold the Parties, Class Counsel, and Defendants' Counsel free and harmless from any claims resulting from treatment of such payments as non-taxable, including the treatment of such payments as not subject to withholding or deduction for payroll and employment taxes. No party has made any representation to any of the other Parties as to the taxability of any payments pursuant to this Agreement, including the payments to Participating Class Members, the

1 payments to Aggrieved Employees, the payments to Class Counsel, the payments to the Class
2 Representatives, the payroll tax liability of Defendants, or the allocation of the Net Settlement Amount or
3 PAGA Payment to wage and non-wage income as provided in this Section, or otherwise as to tax
4 implications of any provision of this Agreement.

5 5.11 No Additional Contribution by Defendants: Defendants' monetary obligation under this
6 Agreement is limited to the Gross Settlement Amount and any employer side payroll taxes owed on
7 amounts characterized as wages under this Agreement. All other costs and expenses arising out of or in
8 connection with the performance of this Agreement shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, unless
9 expressly provided otherwise herein. However, in the event this agreement is deemed null and void as
10 described in Section 3 because the Court, in its independent determination, finds that the Agreement does
11 not meet the standards for settlement approval, then Defendants and Plaintiffs shall be equally responsible
12 for the costs of the Settlement Administrator incurred between the date the Agreement was executed and
13 the date of such event.

14 5.12 Certification For Settlement Purposes: The Parties agree that, for purposes of settlement
15 only, certification of the class as defined in Section 1.5 and 4.1 is appropriate and the requisites for
16 establishing class certification have been met and are met.

17 5.13 Adequacy of Class Counsel and Class Representatives: The Parties agree that, for purposes
18 of settlement only, Class Counsel and Plaintiffs are adequate representatives for Class Members and
19 Aggrieved Employees.

20 **6. RELEASE**

21 6.1 Release of Claims by Participating Class Members: Upon the Effective Date, all
22 Participating Class Members will be deemed to fully, finally and forever release the Released Class Claims
23 as to all Released Parties. In addition, on the Effective Date, all Participating Class Members and their
24 successors in interest will be permanently enjoined and forever barred from prosecuting any of Released
25 Class Claims against any of the Released Parties.

26 6.2 Release of Claims by Aggrieved Employees: Upon the Effective Date, all Aggrieved
27 Employees will be deemed to fully, finally and forever release the Released PAGA Claims as to all
28 Released Parties. In addition, on the Effective Date, all Aggrieved Employees and their successors in

1 interest will be permanently enjoined and forever barred from prosecuting any of the Released PAGA
2 Claims against any of the Released Parties.

3 **7. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION**

4 7.1 Duties of Settlement Administrator: The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for:
5 1) receiving Class Member and Aggrieved Employee contact information and confirming addresses are
6 valid; 2) calculating estimated Individual Settlement Amounts and any and all taxes associated with the
7 Individual Settlement Amounts, including employer taxes; 3) taking appropriate steps to trace and locate
8 any individual Class Members and Aggrieved Employee whose address or contact information as provided
9 to the Settlement Administrator is inaccurate or outdated and mailing the Notice of Settlement to Class
10 Members; 4) providing notification to the appropriate state and federal officials of this Agreement as
11 required under the law; 5) receiving, independently reviewing, and resolving any challenges (in
12 consultation with Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel) from Class Members or Aggrieved Employees,
13 including any associated documentation, regarding their Qualified Workweek calculations; 6) receiving
14 and serving on Class Counsel, Defendants' Counsel, and the Court, copies of any written objections, and/or
15 any opt out statements; 7) establishing a toll free telephone line and responding to inquiries and requests
16 for information or assistance from Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees; 8) maintaining a QSF; 9)
17 determining and paying the final amounts due to be paid under the Agreement after resolution of all
18 challenges, disputes, opt-outs, awarded attorneys' fees and costs, Settlement Administrator Costs, PAGA
19 Payment, taxes, any Enhancement Payments, and for funds that cannot be distributed due to the inability
20 to locate Class Members or Aggrieved Employees; 10) determining the validity of any disputes or late opt-
21 outs by previously unidentified Class Members or Aggrieved Employees; 11) paying any residual funds
22 from uncashed checks; 12) reporting to Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel regarding the statistics of
23 the administration, including (a) the number of initial Notice of Settlements mailed; (b) the number of
24 forwarded Notice of Settlements; (c) the number of re-mailed Notice of Settlements; (d) the number of
25 total undeliverable Notice of Settlements; (e) the number of address traces performed for undeliverable
26 Notice of Settlements; (f) the number of Notice of Settlements undeliverable from traced addresses; (g) the
27 number of total objections received; (h) the number of opt-out requests received; (i) the number of disputes
28 received; (j) the number of disputes resolved; 13) providing a declaration to the Court regarding the final

1 statistics of the administration and compliance with all payment obligations under the Agreement; 14)
2 completing all necessary tax reporting on the QSF and payment of the Individual Settlement Amounts to
3 Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees; and 15) carrying out other related tasks as
4 necessary to effectuate the terms of this Agreement and any Order of the Court. All disputes relating to
5 the Settlement Administrator's ability and need to perform its duties shall be referred to the Court, if
6 necessary, which will have continuing jurisdiction over the terms and conditions of this Agreement, until
7 all payments and obligations contemplated by the Agreement have been fully executed.

8 7.2 Notice to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees: Defendants represent and warrant that
9 Class Members and Aggrieved Employees are able to read and write in English and/or Spanish such that
10 no translation of the Notice of Settlement into any other language is necessary. The Notice of Settlement
11 will provide Class Members and Aggrieved Employees with a summary of the terms and conditions of the
12 Agreement, how to participate in the settlement, how to object to the Agreement, how to dispute the
13 individual's Qualifying Workweeks, and how to opt-out from the Agreement. The Notice of Settlement
14 will also inform Class Members and Aggrieved Employees of the Gross Settlement Amount, Net
15 Settlement Amount, proposed attorneys' fees and costs allocations, any proposed Enhancement Payments,
16 proposed Settlement Administrator Cost allocations, proposed PAGA Payment allocations, the scope of
17 the class, the nature and extent of the released claims, dates set for a fairness hearing and hearing on Class
18 Counsels' motion for attorneys' fees and costs. The Notice of Settlement shall include information
19 regarding Class Member's and Aggrieved Employee's estimated Individual Settlement Amount. The
20 Notice of Settlement will provide information on how to access electronic copies online of the Notice of
21 Settlement, any motions for approval of the Agreement, any motions for approval of attorneys' fees and
22 costs, and any other documents as the Court directs.

23 7.3 Class Member Data and Mailing: No later than fourteen (14) calendar days after the
24 Preliminary Approval Date, Defendants shall provide the Settlement Administrator with the name, last
25 known mailing address, last known telephone number, Social Security Number, start and end date of
26 employment (if any) of each Class Member and Aggrieved Employee, and any other information the
27 Settlement Administrator needs to effectuate notice to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees as
28 outlined herein. The Settlement Administrator shall review the data to determine the number of Qualifying

1 Workweeks for each Class Member and Aggrieved Employee. No later than fourteen (14) calendar days
2 after receipt of such address information, the Settlement Administrator will perform a national change of
3 address ("NCOA") search, update the addresses per the results of the NCOA search, and then mail the
4 Notice of Settlement, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit 1, to each Class Member and Aggrieved
5 Employee by first-class mail, postage prepaid. The Settlement Administrator shall maintain all information
6 received from Defendants confidential to itself, and Defendants' Counsel. However, Class Counsel shall
7 be able to review the breakdown of Qualified Workweeks and estimated Individual Settlement Amounts
8 for Class Members and Aggrieved Employees prior to mailing for quality assurance provided the personal
9 identifying information is redacted and/or omitted.

10 7.4 Returned and/or Re-mailed Notice of Settlements: In the event that a Notice of Settlement
11 is returned to the Settlement Administrator as undeliverable on or before the conclusion of the Notice
12 Period, the Notice of Settlement shall be sent to the forwarding address affixed thereto within five (5)
13 calendar days. If no forwarding address is provided, then the Settlement Administrator shall promptly
14 attempt to determine a correct address using a skip-trace, computer or other search using the name, address
15 and/or Social Security number of the individual involved, and shall then perform a single re-mailing within
16 five (5) calendar days to any more recent address found as a result of the search. Following each search
17 that does not result in a corrected address, for those Class Members who appear to be current employees
18 of Defendants at the time of the Preliminary Approval Date, the Settlement Administrator shall contact
19 Defendants' Counsel for assistance and Defendants shall cooperate in good faith with the Settlement
20 Administrator's reasonable efforts to obtain valid mailing addresses for Class Members to the extent they
21 are active employees of Defendants. In the event the Notice of Settlement is forwarded to a new address
22 and/or re-mailed to a Class Member, the deadline for the Class Member to submit any request to opt-out,
23 a dispute, or an objection shall be the end of the Notice Period or 10 days from the date of the re-
24 mailing/forwarding to a new address, whichever is later. In the event the procedures in this Section are
25 followed and the Class Member does not timely and properly request to opt-out, the Class Member shall
26 be bound by all terms of the Agreement, including the releases contained in Section 6.

