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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HECTOR M. BARRAZA-BENITEZ, on behalf of all other aggrieved employees, Plaintiff, vs. DMCG, INC., a California Corporation; BAIL HOTLINE BAIL BONDS, INC., a California Corporation; and DOES 1-20, inclusive, Defendants.	Case No.: 23STCV03269 **DECLARATION OF HECTOR M. BARRAZA-BENITEZ IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF PAGA SETTLEMENT** Date: June 3, 2027 Time: 10:00 AM Dept: 508 Reservation ID: 589119027612

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DECLARATION OF HECTOR M. BARRAZA-BENITEZ

I, HECTOR M. BARRAZA-BENITEZ, declare:

1. My name is Hector M. Barraza-Benitez, and I am over the age of 18. I am the Named Plaintiff who filed the above-captioned lawsuit. I have personal knowledge of the facts contained herein, and if called as a witness, could and would competently testify to the following matters.

2. I understand that this declaration is submitted in support of Plaintiff's Motion for Approval of PAGA Settlement.

3. I worked for Defendant DMCG, Inc. ("DMCG") (DMCG together, with Bail Hotline Bail Bonds, Inc., "Defendants") as a non-exempt, hourly employee starting around July 1, 2019 until around March 2022.

4. While working for Defendant DMCG, I did not believe I received all of my compliant meal and rest periods and did not believe I was properly compensated for the time I worked. Based on these facts, I decided to bring this lawsuit and agreed to act as the PAGA representative in this matter. I understood that I could bring my own individual wage claims but decided that it would be best for other current and former employees of Defendants if I acted as their representative.

5. In other words, I chose to forego bringing my wage claims individually, which could have been resolved much earlier, in order to help benefit other aggrieved employees. Waiting for a settlement in this case has been a hardship for me. Also, acting as the representative and as a Plaintiff in a lawsuit against my former employer was a personal sacrifice that I was willing to take for the benefit of the other employees of Defendants as it is my understanding this lawsuit could not have been prosecuted or settled unless I or some other employee decided to serve as a named plaintiff and pursue the case. In deciding to serve as a named plaintiff, I understood that my name would be publicly attached to this lawsuit and that my work experiences to some extent would be set forth in a public court file. I recognized that I would need to devote a certain amount of time that I could have spent otherwise. I also recognized that my bringing the

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lawsuit carried some degree of risk. Despite this, I decided to serve as the named plaintiff without any promise of recovery or compensation.

6. I am familiar with the work involved in prosecuting this case and did a number of things to assist my attorneys in this case. Specifically, I met with the attorneys before the lawsuit was filed and discussed my experience working for Defendant DMCG at length. I also searched for all documents I had related to my employment with Defendant DMCG. During the litigation I remained in close contact with my counsel and engaged in numerous telephone conversations regarding the claims in the case and Defendants' defenses to those claims. I also had numerous conversations with my counsel regarding the potential of the lawsuit, and reviewed, approved of, and signed the final PAGA Settlement Agreement on September 2, 2026. I also approve of the award given to my attorneys.

7. I believe I have fulfilled my duties as a named plaintiff and representative, which required a significant amount of time and effort during the course of this case. In total, over the course of the lawsuit, I have spent about 52 hours working on the case for the benefit of myself and the other aggrieved employees of Defendants. These efforts required dedicating numerous hours to lawsuit activities including, but not limited to: (a) communicating with my attorneys to stay informed of ongoing developments in the case; (b) searching for and providing documents and other materials relating to my work experience; (c) responding to requests for information relating to my work experience; (d) assisting in the preparation of settlement discussions; (e) responding to discovery; and (f) participating in the settlement discussions and reviewing filings and key documents including drafts of the complaint, the settlement agreement, and notices. I believe I have been diligent and that I have acted above and beyond that of which is expected of a named plaintiff to date and will continue to do so.

8. I believe that the proposed settlement obtained on behalf of the other employees is excellent in view of the issues and risks involved with the case. Based on my counsel's recommendations in this case and my understanding of the risks and costs associated with trial, I believe the settlement achieved is fair and reasonable and in the best interests of the aggrieved

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employees in this case.

9. I also believe the $10,000 incentive payment being requested on my behalf is fair and reasonable. I chose to forego pursuing my wage and hour claims individually to obtain a benefit on behalf of others. In doing so, I had to postpone receiving proper compensation from the Defendants, take time and risks that other current and former employees did not, and had to be a party to a lawsuit that is stressful due to the litigation itself and fear that other future employers may find out about this case. I also had to execute a general release of all claims against Defendants, including waiving all rights under California Civil Code section 1542, which is something other aggrieved employees did not have to do.

10. Based on the time, service, risk, stress, potential stigma, loss of benefits and excellent outcome of this case, I believe the enhancement for me is fair and reasonable.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 9/10/2026 day of September 2026, at Los Angeles, California.

Signed by:
HECTOR M. BARRAZA-BENITEZ
18C345430907477...

By: _____
Hector M. Barraza-Benitez