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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

SIMON GEBREMICAEL and XAVIER PEREZ, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Plaintiff, vs. QUALITY FIRST HOME IMPROVEMENT, INC., a California corporation; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, Defendants.	Case No. 25CV002378 *[Assigned for all purposes to Hon. Jill H. Talley, Dept. 8A]* **CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

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This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is made by and between Plaintiffs Simon Gebremicael and Xavier Perez ("Plaintiffs") and Defendant Quality First Home Improvement, Inc. ("Defendant"). The Agreement refers to Plaintiffs and Defendant collectively as "Parties," or individually as "Party."

1. **DEFINITIONS.**

1.1 "Action" means Plaintiffs' lawsuit alleging class and representative action wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned *Gebremicael et al. v. Quality First Home Improvement, Inc.*, Case No. 25CV002378, filed on January 28, 2025 in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

1.2 "Administrator" means Apex Class Action Administration, the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.

1.3 "Administration Costs" means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator's "not to exceed" bid submitted to the Court in connection with Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.

1.4 "Aggrieved Employee" means all persons currently or formerly employed by Defendant in California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee at any time during the PAGA Period, and who are not otherwise bound by a release of any of the Released PAGA Claims during the PAGA Period.

1.5 "Class" means all persons currently or formerly employed by Defendant in California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee at any time during the Class Period, and who have not signed a release agreement as of February 18, 2026 or are otherwise bound by a release of any of the Released Class Claims during the Class Period.

1.6 "Class Counsel" means John G. Yslas, Eugene Zinovyev, Emily Borman, John Brown, Lisa B. Iturriaga and Gabriella Solé of the Wilshire Law Firm, P.L.C.

1.7 "Class Counsel Fees Payment" means an award of attorneys' fees granted to Class Counsel and paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Parties have agreed that Plaintiffs will

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request approval from the Court of up to one-third (1/3) of the GSA (currently $100,000.00 [one hundred thousand dollars and zero cents]).

1.8 "Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment" means the amount allocated to Class Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable expenses and costs incurred to prosecute the Action, not to exceed $25,000.00 (twenty-five thousand dollars and zero cents) and paid from the Gross Settlement Amount.

1.9 "Class Data" means Class Member identifying information in Defendant's possession including the Class Member's name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, and number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods.

1.10 "Class Member" or "Settlement Class Member" means a member of the Class, as either a Participating Class Member or Non-Participating Class Member (including a Non-Participating Class Member who qualifies as an Aggrieved Employee).

1.11 "Class Member Address Search" means the Administrator's investigation and search for current Class Member mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods, and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address database, skip traces, and direct contact by the Administrator with Class Members.

1.12 "Class Notice" means the Court approved Notice of Settlement and hearing date for Final Approval, to be mailed to Class Members in English in the form, without material variation, attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

1.13 "Class Period" or "Class Settlement Period" means the period from July 2, 2022, through April 19, 2026 ("Settlement Class Period").

1.14 "Class Representatives" means the named Plaintiffs Simon Gebremicael and Xavier Perez in the Action.

1.15 "Class Representative Service Payment" or "Enhancement Award" means the payment to the Class Representative for initiating the Action and providing services in support of the Action.

1.16 "Court" means the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento.

1.17 "Defendant" means named Defendant Quality First Home Improvement, Inc.

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1.18 "Defense Counsel" means Mark J. Payne and Kristalyn F. Lee of TROUTMAN PEPPER LOCKE.

1.19 "Effective Date" means the date by which the Judgment becomes Final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (a) the date which is sixty (60) days after Final Approval; or (ii) if a timely notice to appeal or vacate the Judgment is filed, or any other legal challenge to the Settlement is filed, the date upon which all appellate and/or other proceedings resulting from the notice of appeal or challenge have been finally terminated in such a manner as to permit the final award to take effect substantially, and the Final Approval is no longer subject to further judicial review.

1.20 "Final Approval" means the Court's order granting final approval of the Settlement.