27 //

28 //

1 7.5 Responses to Notice of Settlement:

2 7.5.1 *Opt-Outs:* The Notice of Settlement shall provide that Class Members who wish to
3 exclude themselves from the Agreement must submit a request to opt-out as provided in this Section. The
4 request to opt-out must (a) state the Class Member's full name and date of birth; (b) a statement that he or
5 she does not want to be a Class Member, does not want to participate in the settlement, and/or wants to be
6 excluded from the settlement; (c) identify the case name and number (*i.e., Hart v. Aluminum Coating*
7 *Technologies, Inc.*, Case No. 34-2022-00320564); (d) be signed; and (e) be post-marked no later than the
8 conclusion of the Notice Period or the re-mailing timeline stated in Section 7.4. The Class Member must
9 personally sign the request to opt-out. No request to opt-out may be made on behalf of a group of Class
10 Members. The date of the postmark on the return-mailing envelope shall be the exclusive means used to
11 determine whether a request to opt-out has been timely submitted. Any Class Member who requests to
12 opt-out of the Agreement will not be entitled to any portion of the Net Settlement Amount nor will they
13 have any right to object, appeal or comment thereon. The name of any Class Member who submits a valid
14 and timely opt out request will be specifically identified in any proposed order granting final approval.
15 Class Members who fail to submit a valid and timely request to opt-out shall be bound by all terms of the
16 Agreement and any order or final judgment thereon. Regardless of whether an Aggrieved Employee opts
17 out of being a Class Member, they will still receive their share of the PAGA Payment as Aggrieved
18 Employees cannot opt out of this Agreement as it relates to the PAGA Payment or Released PAGA Claims.

19 7.5.2 *Objection Procedures:* Any Class Member who does not opt-out but who wishes to
20 object to this Agreement or otherwise to be heard concerning this Agreement shall send their written
21 objections to the Settlement Administrator and also serve copies of the objections on Class Counsel and
22 Defendants' Counsel. The Notice of Settlement shall make clear that the Court can only approve or deny
23 the Agreement, not change the terms of the Agreement. The objection must (a) state the Class Member's
24 full name and date of birth; (b) provide evidence that the individual is, in fact, a Class Member; (c) state
25 the reasons for the objection(s), including any supporting documentation; (d) identify the case name and
26 number (*i.e., Hart v. Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc.*, Case No. 34-2022-00320564) (e) be signed;
27 and (f) be post-marked no later than the conclusion of the Notice Period or the re-mailing timeline stated
28 in Section 7.4. The Notice of Settlement will inform the Class Member that they should also file a notice

1 of intent to appear with the Court and serve the notice on Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel, if they
2 intend to appear at the final approval hearing.

3 7.5.3 *Dispute Procedures:* Any Class Member who disputes the number of Qualifying
4 Workweeks on the Notice of Settlement shall contact the Settlement Administrator. The dispute must (a)
5 identify the nature of the dispute; (b) provide any information or documentation supporting the dispute; (c)
6 identify the case name and number (*i.e.*, *Hart v. Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc.*, Case No. 34-2022-
7 00320564); (d) be signed; and (e) be post-marked no later than the conclusion of the Notice Period or the
8 re-mailing timeline stated in Section 7.4. The Settlement Administrator shall promptly (in no event more
9 than two business days) forward all such disputes to Defendants' Counsel and request that Defendants
10 review the dispute. Defendants' records shall presumptively control unless the Class Member can produce
11 documentation evidencing other periods of employment worked. If Defendants agree with submitted
12 information, the Class Member shall be credited or subtracted Qualifying Workweeks in accordance with
13 their submitted dispute and that final number of Qualified Workweeks shall govern the calculation of that
14 Class Member's Individual Settlement Amount. If Defendants disagree with the submitted information,
15 Defendants' Counsel will promptly advise Class Counsel of the dispute, which includes turning over any
16 documentation submitted by the Class Member as part of the dispute. Defendants' Counsel and Class
17 Counsel shall attempt in good faith to resolve any such dispute within five (5) calendar days of Class
18 Counsel being advised of the dispute. Each dispute that Defendants' Counsel and Class Counsel cannot
19 timely resolve shall be resolved by the Settlement Administrator, subject to Court review.

20 7.5.4 *Deficient Opt-Outs, Objections, or Disputes:* In the event that a deficient opt-out,
21 objection, or dispute is received on or before the conclusion of the Notice Period, the Settlement
22 Administrator shall mail a letter to the Class Member within five (5) calendar days informing them of the
23 deficiency. If a deficiency letter is mailed to a Class Member, the deadline for the Class Member to cure
24 the deficiency shall be the end of the Notice Period or 10 calendar days from the date of the deficiency
25 letter, whichever is later.

26 7.6 Due Process Acknowledgement: Compliance with the procedures set forth in Sections 7.1
27 to 7.5.4 shall constitute due and sufficient notice to Class Members of the Action and the Agreement and
28

shall satisfy Class Members' due process rights. Nothing else shall be required of the Parties, Class Counsel or Defendants' Counsel to provide notice of the proposed Agreement.

7.7 Settlement Administrator Declaration Regarding Notice Period: Within fourteen (14) calendar days after the conclusion of the Notice Period, the Settlement Administrator shall provide Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel with a signed declaration under penalty of perjury providing a complete and detailed report regarding the statistics and responses of settlement administration to date and all the Settlement Administrators' obligations under Sections 5.8 to 5.9.3 and 7.1 to 7.5.4.

7.8 Settlement Administrator Payments to Participating Class Members, Class Counsel and Plaintiffs: Within seven (7) calendar days after the Effective Date and the Court's determination of the amount of attorneys' fees and costs payable to Class Counsel, the Enhancement Payment payable to Plaintiffs, the PAGA Payment, and Settlement Administrator Costs, the Settlement Administrator shall calculate the final Net Settlement Amount, the final Individual Settlement Amounts for Participating Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees, any applicable taxes thereon, and report the results of these calculations Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel. Defendants shall send the Gross Settlement Amount and applicable taxes necessary to fund the Settlement as described in Section 5.1 to the Settlement Administrator within twenty-one (21) calendar days after the Effective Date to be to be held in trust in a QSF. Within seven (7) calendar days after Defendants fund the settlement, the Settlement Administrator shall deliver payment of Class Counsels' attorney's fees and costs, the Enhancement Payment payable to Plaintiffs, the 75% portion of the PAGA Payment payable to the LWDA, Settlement Administrator Costs, and payment to Participating Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees as required under this Agreement and approved by Court.

7.8.1 The Settlement Administrator shall wire the Court-approved attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel unless another method is requested by Class Counsel. Class Counsel shall provide the Settlement Administrator with the pertinent taxpayer identification number and payment instructions after the Final Approval Date.

7.8.2 The Settlement Administrator shall send a check by mail for the Court-approved Enhancement Payment to the Class Representatives, care of Class Counsel unless another method is requested by Class Counsel.

7.8.3 Only Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees will receive their Individual Settlement Amount.

7.8.4 The Settlement Administrator shall remit and report the applicable portions of the payroll tax payment to the appropriate taxing authorities on a timely basis pursuant to its duties under this Agreement. Defendants agree to reasonably cooperate with the Settlement Administrator to the extent necessary to determine the amount of the payroll tax payment required.

7.9 Settlement Check Expiration and Uncashed Checks: The Settlement Administrator shall issue Individual Settlement Amounts to Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees in the form of a check, which shall become null and void if not deposited within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days of issuance. After one hundred eighty (180) calendar days of issuance, the checks shall be voided and funds from all uncashed checks shall be transmitted in accordance with Section 5.6. The Settlement Administrator shall deliver these funds within fourteen (14) calendar days after the check cashing deadline.

7.10 Settlement Administrator Declaration Regarding Compliance and Settlement Administration: Within twenty-one (21) calendar days after the last day for Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to cash their settlement checks, the Settlement Administrator shall provide Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel with a signed declaration under penalty of perjury providing a complete and detailed report regarding the settlement administration documenting that all payments under the Agreement have been made, that the Court's final approval order has been complied with, and that all the obligations of the Settlement Administrator have been completed.