1.21 "Final Approval Hearing" means the Court's hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.

1.22 "Final Judgment" means the Judgment entered by the Court upon granting Final Approval of the Settlement.

1.23 "Gross Settlement Amount" or "GSA" means three hundred thousand dollars and zero cents ($300,000.00), which is the total amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement, except as provided in Paragraph 8 below.

1.24 "Individual Class Payment" means the Participating Class Member's pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the Class Period.

1.25 "Individual PAGA Payment" means the Aggrieved Employee's pro rata share of 35% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of PAGA Pay Periods worked during the PAGA Period.

1.26 "Judgment" means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.

1.27 "LWDA" means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).

1.28 "LWDA PAGA Payment" means the 65% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).

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1.29 "Net Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: PAGA Penalties payment, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Costs Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members as Individual Class Payments.

1.30 "Non-Participating Class Member" means any Class Member who opts out of the Settlement by sending the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.

1.31 "Operative Complaint" means the Second Amended Class Action Complaint filed on October 23, 2025 in the Action.

1.32 "PAGA Pay Period" means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee actually worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Period.

1.33 "PAGA Period" means the period from January 28, 2024, through April 19, 2026.

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

1.35 "PAGA Notice" means Plaintiffs' January 28, 2025, and September 4, 2025, letters to the LWDA and Defendant providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a).

1.36 "PAGA Penalties" means the total amount of $15,000.00 in PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 35% ($5,250.00) to the Aggrieved Employees and 65% ($9,750.00) to the LWDA in settlement of PAGA claims.

1.37 "Participating Class Member" means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.

1.38 "Plaintiffs" mean Simon Gebremicael and Xavier Perez, the named Plaintiffs in the Action.

1.39 "Preliminary Approval" means the Court's Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.

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

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

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1.42 "Released Parties" means Defendant and its direct and indirect equity holders, and each of their former and present directors, officers, owners, subsidiaries, affiliates, shareholders, members, employees, attorneys, insurers, agents, predecessors, successors, and assigns.

1.43 "Request for Exclusion" means a Class Member's submission of a written request to be excluded from the Class Settlement signed by the Class Member.

1.44 "Response Deadline" means sixty (60) days after the Administrator mails Notice to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees and shall be the last date on which Class Members may: (a) fax, email, or mail Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, or (b) fax, email, or mail his or her Objection to the Settlement. Class Members to whom Notice packets are re-sent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator shall have an additional fourteen (14) calendar days beyond the Response Deadline has expired.

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

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

2. **RECITALS.**

2.1 On January 28, 2025, Plaintiff Gebremicael filed a Class Action Complaint alleging causes of action against Defendant for (1) Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages; (2) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages; (3) Failure to Provide Meal Periods; (4) Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods; (5) Failure to Timely Pay Final Wages at Termination; (6) Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements; (7) Failure to Indemnify Employees for Expenditures; and (8) Unfair Business Practices.

2.2 On January 28, 2025, and September 4, 2025, pursuant to Labor Code §2699.3, subd.(a), Plaintiff Gebremicael gave notice to the LWDA and Defendant that Plaintiff Gebremicael intended to proceed with a representative action under PAGA (LWDA-CM-1076195-25 and LWDA-CM-1123161-25). On April 30, 2025, Plaintiff Gebremicael filed a First Amended Complaint to add a cause of action under the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA"), pursuant

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to Labor Code section 2699. On October 23, 2025, Plaintiff Gebremicael filed a Second Amended Complaint to add an additional plaintiff, Xavier Perez, to this Action.

2.3 Defendant denies the allegations in the Action, denies any failure to comply with the laws identified in the Action, and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged in the Action.

2.4 On February 18, 2026, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by mediator Todd Smith. The Parties accepted a mediator's proposal on February 23, 2026, and agreed on general settlement terms. The Parties memorialized their agreement in a Memorandum of Understanding on or around March 31, 2026.

2.5 In advance of mediation, Class Counsel conducted a thorough investigation into the facts of, and applicable law to, the Action. Prior to mediation, Plaintiffs obtained and analyzed a representative sampling of time and payroll data for Class Members, Plaintiffs' personnel, payroll and time records, and the necessary policy documents through informal discovery to properly evaluate the strengths and weakness of the claims and engage in meaningful settlement discussions. Plaintiffs' investigation was sufficient to satisfy the criteria for court approval set forth in *Dunk v. Ford Motor Co.*, 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1801 (1996) and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc*., 168 Cal.App.4th 116, 129-130 (2008) ("*Dunk*/*Kullar*").

2.6 The Court has not granted class certification because the Parties engaged in mediation before any class certification.

2.7 The Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matters or actions asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by the Settlement.

3. **MONETARY TERMS.**

3.1 Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 8 below, Defendant will pay three hundred thousand dollars and zero cents ($300,000.00) to fully settle, resolve, and extinguish all claims asserted in the Action, including without limitation all claims asserted in the PAGA Notice. The Gross Settlement Amount is non-reversionary and does not

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include employer payroll taxes owed on the wage portions of the Individual Class Payments, which Defendant will pay separately.

3.2 Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Final Approval:

3.2.1 To Plaintiffs: A payment for the Class Representative Service Payments to Plaintiffs of not more than $10,000.00 (ten thousand dollars and zero cents) each in addition to any Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment the Class Representatives are entitled to receive as Participating Class Members. Defendant will not oppose Plaintiffs' request for a Class Representative Service Payment that does not exceed this amount. As part of the motion for the Class Counsel Fees and Litigation Expenses Payments, Plaintiffs will seek Court approval for any Class Representative Service Payment no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered by the Court. If the Court approves a Class Representative Service Payment less than the amount requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed to Participating Class Members. The Administrator will pay the Class Representative Service Payment using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiffs assume full responsibility and liability for employee taxes owed on the Class Representative Service Payment.

3.2.2 To Class Counsel: A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount, which is currently estimated to be one hundred thousand dollars and zero cents ($100,000.00) and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment for actual costs, not to exceed $25,000.00 (twenty-five thousand dollars with zero cents). Defendant will not oppose Class Counsel's requests for these payments. Plaintiffs and/or Class Counsel will file a motion for Class Counsel Fees and Litigation Expenses Payment no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered by the Court. If the Court approves a Class Counsel Fees Payment and/or a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members. Released Parties shall have no liability to Class

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Counsel or any other Plaintiffs' counsel arising from any claim to any portion of Class Counsel Fee Payment and/or Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. Class Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the Class Counsel Fees Payment and the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds Released Parties harmless, and indemnifies Released Parties, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these Payments.

3.2.3 To the Administrator: An Administrator Costs Payment not to exceed $5,750.00 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. This bid is reasonable and fair as it includes data analytics and standardization, mailing of the class notice, project management, a toll-free contact center, website and reporting, distribution and settlement fund management, and post-distribution reconciliation. To the extent the Administration Costs are less or the Court approves payment of less than $5,750.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed to Participating Class Members.

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

3.2.4.1 Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. Twenty percent (20%) of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to the Settlement of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portion is subject to tax withholding and will be reported on an IRS W-2 Form. The remaining eighty percent (80%) of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to the settlement of claims for interest, reimbursement, and penalties (the "Non-Wage Portion"). The Non-Wage Portions are not subject to wage withholdings and will be reported on IRS 1099 Forms. Participating Class Members assume full responsibility and liability for any employee taxes owed on their Individual Class Payment.

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3.2.4.2 Effect of Non-Participating Class Members on Calculation of Individual Class Payments. Non-Participating Class Members will not receive any Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will retain amounts equal to their Individual Class Payments in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members on a pro-rata basis.

3.2.5 To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties in the amount of fifteen thousand dollars and zero cents ($15,000.00) to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 65% ($9,750.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 35% ($5,250.00) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.