8. PRELIMINARY SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION SCHEDULE

8.1 The schedule may be modified depending on whether and when the Court grants necessary approvals, orders notice to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees, and sets further hearings. The schedule may also be modified to correct clerical errors and to reflect the provisions in the Agreement as described above. In the event of such modification, the Parties shall cooperate to complete the settlement procedures as expeditiously as reasonably practicable. The preliminary schedule for notice, approval, and payment procedures carrying out the Agreement is as follows:

1	Last day for Defendants to provide Settlement Administrator with Class Member and Aggrieved Employee information	Within 14 calendar days after the Preliminary Approval Date
2		
3		
4	Last day for Settlement Administrator to complete NCOA search, update Class Member and Aggrieved Employee mailing information, and mail Notice of Settlement	Within 14 calendar days after the Settlement Administrators' receipt of Class Members' information from Defendants
5		
6		
7	Last day for Class Members to opt-out, submit disputes, submit objections, and submit data requests	60 calendar days after mailing of Notice of Settlement or within 10 days after Notice of Settlement is re-mailed, whichever is later
8		
9		
10	Last day for Settlement Administrator to provide Parties with signed declaration reporting on settlement administration statistics	Within 14 calendar days after end of the Notice Period
11		
12	Last day for Settlement Administrator to calculate the final Net Settlement Amount, the final Individual Settlement Amounts for Participating Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees, any applicable taxes thereon, and report the results of these calculations to Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel	Within 7 calendar days after the Effective Date
13		
14		
15		
16		
17	Last day for Defendants to fund settlement	Within 21 calendar days after the Effective Date
18		
19		
20	Last day for Settlement Administrator to deliver payment of Class Counsel's attorney's fees and costs, Enhancement Payments, PAGA Payment, Settlement Administrator Costs, payment to Participating Class Members, and payment to Aggrieved Employees	Within 7 calendar days after Defendants have funded the settlement
21		
22		
23	Last day for Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to cash settlement checks	180 calendar days after issuance of checks to Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees
24		
25		
26	Last day for Settlement Administrator to deliver value of uncashed settlement checks to the California State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund	Within 14 calendar days after settlement check cashing deadline
27		
28		

Last day for Settlement Administrator to provide Parties with compliance declaration

Within 21 calendar days after settlement check cashing deadline

9. DUTIES OF THE PARTIES

9.1 Preliminary Approval: The Parties will cooperate in obtaining, through an unopposed motion to be filed as soon as reasonably practicable, an order from the Court preliminarily approving this Agreement at the earliest possible date concurrently with the Court's certification of the Action as a class action for settlement purposes. The Parties further agree to fully cooperate in the drafting and/or filing of any further documents or filings reasonably necessary to be prepared or filed, shall take all steps that may be requested by the Court relating to, or that are otherwise necessary to the approval and implementation of this Agreement and shall otherwise use their respective best efforts to obtain certification for settlement purposes, approval of, and implementation of this Agreement. The Parties will submit this Agreement to the Court for preliminary approval of its terms and for approval of the steps to be taken to obtain its final approval. Within one week of signing this Agreement Class Counsel shall provide a draft of the Preliminary Approval Motion to Defendants' Counsel. Defendants' Counsel will provide comments and/or proposed revisions within one week after receipt of the draft Preliminary Approval Motion from Class Counsel. With regard to the final approval documents, a similar one-week maximum review and response time shall be observed by the Parties. The Parties will request that the Court's preliminary approval of this Agreement be embodied in an Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement.

9.1.1 Plaintiffs' motion shall seek an order: 1) Preliminarily approving the Agreement; 2) Approving as to form and content the proposed Notice of Settlement; 3) Directing the mailing of the Notice of Settlement by first class mail to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees; 4) Preliminarily appointing Plaintiffs and Class Counsel as representatives of Class Members; 5) Preliminarily approving settlement administration services to be provided by the Settlement Administrator; 6) Preliminarily approving the proposed Enhancement Payment to Plaintiffs; 7) Preliminarily approving the application for payment of reasonable attorneys' fees and reimbursement of litigation-related expenses to Class Counsel; and 8)

1 Scheduling a fairness hearing on the question of whether the proposed Agreement should be finally
2 approved as fair, reasonable and adequate as to the Class Members.

3 9.1.2 Defendants shall not oppose Plaintiffs' motion for approval of the proposed
4 Agreement.

5 9.1.3 The Parties shall cooperate with each other and the Settlement Administrator during
6 the process of giving Class Members notice and opportunity to object to the Agreement, as necessary and
7 appropriate to assure effective communication to individual Class Members of information about their
8 rights and obligations under this Agreement.

9 9.2 Final Approval and Fairness Hearing: On a date approved by the Court and set forth in the
10 Notice of Settlement, the Court shall hold the Final Approval and Fairness Hearing where objections, if
11 any, may be heard. Class Counsel shall provide the Court as part of the motion for final approval of the
12 Agreement, a declaration by the Settlement Administrator of due diligence and proof of mailing of the
13 Notice of Settlement required to be mailed to Class Members by this Agreement, and of the delivery results
14 of the Settlement Administrator's mailings including tracing and re-mailing efforts. The Settlement
15 Administrator declaration shall identify, by name, any Class Member who submitted a timely and valid
16 request to opt out during the Notice Period.

17 9.2.1 Class Counsel and Defendants shall work in good faith to draft a mutually agreeable
18 Proposed Order Granting Final Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement and Final Judgment. The
19 Proposed Order Granting Final Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement and Final Judgment shall
20 include findings and orders: 1) Approving the Agreement, adjudging the terms thereof to be fair, reasonable
21 and adequate, and directing that its terms and provisions be carried out; 2) Approving the payment of an
22 Enhancement Payment to the Class Representatives; 3) Approving Class Counsel's application for an
23 award of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of out-of-pocket litigation expenses; 4) Approving the
24 Settlement Administrator Costs; and 5) Providing that the Court will retain jurisdiction to oversee
25 administration and enforcement of the terms of the Agreement and the Court's orders.

26 9.2.2 Following entry of the Court's order granting final approval of the Agreement, the
27 Parties will each act to ensure the fulfillment of all its provisions, including but not limited to the following:
28 1) Should an appeal be taken from the final approval of the Agreement or motion to set aside the judgement

1 be filed, Class Counsel shall be solely responsible for defending against the appeal or opposing the motion
 2 to set aside the judgment, including drafting and filing of any required documents, and appearing at any
 3 hearings associated with the appeal. Plaintiffs will be responsible for their own costs or fees associated
 4 with such appeal. Defendants shall cooperate with Class Counsel's opposition and shall not support any
 5 challenge to the appeal of the final approval; 2) Class Counsel will assist the Settlement Administrator as
 6 needed or requested in the process of identifying and locating Participating Class Members and Aggrieved
 7 Employees entitled to payments under the Agreement and assuring delivery of such payments; 3) Class
 8 Counsel and Defendants' Counsel will cooperate with each other and assist the Settlement Administrator
 9 as needed or requested in completing the distribution of any residual amounts, as specified above, to the
 10 California State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund; 4) Class Counsel, in conjunction with the
 11 Settlement Administrator, will certify to the Court completion of all payments required to be made by this
 12 Agreement.

13 9.3 Final Judgment: If the Court approves this Agreement at the final approval and fairness
 14 hearing, the Parties will request that the Court enter an Order Granting Final Approval of Class Action and
 15 PAGA Settlement and Final Judgment.

16 9.4 Notice to LWDA: Plaintiffs will provide notice to the Labor and Workforce Development
 17 Agency ("LWDA") of this settlement in accordance with Labor Code § 2699(1)(2).

18 **10. MISCELLANEOUS TERMS**

19 10.1 Defendants' Right to Withdraw Based on Opt-Outs: If, prior to the Final Approval Date,
 20 5% or more of the Class Members have submitted proper and timely requests to opt-out in accordance with
 21 the provisions of the Agreement, Defendants may rescind the Agreement and all actions taken in its
 22 furtherance will be thereby null and void. Defendants must exercise this right of rescission, in writing, to
 23 Class Counsel, within seven (7) calendar days after the Settlement Administrator notifies the Parties of the
 24 total number of opt-outs. If the option to rescind is exercised, then any Settlement Administrator Costs
 25 shall be paid by Defendants. Defendants have represented that there are no more than 10,396 workweeks
 26 during the Class Period. In the event the number of workweeks during the Class Period is more than
 27 11,436 (i.e., greater than 10% more than 10,396), then Defendants shall have the option to either change
 28 end of the Class Period to the date when the Class Period had no more than 11,436 workweeks, or

1 increase the Gross Settlement Amount proportionally by the workweeks in excess of 11,436, multiplied
2 by the workweek value. For example, if it was agreed there would be no more than 11,900 workweeks
3 during the Class Period, but there are actually 15,000 workweeks in the Class Period, and the actual
4 workweek value is \$5.00 per workweek, Defendants would have to increase the Gross Settlement
5 Amount by \$9,550.00 (15,000 workweeks – 13,090 workweeks = 1,910 workweeks x \$5.00/workweek)
6 or exercise their option to cap the Class Period at 11,436 workweeks. To the extent Defendants elect to
7 modify the end of the Class Period under this paragraph, the PAGA Claim Period shall be similarly
8 modified to have the same end date.

9 10.2 Circular 230 Disclaimer: EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT (FOR PURPOSES OF
10 THIS SECTION, THE “ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY” AND EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT
11 OTHER THAN THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY, AN “OTHER PARTY”) ACKNOWLEDGES AND
12 AGREES THAT (1) NO PROVISION OF THIS AGREEMENT, AND NO WRITTEN
13 COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE BETWEEN OR AMONG THE PARTIES OR THEIR
14 ATTORNEYS AND OTHER ADVISERS, IS OR WAS INTENDED TO BE, NOR SHALL ANY SUCH
15 COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTE OR BE CONSTRUED OR BE RELIED UPON
16 AS, TAX ADVICE WITHIN THE MEANING OF UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT
17 CIRCULAR 230 (31 CFR PART 10, AS AMENDED); (2) THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY (A) HAS
18 RELIED EXCLUSIVELY UPON HIS, HER OR ITS OWN, INDEPENDENT LEGAL AND TAX
19 COUNSEL FOR ADVICE (INCLUDING TAX ADVICE) IN CONNECTION WITH THIS
20 AGREEMENT, (B) HAS NOT ENTERED INTO THIS AGREEMENT BASED UPON THE
21 RECOMMENDATION OF ANY OTHER PARTY OR ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO ANY
22 OTHER PARTY, AND (C) IS NOT ENTITLED TO RELY UPON ANY COMMUNICATION OR
23 DISCLOSURE BY ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISER TO ANY OTHER PARTY TO AVOID ANY TAX
24 PENALTY THAT MAY BE IMPOSED ON THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY; AND (3) NO
25 ATTORNEY OR ADVISER TO ANY OTHER PARTY HAS IMPOSED ANY LIMITATION THAT
26 PROTECTS THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY SUCH ATTORNEY’S OR ADVISER’S TAX
27 STRATEGIES (REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH LIMITATION IS LEGALLY BINDING) UPON
28 DISCLOSURE BY THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY OF THE TAX TREATMENT OR TAX

1 STRUCTURE OF ANY TRANSACTION, INCLUDING ANY TRANSACTION CONTEMPLATED BY
2 THIS AGREEMENT.

3 10.3 No Prior Assignments: The Parties represent, covenant, and warrant that they have not
4 directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to
5 any person or entity any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action or right released
6 and discharged in this Agreement.