3.2.5.1 The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 35% share of PAGA Penalties of $5,250.00 by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period, and (b) multiplying the result by each individual Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

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

4. **SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.**

4.1 Class Workweeks and Aggrieved Employee Pay Periods. Based on a review of its records and reasonable extrapolation, Defendant represents there are 549 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 15,062 Workweeks from July 2, 2022 through the February 18, 2026 mediation, and 255 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total of 8,520 PAGA Pay Periods from January 28, 2024 through the February 18, 2026 mediation.

4.2 Class Data. Not later than fourteen (14) days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendant will deliver the Class Data to the Administrator, in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Class Members' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Class Data in confidence, use the Class Data only for purposes of this Settlement

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and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Class Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Class Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. The Class Data will be provided to the Administrator only and shall not be disclosed to Plaintiffs and/or Class Counsel under any circumstances. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify Class Counsel if it discovers that the Class Data omitted class member identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Class Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendant must send the Class Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Class Data.

4.3 Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount and the amounts necessary to fully pay Defendant's share of payroll taxes by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than thirty (30) days after the Effective Date.

4.4 Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within ten (10) days after Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Costs Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment. Disbursement of the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment shall not precede disbursement of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments.

4.4.1 The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual Class Payments and/or Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Class Members via First Class U.S. Mail. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (180 days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided ("Void Date"). The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the Void Date. The Administrator will send checks for Individual Settlement Payments to all Participating Class Members (including those for whom the Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator will send checks for Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees, including Non-Participating Class Members who qualify as Aggrieved Employees (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator

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may send Participating Class Members a single check combining the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment. Before mailing any checks, the Settlement Administrator must update the recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database. A Class Member who qualifies as an Aggrieved Employee may not opt out of the PAGA Settlement / Individual PAGA Payment.

4.4.2 The Administrator must conduct a Class Member Address Search for all Class Members whose checks are returned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within seven (7) days of receiving a returned check, the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Class Member Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to deliver checks to Class Members whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Class Member whose original check was lost or misplaced, requested by the Class Member prior to the Void Date.

4.4.3 For any Class Member whose Individual Class Payment check or Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and canceled after the Void Date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Class Member thereby leaving no "unpaid residue" subject to the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 384, subd. (b).

4.4.4 The payment of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendant to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to Class Members (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses) beyond those specified in this Agreement, and does not otherwise extend or alter a Class Member's period of employment with Defendant for any purpose.

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

a. Plaintiffs' Release.

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5.1 Plaintiffs do hereby, for themselves and their spouses, heirs, successors, beneficiaries, devisees, legatees, executors, administrators, trustees, conservators, guardians, personal representatives, and assigns forever and completely release and discharge the Released Parties from any and all charges, complaints, claims, liabilities, obligations, promises, agreements, controversies, damages, actions, causes of action, suits, rights, demands, costs, losses, debts, and expenses (including back wages, statutory penalties, civil penalties, liquidated damages, exemplary damages, interest, attorneys' fees, and costs) of any nature whatsoever, from the beginning of time through the execution of this Agreement, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, including but not limited to all claims arising out of, based upon, or relating to Plaintiffs' employment with Defendant or the remuneration for or termination of such employment ("Plaintiff's Release"). Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this general release by Plaintiffs includes all federal, state and local statutory claims, federal and state common law claims (including but not limited to those for contract, tort and equity), including without limitation the Americans with Disabilities Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended), 42 USC sec. 1981, 42 USC sec. 1983, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Employment Retirement Security Income Act of 1974, the California Constitution, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, the California Unfair Competition Act (California Business and Professions Code section 17200 et seq.), and the California Labor Code. Plaintiffs' Release does not extend to any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time, or based on occurrences outside the Class Period. Plaintiffs acknowledge that Plaintiffs may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiffs now know or believe to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiffs' Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiffs' discovery of them.