7 10.4 Waiver of Appeal and Ability to Opt Out: To the extent permitted by applicable law, by
8 signing this Agreement Defendants are waiving any rights to appeal from the Court's approval of the
9 settlement unless the Court materially modifies the settlement. Furthermore, by signing this Agreement
10 Plaintiffs are waiving any right or ability to opt out of this Agreement during the Notice Period or otherwise.

11 10.5 Exhibits Incorporated by Reference: The terms of this Agreement include the terms set
12 forth in any attached Exhibits, which are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth in this
13 Agreement. Any Exhibits to this Agreement are an integral part of the Settlement.

14 10.6 Judgment and Retention of Jurisdiction to Enforce: Upon the Effective Date, judgment will
15 be entered according to this Agreement. The Parties stipulate and agree that the Sacramento County
16 Superior Court shall have continuing jurisdiction to enforce the terms of the Agreement pursuant to Civil
17 Procedure Code section 664.6 and that the prevailing party any action necessary to enforce the terms of the
18 Agreement after default by the other party may recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs related thereto.

19 10.7 Mutual Cooperation: The Parties agree to cooperate fully with one another to accomplish
20 and implement the terms of this Agreement. Such cooperation shall include, but not be limited to, execution
21 of such other documents and the taking of such other action as may reasonably be necessary to fulfill the
22 terms of this Agreement. The Parties to this Agreement shall use their best efforts, including all efforts
23 contemplated by this Agreement and any other efforts that may become necessary by Court order, or
24 otherwise, to effectuate this Agreement and the terms set forth herein.

25 10.8 No Admission of Liability: Neither the acceptance nor the performance by Defendants of
26 the terms of this Agreement, nor any of the related negotiations or proceedings, is or shall be claimed to
27 be, construed as, or deemed to be, an admission by Defendants of the truth of any of the allegations in the
28 Complaint, the representative character of the Action, the validity of any of the claims that were or could

1 have been asserted by Plaintiffs and/or Class Members in the Action, or of any liability or guilt of
2 Defendants in the Action. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to be or deemed an admission by
3 Defendants of any liability, culpability, negligence, or wrongdoing toward Plaintiffs, the Class Members,
4 or any other person, and Defendants specifically disclaim any liability, culpability, negligence, or
5 wrongdoing toward Plaintiffs, the Class Members, or any other person. Each of the Parties has entered
6 into this Stipulation with the intention to avoid further disputes and litigation.

7 10.9 Notices: Unless otherwise specifically provided herein, all notices, demands, or other
8 communications given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given as of the
9 third business day after mailing by United States certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed as
10 follows:

11 To Plaintiffs and the Class:

12 Galen T. Shimoda
13 Justin P. Rodriguez
14 Brittany V. Berzin
15 Shimoda & Rodriguez Law, PC
16 9401 East Stockton Blvd., Suite 120
17 Elk Grove, CA 95624

18 To Defendants:

19 Erica L. Rosasco
20 Michael G. Blankinship
21 Rosasco Law Group, APC
22 6540 Lonetree Blvd., Ste. 100
23 Rocklin, California 95765
24 Telephone: (916) 672-6552
25 Facsimile: (916) 672-6563

26 10.10 Mutual Drafting of Agreement: The Parties hereto agree that the terms and conditions of
27 this Agreement are the result of lengthy, intensive, arm's-length negotiations between the Parties and that
28 this Agreement shall not be construed in favor of or against any party by reason of the extent to which any
party or its counsel participated in the drafting of this Agreement.

10.11 Attorneys' Fees and Costs Limitations: Neither Class Counsel nor any other attorneys
acting for, or purporting to act for, the Class, Class Members, or Plaintiffs, may recover or seek to recover
any amounts for fees, costs, or disbursements from the Releasees or the Gross Settlement Amount except
as expressly provided in this Agreement.

1 10.12 No Modifications: This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written
2 instrument signed by counsel for all Parties or their successors-in-interest. This Agreement may not be
3 discharged except by performance in accordance with its terms.

4 10.13 Authorization to Enter Into Settlement Agreement: Counsel for all Parties warrant and
5 represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Agreement and
6 to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement
7 to effectuate its terms and to execute any other documents required to effectuate the terms of this
8 Agreement.

9 10.14 Class Member Signatories: Because the Action has not yet been certified, and the Class
10 Members are so numerous, the Parties agree that it is impossible or impractical to have each Class Member
11 sign this Agreement. It is agreed that, for purposes of seeking approval of the Agreement, this Agreement
12 may be executed on behalf of all Class Members by the Class Representatives.

13 10.15 Counterparts: This Agreement shall become effective upon its execution by all of the
14 undersigned. Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Defendants and Defendants' Counsel may execute this Agreement
15 in counterparts, and execution of counterparts shall have the same force and effect as if each had signed
16 the same instrument. Facsimile, electronic, and/or scanned copies of signatures shall have the same force
17 and effect of originals.

18 10.16 Choice of Law: The Agreement and any exhibits hereto shall be considered to have been
19 negotiated, executed, and delivered, and to have been wholly performed, in the State of California, and the
20 rights and obligations of the Parties to the Agreement shall be construed and enforced in accordance with,
21 and governed by, the substantive laws of the State of California without giving effect to that State's choice
22 of law principles.

23 10.17 Headings and Captions: Section titles or captions contained in the Agreement are inserted
24 as a matter of convenience and for reference, and in no way define, limit, extend, or describe the scope of
25 this Agreement, or any provision thereof.

26 10.18 No Retaliation or Discouragement: The Parties agree they will take no action that could be
27 construed as retaliation against any Class Members for participating or seeking to participate in this class
28 action settlement. The Parties will not discourage any class member from participating or seeking to

participate in this class action settlement. This is a material term of the Agreement and non-breaching Parties will seek court intervention if this provision is breached.

10.19 Integrated Agreement: This Agreement sets forth the entire understanding between the Parties and supersedes any and all prior agreements, oral or written, pertaining to the subject matter hereof. Each party acknowledges that there is no representation, inducement, promise or agreement which has been made, orally or otherwise, by the other party, concerning the terms or conditions of this Agreement, which is not expressly embodied in this Agreement. In entering into this Agreement, the Parties represent that the terms of this Agreement are fully understood and voluntarily accepted by the Parties.

10.20 Binding on Successors and Assigns: This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors or assigns of the Parties to this Agreement, as previously defined.

10.21 Invalidity of Any Provision: Before declaring any provision of this Agreement invalid, the Court will first attempt to construe the provision as valid to the fullest extent possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of this Settlement Agreement valid and enforceable.

10.22 Waiver of Compliance: No waiver of any condition or covenant contained in this Agreement or failure to exercise a right or remedy by any of the Parties hereto will be considered to imply or constitute a further waiver by such party of the same or any other condition, covenant, right or remedy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement is executed by the Parties and their duly authorized attorneys, as of the day and year herein set forth.

For Plaintiffs:

Date: _____

Clint Davidson

Date: 1/19/2024

DocuSigned by:
Patrick Wirth
B253A20F71714B3...

For Defendants:

Date: _____

By:
For Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc.

participate in this class action settlement. This is a material term of the Agreement and non-breaching Parties will seek court intervention if this provision is breached.

10.19 Integrated Agreement: This Agreement sets forth the entire understanding between the Parties and supersedes any and all prior agreements, oral or written, pertaining to the subject matter hereof. Each party acknowledges that there is no representation, inducement, promise or agreement which has been made, orally or otherwise, by the other party, concerning the terms or conditions of this Agreement, which is not expressly embodied in this Agreement. In entering into this Agreement, the Parties represent that the terms of this Agreement are fully understood and voluntarily accepted by the Parties.

10.20 Binding on Successors and Assigns: This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors or assigns of the Parties to this Agreement, as previously defined.

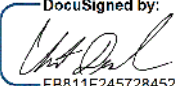
10.21 Invalidity of Any Provision: Before declaring any provision of this Agreement invalid, the Court will first attempt to construe the provision as valid to the fullest extent possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of this Settlement Agreement valid and enforceable.

10.22 Waiver of Compliance: No waiver of any condition or covenant contained in this Agreement or failure to exercise a right or remedy by any of the Parties hereto will be considered to imply or constitute a further waiver by such party of the same or any other condition, covenant, right or remedy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement is executed by the Parties and their duly authorized attorneys, as of the day and year herein set forth.

For Plaintiffs:

Date: 1/24/2024

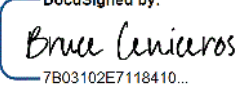
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Date: _____

Patrick Wirth

For Defendants:

Date: 1/30/2024

DocuSigned by:

 7B03102E7118410...

By:
 For Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc.

1 Date: 1/30/2024

DocuSigned by:
Bruce Cenicerros
7B03102E7118410...
By:
For Bruce Cenicerros

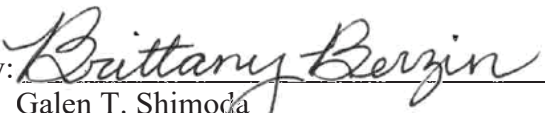
2
3
4 Date: _____

By: _____
For Andrea Cenicerros

5
6
7
8
9
10
11 APPROVED AS TO FORM

Shimoda & Rodriguez Law, PC

12
13 Dated: 1/24/24

By: 
Galen T. Shimoda
Justin P. Rodriguez
Brittany V. Berzin
Attorneys for Plaintiffs and Aggrieved
Employees

14
15
16
17 APPROVED AS TO FORM

ROSASCO LAW GROUP, APC

18
19
20 Dated: _____

By: _____
Erica L. Rosasco
Michael G. Blankinship
Attorney for Defendants

1 Date: _____

2
3 1/30/2024
4 Date: _____

By: _____
For Bruce Cenicerros

DocuSigned by:
Andrea Cenicerros
792C*31141DA41E...

By: _____
For Andrea Cenicerros

11 APPROVED AS TO FORM

12
13 Dated: 1/24/24
14

Shimoda & Rodriguez Law, PC

By: *Brittany Berzin*
Galen T. Shimoda
Justin P. Rodriguez
Brittany V. Berzin
Attorneys for Plaintiffs and Aggrieved
Employees

17 APPROVED AS TO FORM

18
19 1/24/24
20 Dated: _____

ROSASCO LAW GROUP, APC

By: *Erica L. Rosasco*
Erica L. Rosasco
Michael G. Blankinship
Attorney for Defendants

Exhibit 1

CALIFORNIA SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

JOE HART, individually and on behalf of all other
similarly situated employees,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ALUMINUM COATING TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a
California Corporation;
BRUCE CENICEROS, an individual;
ANDREA CENICEROS, an individual; and DOES 1 to
100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 34-2022-00320564

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION AND
PAGA SETTLEMENT, AND HEARING DATE FOR
FINAL COURT APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT**

ATTENTION: all individuals who have, or continue to, work for Defendants as non-exempt employees in California from May 23, 2018, up to [REDACTED] (the "Class Members").

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. THIS NOTICE RELATES TO A PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF CLASS ACTION LITIGATION AND POTENTIAL DISBURSEMENT OF SETTLEMENT FUNDS TO YOU. IF YOU ARE A CLASS MEMBER, IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN OR OPT OUT OF THE SETTLEMENT ACCORDING TO THE PROCEDURES DESCRIBED BELOW.

You are receiving this notice pursuant to an order from the Sacramento County Superior Court ("Court") granting Plaintiffs' motion for preliminary approval of a Joint Stipulation Regarding Class Action PAGA Settlement and Release ("Agreement" or "Settlement") as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Settlement was entered into between Plaintiffs Clint Davidson and Patrick Wirth ("Plaintiffs" or "Class Representatives") and Defendants Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc., Bruce Cenicerros and Andrea Cenicerros ("Defendants") on behalf of Class Members as defined above. The terms of the Settlement are outlined herein. You are receiving this notice because Defendants' records indicate you fall within the definition of "Class Member." Defendants' records also indicate that you worked [REDACTED] weeks during the applicable Class Period (as defined below), which means your total share of the settlement proceeds is estimated to be [REDACTED]. Your actual share of the settlement proceeds will vary depending on the total number of Class Members that choose to participate, and the resolution of any workweek disputes as described in this notice.

The terms of the Agreement and a description of the case are identified in this notice. Pursuant to the Court's order, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

I. BACKGROUND OF THE CASE

On May 23, 2022, Joe Hart, the former class representative, filed a Complaint against Defendants in the Sacramento County Superior Court of California on behalf of himself and Class Members. On June 12, 2023, Plaintiffs Clint Davidson and Patrick Wirth were substituted in as class representatives. The term "Action" means this putative class action pending in Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2022-00320564. The Class Period is from May 23, 2018, up to [REDACTED] (the "Class Period").

In the Action, Plaintiffs sought to obtain unpaid wages, interest, statutory penalties, civil penalties, fees, and costs on behalf of themselves, Class Members, and Aggrieved Employees. Plaintiffs alleged that Defendants violated California law by 1) failing to pay overtime wages and sick time at the correct rates due to Defendants' failure to incorporate the value of nondiscretionary bonuses into Class Members' regular rates of pay; 2) failing to provide all meal periods and providing late meal periods; 3) failing to provide all rest periods; 4) failing to pay Class Members for all overtime hours worked; 5) failing to reimburse Class Members for the use of their personal cellphones; 6) failing to pay split shift premiums; 7) failing to provide accurate wage statements; 8) failing to pay all final wages; and 9) engaging in unfair competition. Plaintiffs further contend Defendants are liable for civil penalties for these violations. Defendants have denied all of Plaintiffs' allegations. The Action has been actively litigated. There have been on-going investigations, and there has been an exchange of extensive documentation and information. Furthermore, the Parties have participated in a full day mediation facilitated by a neutral third party. Based upon the negotiations, and all known facts and circumstances, including the various risks and uncertainties related to legal actions, the Parties reached a class-wide settlement. By settling, the Parties will avoid the risks

associated with a lengthy litigation process. Despite agreeing to and supporting the Agreement, Defendants continue to deny all allegations and claims. Defendants have entered into this Settlement to fully, finally, and forever resolve this Action, based on the terms set forth in the Agreement, in order to avoid the burden and expense associated with ongoing litigation.

The Agreement applies to any and all Class Members, which are defined as all individuals who have, or continue to, work for Defendants as non-exempt employees in California from May 23, 2018, up to [REDACTED]. The Agreement also applies to Aggrieved Employees, which are defined as all individuals who have, or continue to, work for Defendants in California from May 17, 2021, up to [REDACTED]. If you are a Class Member, you have the opportunity to participate in the Settlement, or to exclude yourself (“opt out”) from the Settlement. This notice is to advise Class Members of how they can either participate in the Settlement or be excluded from the Settlement. As set forth below, Aggrieved Employees cannot opt out of this Agreement as it relates to the PAGA Payment or Released PAGA Claims regardless of whether they opt out of being a Class Member. Aggrieved Employees will receive their share of the PAGA Payment regardless of whether they opt out of being a Class Member.

II. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

A. The Amount of the Settlement

Under the terms of the Agreement, Defendants have agreed to pay a total sum of Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (225,000) (“Gross Settlement Amount”). Deducted from this Gross Settlement Amount will be sums approved by the Court for attorneys’ fees not to exceed thirty-five percent (35%) of the Gross Settlement Amount, attorneys’ costs not to exceed \$15,000, Settlement Administrator Costs estimated not to exceed \$10,000, Class Representatives’ Enhancement Payments of \$10,000 each, and \$10,000 for alleged PAGA penalties (the “PAGA Payment”), which will result in a “Net Settlement Amount” for distribution to all Class Members. Any employer side taxes attributable to payments allocated as wages will be paid by Defendants in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount. As explained further below, the amount of each Class Member’s share of the Net Settlement Amount will depend on the number of weeks worked by participating Class Members during the Class Period. Of the \$10,000 allocated to resolving the PAGA claims, 75% of the PAGA Payment will be paid to the State of California Labor and Workforce Development Agency and 25% of the PAGA Payment will be divided among Aggrieved Employees.

The number of weeks you worked during the Class Period and your estimated total share of the Net Settlement Amount and PAGA Payment (“Individual Settlement Amount”) is stated on the first page of this notice. The actual amount received may be more or less than the amount stated depending on the actual number of weeks worked by Participating Class Members (*i.e.*, those who do not opt out of the Settlement), the resolution of any disputes regarding workweeks, and on the distributions finally approved and allocated by the Court. However, whether Class Members opt out will have no effect on Aggrieved Employees’ allocations for the PAGA claims.

B. Individual Settlement Amounts and Allocation Between Class Members and Aggrieved Employees

Defendants will pay Individual Settlement Amounts through the Settlement Administrator, as described below, to each Participating Class Member and to Aggrieved Employees. All Individual Settlement Amounts will be subject to appropriate taxation. The Parties have agreed, based on the allegations in the Action that all Individual Settlement Amounts payable to eligible Class Members will be allocated from the Net Settlement Amount and paid as 2/3 for disputed interest, statutory penalties, and other non-wage damages for which IRS Forms 1099-MISC and 1099-INT will issue and 1/3 for disputed wages for which IRS Forms W-2 will issue. The PAGA Payment to Aggrieved employees will be paid as 100% for civil penalties.