5.1.1 Plaintiffs' Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542. For purposes of Plaintiffs' Release, Plaintiffs expressly waive and relinquish the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

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

5.2 Released Class Claims: All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, administrators, successors and assigns, release the Released Parties from all claims, rights, demands, liabilities, and causes of action that were alleged or which could have reasonably been alleged based on the facts alleged in the Operative Complaint (including all previously filed and amended complaints) and the PAGA Notice, including but not limited to: (1) failure to pay minimum and straight time wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, 1197 and 1197.1); (2) failure to pay overtime wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and 1198); (3) failure to provide meal periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512); (4) failure to authorize and permit rest periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7); (5) failure to timely pay final wages at termination (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 201-203); (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226); (7) failure to indemnify employees for expenditures (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 2802); (8) unfair business practices (pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*); (9) failure to pay all earned wages twice per month and unlawfully withholding accrued wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 204, 210 and 216); (10) failure to maintain accurate records of hours worked and meal periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 1174, and 1174.5); (11) recordkeeping requirement violations (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.6, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1198 and 1199); (12) civil penalties for wage and hour violations (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code § 558); and, (13) civil penalties under PAGA (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 2699, et seq.). The enumeration of these specific claims shall neither enlarge nor narrow the scope of *res judicata* based on the claims that were asserted in the Action or could have been asserted in the Action based on the facts and circumstances alleged in the Complaint. The Released Class Claims are those that are alleged to have occurred during the Class Period.

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5.3 Released PAGA Claims: All Aggrieved Employees, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, administrators, successors and assigns, release the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA civil penalties that are alleged or reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts alleged in the Operative Complaint (including all previously filed and amended complaints) and in the PAGA Notice, including but not limited to: (1) failure to pay minimum and straight time wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, 1197 and 1197.1); (2) failure to pay overtime wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and 1198); (3) failure to provide meal periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512); (4) failure to authorize and permit rest periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7); (5) failure to timely pay final wages at termination (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 201-203); (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226); (7) failure to indemnify employees for expenditures (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 2802); (8) unfair business practices (pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*); (9) failure to pay all earned wages twice per month and unlawfully withholding accrued wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 204, 210 and 216); (10) failure to maintain accurate records of hours worked and meal periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 1174, and 1174.5); (11) recordkeeping requirement violations (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.6, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1198 and 1199); (12) civil penalties for wage and hour violations (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code § 558); and, (13) civil penalties under PAGA (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 2699, et seq.). The Released PAGA Claims are those that are alleged to have occurred during the PAGA Period.

6. **MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL**. Plaintiffs will prepare and file a motion for preliminary approval ("Motion for Preliminary Approval").

6.1 Plaintiffs' Responsibilities. Plaintiffs will prepare all documents necessary for obtaining Preliminary Approval, including: (i) a draft of the notice, and memorandum in support, of the Motion for Preliminary Approval that includes an analysis of the Settlement under *Dunk*/*Kullar* and a request for approval of the PAGA Settlement under Labor Code Section 2699, subd. (f)(2)); (ii) a draft proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement;

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(iii) a draft proposed Class Notice; (iv) a signed declaration from Plaintiffs confirming willingness and competency to serve and disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members, and/or the Administrator; (v) a signed declaration from Class Counsel firm attesting to its competency to represent the Class Members; its timely transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (initial notice of violations (Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a)), Operative Complaint (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(2)); and (vi) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members, and/or the Administrator. In their Declarations, Plaintiffs and Class Counsel shall aver that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.

6.2 Responsibilities of Counsel. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing the Motion for Preliminary Approval. Class Counsel will obtain a prompt hearing date for the Motion for Preliminary Approval, file the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than sixteen (16) court days before the hearing, unless otherwise ordered by the Court, and deliver the Court's Preliminary Approval Order to the Administrator.