Payment to Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees will not require the submission of a claim form. Each Participating Class Member’s share will be determined by dividing their total weeks worked within the Class Period by the total weeks worked by all Participating Class Members within the Class Period. That fraction will then be multiplied by the Net Settlement Amount to arrive at the Class Member’s individual share of the Net Settlement Amount. Each Aggrieved Employee’s share of the 25% portion of the PAGA Payment will be determined by dividing their total weeks worked within the PAGA Claim Period by the total weeks worked by all Aggrieved Employees within the PAGA Claim Period. That fraction will then be multiplied by the 25% portion of the PAGA Payment to arrive at the Aggrieved Employee’s individual share. The PAGA Claim Period is defined as May 17, 2021, up to [REDACTED]. Defendants’ records indicate that you worked [REDACTED] weeks during the applicable PAGA Claim Period, which means your share of the PAGA Payment is estimated to be [REDACTED]. This amount is included in your estimated Individual Settlement Amount stated on the first page of this notice, not in addition to it. You will still receive your share of the PAGA Payment even if you opt out of being a Class Member. Receipt of the Individual Settlement Amounts will not entitle any Class Member or Aggrieved Employee to additional compensation or benefits under any compensation, retirement or benefit plan or agreement in place during the period covered by the Settlement.

C. Calculations to Be Based on Defendants' Records and Resolution of Workweek Disputes

For each Class Member, the amount payable will be calculated by the Settlement Administrator from Defendants' records. Defendants' records will be presumed correct unless evidence to the contrary is provided to the Settlement Administrator. Defendants' records and any additional evidence will be reviewed by the Settlement Administrator in the event of a dispute about the number of workweeks worked by an individual Class Member. If a Class Member disputes the accuracy of Defendants' records, all supporting documents evidencing additional workweeks must be submitted by the Class Member. The dispute must (a) identify the nature of the dispute; (b) provide any information or documentation supporting the dispute; (c) be signed; and (d) be post-marked no later than [redacted]. The dispute will be resolved by the Settlement Administrator based on the records and evidence provided.

D. Release of Claims

For those Class Members who do not opt out and Aggrieved Employees, the Agreement contains the following releases:

Class members who do not opt out will be deemed to have released any and all class claims that are alleged in the Complaint, and any additional wage and hour claims that could have been brought based on the facts alleged in the Complaint, through the Class Period. This release excludes the release of claims not permitted by law. The Released Class Claims exclude claims for workers' compensation or unemployment insurance benefits. This release will cover all Class Members who do not opt out.

Aggrieved Employees will be deemed to have released any and all claims that were brought under the Private Attorneys General Act, Labor Code §§ 2698 *et seq.*, contained in the Complaint and any additional wage and hour PAGA claims that could have been brought based on the facts alleged in the Complaint during the PAGA Claim Period. Aggrieved Employees cannot opt out of this waiver of claims.

The individuals released ("Released Parties") include Defendants, as well as Defendants' officers, shareholders, directors, agents, employees, attorneys, and insurers.

Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees can talk to one of the lawyers appointed as Class Counsel (listed below) for free or talk to their own lawyer if they have questions about the released claims and what they mean.

III. WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AS A CLASS MEMBER

A. Participating in the Settlement as a Class Member

If you wish to be a Participating Class Member and believe your workweek information is accurate, **you do not need to take any further action**. Payment will be automatically made to you consistent with the terms of the Agreement and Court Order. If you wish to dispute the workweek calculation, you may follow the procedures outlined in Section II.C above. California law protects Class Members from retaliation based on their decision to participate in the Settlement.

B. Excluding Yourself from the Settlement as a Class Member

The Court will exclude you from the being a Class Member if you request this by [redacted]. If you do not wish to be bound by the Settlement as a Class Member, you may request to be excluded (*i.e.*, "opt out") by submitting a timely written request to the Settlement Administrator. The request to opt-out must (a) state your full name and date of birth; (b) a statement that you do not want to be a Class Member, do not want to participate in the Settlement, and/or wants to be excluded from this Settlement; (c) identify the case name and number (*i.e.*, *Hart v. Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc.*, 34-2022-00320564); (d) be signed; and (e) be post-marked no later than [redacted]. The request to opt out must be mailed by First Class U.S. Mail, or the equivalent, to:

[admin info]

If you submit a request to opt out which is not postmarked by [redacted], your request to opt out will be rejected, and you will be bound by the release and all other terms of the Agreement. Do not use a postage meter as that may not result in a postmark appearing on the envelope containing your request to opt out. Any Class Member who submits a complete and timely request to opt out shall, upon receipt by the Settlement Administrator, no longer be a Class Member and not received their share of the Net Settlement Amount.

Aggrieved Employees cannot opt out of this Agreement and will receive their share of the PAGA Payment regardless of whether they opt out of being a Class Member.

C. Objection to Settlement

If you do not opt out of the Settlement, you can object to the terms of the Settlement. However, if the Court rejects your objection, you will still be bound by the terms of the Settlement. You can ask the Court to deny approval by filing an objection. You cannot ask the Court to order a larger settlement; the Court can only approve or deny the settlement. If the Court denies approval, no settlement payments will be sent out and the lawsuit will continue. The objection must (a) state your full name and date of birth; (b) provide evidence that you are, in fact, a Class Member; (c) state the reasons for the objection(s), including supporting documentation; (d) identify the case name and number (i.e., *Hart v. Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc.*, 34-2022-00320564); (e) be signed; and (f) be post-marked no later than [REDACTED]. The objection must be sent to the Settlement Administrator at the address identified in Section III.B and to counsel for Plaintiffs and Defendants at the addresses identified in Section VI of this notice.

In addition to sending your written objection to the Settlement Administrator, you may appear at the final approval hearing to state your objection. Any Class Member who does not request exclusion may, if the Class Member so desires, enter an appearance through an attorney. If you appear through your own attorney, you are responsible for paying that attorney. You should also file a notice of intent to appear with the Court and serve the notice on counsel for Plaintiffs and Defendants.

IV. EFFECT OF THE SETTLEMENT: RELEASED RIGHTS AND CLAIMS

If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, the Court will make and enter judgment consistent therewith. The judgment, whether favorable or not, will bind all Class Members who do not request exclusion. After final approval, each and every Class Member who does not opt out of the Settlement and Aggrieved Employee, will release Defendants and the Released Parties from the Released Class Claims and the Released PAGA Claims described above. In other words, if you were employed as a Class Member by Defendants in California during the Class Period, and you do not exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will be deemed to have entered into these releases and to have released the above-described claims. In addition, you will be barred from ever suing Defendants and the Released Parties with respect to the claims covered by this Settlement. If the Settlement is not approved by the Court or does not become final for some other reason, the litigation will continue.

V. FINAL SETTLEMENT APPROVAL HEARING

The Court will hold a hearing in Department 28, 720 9th Street, Sacramento, California 95814 on [REDACTED] at 9:00 a.m. to determine whether the Agreement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable and adequate. To join by Zoom link: <https://saccourt-ca-gov.zoomgov.com/join/joinid/16039062174>. To join by phone: (833) 568-8864 / ID: 16039062174. The Court also will be asked to approve Class Counsel's request for attorneys' fees and costs, the Settlement Administrator Costs, and the Class Representatives' Enhancement Payment. The hearing may be continued without further notice. It is not necessary for you to appear at this hearing.

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You may access the Complaint, Class Counsel's motion for preliminary approval, the Agreement, and any other documents required by the Court online at [web address]. You can also contact Class Counsel or Defendants' Counsel as follows:

Justin P. Rodriguez
Brittany V. Berzin
Shimoda & Rodriguez Law, PC
9401 East Stockton Blvd., Suite 120
Elk Grove, CA 95624
Telephone: (916) 525-0716
On behalf of Plaintiffs

Erica L. Rosasco
Michael G. Blankenship
Rosasco Law Group, APC
6540 Lonetree Blvd., Ste. 100
Rocklin, California 95765
Telephone: (916) 672-6552
On behalf of Defendants

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT OR THE COURT CLERK'S OFFICE TO INQUIRE ABOUT THIS SETTLEMENT OR THE CLAIM PROCESS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL [number]

BY ORDER OF THE COURT

Galen T. Shimoda (Cal. State Bar No. 226752)
Justin P. Rodriguez (Cal. State Bar No. 278275)
Renald Konini (Cal. State Bar No. 312080)
Shimoda & Rodriguez Law, PC
9401 East Stockton Boulevard, Suite 120
Elk Grove, CA 95624
Telephone: (916) 525-0716
Facsimile: (916) 760-3733

Attorneys for Plaintiffs CLINT DAVIDSON
And PATRICK WIRTH

Erica L. Rosasco (SBN 220836)
erica@mckaguerosasco.com
Michael G. Blankinship (SBN 302659)
mike@mckaguerosasco.com
ROSASCO LAW GROUP, APC
6540 Lonetree Blvd., Ste. 100
Rocklin, California 95765
Telephone: (916) 672-6552
Facsimile: (916) 672-6563

Attorneys for ALUMINUM COATING TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,
BRUCE CEICEROS, and ANDREA CENICEROS

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

JOE HART, individually and on behalf of all
other similarly situated employees,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ALUMINUM COATING TECHNOLOGIES,
INC., a California Corporation;
BRUCE CENICEROS, an individual;
ANDREA CENICEROS, an individual; and
DOES 1 to 100, inclusive,

Defendant.

Case No. 34-2022-00320564

**ADDENDUM TO THE JOINT
STIPULATION REGARDING CLASS
ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AND
RELEASE**

Filed: May 23, 2022
FAC Filed: July 29, 2022
SAC Filed: June 13, 2023
TAC Filed: August 25, 2023
Trial Date: None Set

1 This Addendum to the Joint Stipulation Regarding Class Action and PAGA Settlement and
2 Release (“Agreement”) is made and entered into between Plaintiffs Clint Davidson and Patrick Wirth
3 (“Plaintiffs”), on behalf of themselves, and Defendants Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc., Bruce
4 Cenicerros, and Andrea Cenicerros (“Defendants”) (Plaintiffs and Defendants all collectively, the
5 “Parties”), pursuant to the Court’s March 8, 2024 Order (“Order”) requesting changes to the Agreement.

6 Pursuant to Paragraph 10.12 of the Agreement, this Addendum shall be deemed a part of the
7 Agreement and modify Paragraph 7.5.2 and Exhibit 1 of the Agreement to be as follows:
8

9 7.5.2 *Objection Procedures:* Any Class Member who does not opt-out, but who wishes to
10 object to this Agreement or otherwise to be heard concerning this Agreement, may submit a written
11 objection to the Settlement Administrator, who will promptly provide copies of the objection to Class
12 Counsel and Defendants’ Counsel. The Notice of Settlement shall make clear that the Court can only
13 approve or deny the Agreement, not change the terms of the Agreement. The written objection should
14 (a) state the Class Member’s full name and date of birth; (b) provide evidence that the individual is, in
15 fact, a Class Member; (c) state the reasons for the objection(s), including any supporting documentation;
16 (d) identify the case name and number (*i.e.*, *Hart v. Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc.*, Case No. 34-
17 2022-00320564); (e) be signed; and (f) be post-marked no later than the conclusion of the Notice Period
18 or the re-mailing timeline stated in Section 7.4. Additionally, or in the alternative to sending a written
19 objection to the Settlement Administrator, any Class Member may appear at the final approval hearing
20 to state their objection.

21 The Notice of Settlement attached to the Agreement as Exhibit 1, shall be replaced with the
22 revised Notice of Settlement attached hereto as Exhibit 1, incorporating the changes regarding the
23 objection procedures outlined above.
24

25 The Agreement shall remain the same in all other respects.
26
27
28

1 **For Plaintiffs:**

2 Date: _____

Clint Davidson

3
4 Date: _____

Patrick Wirth

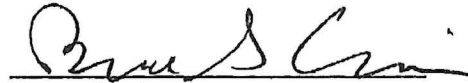
6 **For Defendants:**

7
8 Date: 4/29/2024



By:
For Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc.

10
11 Date: 4/29/2024



Bruce Cenicerros

12
13 Date: 4/29/2024



Andrea Cenicerros

15
16 APPROVED AS TO FORM

Shimoda & Rodriguez Law, PC

17
18 Dated: _____

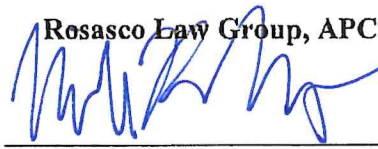
By: _____

Galen T. Shimoda
Justin P. Rodriguez
Renald Konini
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

22
23
24 APPROVED AS TO FORM

25 Date: 4/30/24

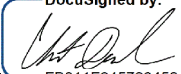
Rosasco Law Group, APC

By: 

Erica L. Rosasco
Michael G. Blankinship
Attorneys for Defendants

For Plaintiffs:

Date: 4/30/2024

DocuSigned by:

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Clint Davidson

Date: 4/30/24

DocuSigned by:

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Patrick Wirth

For Defendants:

Date: _____

By: _____
For Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc.

Date: _____

Bruce Cenicerros

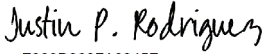
Date: _____

Andrea Cenicerros

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Shimoda & Rodriguez Law, PC

Dated: 4/29/2024

By: 
E339D368FA9345F...
Justin P. Rodriguez
Renald Konini
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Rosasco Law Group, APC

Date: _____

By: _____
Erica L. Rosasco
Michael G. Blankinship
Attorneys for Defendants

Exhibit 1

CALIFORNIA SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

JOE HART, individually and on behalf of all other
similarly situated employees,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ALUMINUM COATING TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a
California Corporation;
BRUCE CENICEROS, an individual;
ANDREA CENICEROS, an individual; and DOES 1 to
100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 34-2022-00320564

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION AND
PAGA SETTLEMENT, AND HEARING DATE FOR
FINAL COURT APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT**

ATTENTION: all individuals who have, or continue to, work for Defendants as non-exempt employees in California from May 23, 2018, up to [REDACTED] (the "Class Members").

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. THIS NOTICE RELATES TO A PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF CLASS ACTION LITIGATION AND POTENTIAL DISBURSEMENT OF SETTLEMENT FUNDS TO YOU. IF YOU ARE A CLASS MEMBER, IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN OR OPT OUT OF THE SETTLEMENT ACCORDING TO THE PROCEDURES DESCRIBED BELOW.

You are receiving this notice pursuant to an order from the Sacramento County Superior Court ("Court") granting Plaintiffs' motion for preliminary approval of a Joint Stipulation Regarding Class Action PAGA Settlement and Release ("Agreement" or "Settlement") as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Settlement was entered into between Plaintiffs Clint Davidson and Patrick Wirth ("Plaintiffs" or "Class Representatives") and Defendants Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc., Bruce Cenicerros and Andrea Cenicerros ("Defendants") on behalf of Class Members as defined above. The terms of the Settlement are outlined herein. You are receiving this notice because Defendants' records indicate you fall within the definition of "Class Member." Defendants' records also indicate that you worked [REDACTED] weeks during the applicable Class Period (as defined below), which means your total share of the settlement proceeds is estimated to be [REDACTED]. Your actual share of the settlement proceeds will vary depending on the total number of Class Members that choose to participate, and the resolution of any workweek disputes as described in this notice.

The terms of the Agreement and a description of the case are identified in this notice. Pursuant to the Court's order, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

I. BACKGROUND OF THE CASE

On May 23, 2022, Joe Hart, the former class representative, filed a Complaint against Defendants in the Sacramento County Superior Court of California on behalf of himself and Class Members. On June 12, 2023, Plaintiffs Clint Davidson and Patrick Wirth were substituted in as class representatives. The term "Action" means this putative class action pending in Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2022-00320564. The Class Period is from May 23, 2018, up to [REDACTED] (the "Class Period").

In the Action, Plaintiffs sought to obtain unpaid wages, interest, statutory penalties, civil penalties, fees, and costs on behalf of themselves, Class Members, and Aggrieved Employees. Plaintiffs alleged that Defendants violated California law by 1) failing to pay overtime wages and sick time at the correct rates due to Defendants' failure to incorporate the value of nondiscretionary bonuses into Class Members' regular rates of pay; 2) failing to provide all meal periods and providing late meal periods; 3) failing to provide all rest periods; 4) failing to pay Class Members for all overtime hours worked; 5) failing to reimburse Class Members for the use of their personal cellphones; 6) failing to pay split shift premiums; 7) failing to provide accurate wage statements; 8) failing to pay all final wages; and 9) engaging in unfair competition. Plaintiffs further contend Defendants are liable for civil penalties for these violations. Defendants have denied all of Plaintiffs' allegations. The Action has been actively litigated. There have been on-going investigations, and there has been an exchange of extensive documentation and information. Furthermore, the Parties have participated in a full day mediation facilitated by a neutral third party. Based upon the negotiations, and all known facts and circumstances, including the various

risks and uncertainties related to legal actions, the Parties reached a class-wide settlement. By settling, the Parties will avoid the risks associated with a lengthy litigation process. Despite agreeing to and supporting the Agreement, Defendants continue to deny all allegations and claims. Defendants have entered into this Settlement to fully, finally, and forever resolve this Action, based on the terms set forth in the Agreement, in order to avoid the burden and expense associated with ongoing litigation.

The Agreement applies to any and all Class Members, which are defined as all individuals who have, or continue to, work for Defendants as non-exempt employees in California from May 23, 2018, up to [REDACTED]. The Agreement also applies to Aggrieved Employees, which are defined as all individuals who have, or continue to, work for Defendants in California from May 17, 2021, up to [REDACTED]. If you are a Class Member, you have the opportunity to participate in the Settlement, or to exclude yourself (“opt out”) from the Settlement. This notice is to advise Class Members of how they can either participate in the Settlement or be excluded from the Settlement. As set forth below, Aggrieved Employees cannot opt out of this Agreement as it relates to the PAGA Payment or Released PAGA Claims regardless of whether they opt out of being a Class Member. Aggrieved Employees will receive their share of the PAGA Payment regardless of whether they opt out of being a Class Member.

II. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

A. The Amount of the Settlement

Under the terms of the Agreement, Defendants have agreed to pay a total sum of Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (225,000) (“Gross Settlement Amount”). Deducted from this Gross Settlement Amount will be sums approved by the Court for attorneys’ fees not to exceed thirty-five percent (35%) of the Gross Settlement Amount, attorneys’ costs not to exceed \$15,000, Settlement Administrator Costs estimated not to exceed \$10,000, Class Representatives’ Enhancement Payments of \$10,000 each, and \$10,000 for alleged PAGA penalties (the “PAGA Payment”), which will result in a “Net Settlement Amount” for distribution to all Class Members. Any employer side taxes attributable to payments allocated as wages will be paid by Defendants in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount. As explained further below, the amount of each Class Member’s share of the Net Settlement Amount will depend on the number of weeks worked by participating Class Members during the Class Period. Of the \$10,000 allocated to resolving the PAGA claims, 75% of the PAGA Payment will be paid to the State of California Labor and Workforce Development Agency and 25% of the PAGA Payment will be divided among Aggrieved Employees.

The number of weeks you worked during the Class Period and your estimated total share of the Net Settlement Amount and PAGA Payment (“Individual Settlement Amount”) is stated on the first page of this notice. The actual amount received may be more or less than the amount stated depending on the actual number of weeks worked by Participating Class Members (*i.e.*, those who do not opt out of the Settlement), the resolution of any disputes regarding workweeks, and on the distributions finally approved and allocated by the Court. However, whether Class Members opt out will have no effect on Aggrieved Employees’ allocations for the PAGA claims.

B. Individual Settlement Amounts and Allocation Between Class Members and Aggrieved Employees

Defendants will pay Individual Settlement Amounts through the Settlement Administrator, as described below, to each Participating Class Member and to Aggrieved Employees. All Individual Settlement Amounts will be subject to appropriate taxation. The Parties have agreed, based on the allegations in the Action that all Individual Settlement Amounts payable to eligible Class Members will be allocated from the Net Settlement Amount and paid as 2/3 for disputed interest, statutory penalties, and other non-wage damages for which IRS Forms 1099-MISC and 1099-INT will issue and 1/3 for disputed wages for which IRS Forms W-2 will issue. The PAGA Payment to Aggrieved employees will be paid as 100% for civil penalties.

Payment to Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees will not require the submission of a claim form. Each Participating Class Member’s share will be determined by dividing their total weeks worked within the Class Period by the total weeks worked by all Participating Class Members within the Class Period. That fraction will then be multiplied by the Net Settlement Amount to arrive at the Class Member’s individual share of the Net Settlement Amount. Each Aggrieved Employee’s share of the 25% portion of the PAGA Payment will be determined by dividing their total weeks worked within the PAGA Claim Period by the total weeks worked by all Aggrieved Employees within the PAGA Claim Period. That fraction will then be multiplied by the 25% portion of the PAGA Payment to arrive at the Aggrieved Employee’s individual share. The PAGA Claim Period is defined as May 17, 2021, up to [REDACTED]. Defendants’ records indicate that you worked [REDACTED] weeks during the applicable PAGA Claim Period, which means your share of the PAGA Payment is estimated to be [REDACTED]. This amount is included in your estimated Individual Settlement Amount stated on the first page of this notice, not in addition to it. You will still receive your share of the PAGA Payment even if you opt out of being a Class Member. Receipt of the Individual Settlement Amounts will not entitle any Class Member or Aggrieved Employee to additional compensation or benefits under any compensation, retirement or benefit plan or agreement in place during the period covered by the

Settlement.

C. Calculations to Be Based on Defendants' Records and Resolution of Workweek Disputes

For each Class Member, the amount payable will be calculated by the Settlement Administrator from Defendants' records. Defendants' records will be presumed correct unless evidence to the contrary is provided to the Settlement Administrator. Defendants' records and any additional evidence will be reviewed by the Settlement Administrator in the event of a dispute about the number of workweeks worked by an individual Class Member. If a Class Member disputes the accuracy of Defendants' records, all supporting documents evidencing additional workweeks must be submitted by the Class Member. The dispute must (a) identify the nature of the dispute; (b) provide any information or documentation supporting the dispute; (c) be signed; and (d) be post-marked no later than [redacted]. The dispute will be resolved by the Settlement Administrator based on the records and evidence provided.

D. Release of Claims

For those Class Members who do not opt out and Aggrieved Employees, the Agreement contains the following releases:

Class members who do not opt out will be deemed to have released any and all class claims that are alleged in the Complaint, and any additional wage and hour claims that could have been brought based on the facts alleged in the Complaint, through the Class Period. This release excludes the release of claims not permitted by law. The Released Class Claims exclude claims for workers' compensation or unemployment insurance benefits. This release will cover all Class Members who do not opt out.

Aggrieved Employees will be deemed to have released any and all claims that were brought under the Private Attorneys General Act, Labor Code §§ 2698 *et seq.*, contained in the Complaint and any additional wage and hour PAGA claims that could have been brought based on the facts alleged in the Complaint during the PAGA Claim Period. Aggrieved Employees cannot opt out of this waiver of claims.

The individuals released ("Released Parties") include Defendants, as well as Defendants' officers, shareholders, directors, agents, employees, attorneys, and insurers.

Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees can talk to one of the lawyers appointed as Class Counsel (listed below) for free or talk to their own lawyer if they have questions about the released claims and what they mean.

III. WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AS A CLASS MEMBER

A. Participating in the Settlement as a Class Member

If you wish to be a Participating Class Member and believe your workweek information is accurate, **you do not need to take any further action**. Payment will be automatically made to you consistent with the terms of the Agreement and Court Order. If you wish to dispute the workweek calculation, you may follow the procedures outlined in Section II.C above. California law protects Class Members from retaliation based on their decision to participate in the Settlement.

B. Excluding Yourself from the Settlement as a Class Member

The Court will exclude you from the being a Class Member if you request this by [redacted]. If you do not wish to be bound by the Settlement as a Class Member, you may request to be excluded (*i.e.*, "opt out") by submitting a timely written request to the Settlement Administrator. The request to opt-out must (a) state your full name and date of birth; (b) a statement that you do not want to be a Class Member, do not want to participate in the Settlement, and/or wants to be excluded from this Settlement; (c) identify the case name and number (*i.e.*, *Hart v. Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc.*, 34-2022-00320564); (d) be signed; and (e) be post-marked no later than [redacted]. The request to opt out must be mailed by First Class U.S. Mail, or the equivalent, to:

[admin info]

If you submit a request to opt out which is not postmarked by [redacted], your request to opt out will be rejected, and you will be bound by the release and all other terms of the Agreement. Do not use a postage meter as that may not result in a postmark appearing on the envelope containing your request to opt out. Any Class Member who submits a complete and timely request to opt out shall, upon receipt by the Settlement Administrator, no longer be a Class Member and not received their share of the Net Settlement Amount.

Aggrieved Employees cannot opt out of this Agreement and will receive their share of the PAGA Payment regardless of whether they opt out of being a Class Member.

C. Objection to Settlement

If you do not opt out of the Settlement, you can object to the terms of the Settlement. However, if the Court rejects your objection, you will still be bound by the terms of the Settlement. You can ask the Court to deny approval by filing an objection. You cannot ask the Court to order a larger settlement; the Court can only approve or deny the settlement. If the Court denies approval, no settlement payments will be sent out and the lawsuit will continue. You may submit a written objection, which should (a) state your full name and date of birth; (b) provide evidence that you are, in fact, a Class Member; (c) state the reasons for the objection(s), including supporting documentation; (d) identify the case name and number (i.e., *Hart v. Aluminum Coating Technologies, Inc.*, 34-2022-00320564); (e) be signed; and (f) be post-marked no later than [redacted]. Written objections must be sent to the Settlement Administrator at the address identified in Section III.B.

Additionally, or in the alternative to sending a written objection to the Settlement Administrator, you may appear at the final approval hearing to state your objection. Any Class Member who does not request exclusion may, if the Class Member so desires, enter an appearance through an attorney. If you appear through your own attorney, you are responsible for paying that attorney.

IV. EFFECT OF THE SETTLEMENT: RELEASED RIGHTS AND CLAIMS

If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, the Court will make and enter judgment consistent therewith. The judgment, whether favorable or not, will bind all Class Members who do not request exclusion. After final approval, each and every Class Member who does not opt out of the Settlement and Aggrieved Employee, will release Defendants and the Released Parties from the Released Class Claims and the Released PAGA Claims described above. In other words, if you were employed as a Class Member by Defendants in California during the Class Period, and you do not exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will be deemed to have entered into these releases and to have released the above-described claims. In addition, you will be barred from ever suing Defendants and the Released Parties with respect to the claims covered by this Settlement. If the Settlement is not approved by the Court or does not become final for some other reason, the litigation will continue.

V. FINAL SETTLEMENT APPROVAL HEARING

The Court will hold a hearing in Department 22, 720 9th Street, Sacramento, California 95814 on [redacted] at 9:00 a.m. to determine whether the Agreement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable and adequate. To join by Zoom Link: <https://saccourt-ca-gov.zoomgov.com/my/sscdept22>. To join by phone: (833) 568-8864 / ID 16184738886. The Court also will be asked to approve Class Counsel's request for attorneys' fees and costs, the Settlement Administrator Costs, and the Class Representatives' Enhancement Payment. The hearing may be continued without further notice. It is not necessary for you to appear at this hearing.

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You may access the Complaint, Class Counsel's motion for preliminary approval, the Agreement, and any other documents required by the Court online at [web address]. You can also contact Class Counsel or Defendants' Counsel as follows:

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On behalf of Plaintiffs

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On behalf of Defendants

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT OR THE COURT CLERK'S OFFICE TO INQUIRE ABOUT THIS SETTLEMENT OR THE CLAIM PROCESS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL [number]

BY ORDER OF THE COURT