6.3 Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed Motion for Preliminary Approval and/or the supporting declarations and documents, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together by meeting and conferring in good faith to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does not grant Preliminary Approval or conditions Preliminary Approval on any material change to this Agreement, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together by meeting and conferring in good faith to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

7. **SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.**

7.1 Selection of Administrator. The Parties have jointly selected Apex Class Action Administration to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, the Administrator agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for payment of Administration Costs. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the

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Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements. Apex Class Action's team has been directly involved with class action administration for a combined 75 years and has successfully managed numerous class action cases during that time. Their team comprises experienced professionals with extensive knowledge of class action settlement administration. In addition, Apex Class Action has the necessary technology and infrastructure to efficiently manage large-scale class action cases. They utilize state-of-the-art software and systems to ensure that all aspects of the administration process are executed accurately and efficiently. The Parties obtained bids from three different Administrators, and Apex Class Action Administration was the most cost effective.

7.2 Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports to state and federal tax authorities.

7.3 Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1 for the funding of the GSA. Any interest that accrues on the GSA sums paid into the QSF prior to distribution by the Administrator will become part of the NSA for distribution to Participating Class Members.

7.4 Notice to Class Members.

7.4.1 No later than five (5) calendar days after receipt of the Class Data, the Administrator shall notify Class Counsel that the list has been received and state the number of Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, Workweeks, and Pay Periods in the Class Data.

7.4.2 Using best efforts to perform as soon as possible, and in no event later than fourteen (14) days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator will send to all Class Members identified in the Class Data, via first-class United States Postal Service ("USPS") mail, the Class Notice with substantially in the form attached to this Agreement as Exhibit A. The first page of the Class Notice shall prominently estimate the dollar amounts of any Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment payable to the Class Member, and the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods used to calculate these amounts. Before mailing Class Notices, the

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Administrator shall update Class Member addresses using the National Change of Address database. Based on Defendant's review of the Class Data and its experience with the Class Members, the Class Notice does not need to be translated into any language other than English.

7.4.3 Not later than five (5) calendar days after the Administrator's receipt of any Class Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the Class Notice using any forwarding address provided by the USPS. If the USPS does not provide a forwarding address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class Member Address Search, and re-mail the Class Notice to the most current address obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further attempts to locate or send Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by the USPS a second time.

7.4.4 The deadlines for Class Members' written objections, challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional fourteen days (14) days beyond the sixty (60) days otherwise provided in the Class Notice for all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.

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

7.5 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs).

7.5.1 Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) the Class Settlement must send the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail, a signed written Request for Exclusion not later than sixty (60) days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional fourteen (14) days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed). A Request for Exclusion

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is a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative that reasonably communicates the Class Member's election to be excluded from the Settlement and includes the Class Member's name, address and email address or telephone number. To be valid, a Request for Exclusion must be timely faxed, emailed, or postmarked by the Response Deadline.

7.5.2 The Administrator may not reject a Request for Exclusion as invalid because it fails to contain all the information specified in the Class Notice. The Administrator shall accept any Request for Exclusion as valid if the Administrator can reasonably ascertain the identity of the person as a Class Member and the Class Member's desire to be excluded. The Administrator's determination shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. If the Administrator has reason to question the authenticity of a Request for Exclusion, the Administrator may demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity. The Administrator's determination of authenticity shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.

7.5.3 Every Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion is deemed to be a Participating Class Member under this Agreement, entitled to all benefits and bound by all terms and conditions of the Settlement, including the Participating Class Members' Releases under paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of this Agreement, regardless of whether the Participating Class Member actually receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.

7.5.4 Every Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion is a Non-Participating Class Member and shall not receive an Individual Class Payment or have the right to object to the class action components of the Settlement. Because future PAGA claims are subject to claim preclusion upon entry of the Judgment, Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release the Released PAGA Claims identified in Paragraph 5.3 of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.

7.6 Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks. Each Class Member shall have sixty (60) days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional fourteen (14) days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods allocated to the Class Member in the Class Notice. The Class Member may

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challenge the allocation by communicating with the Administrator via fax, email or mail. The Administrator must encourage the challenging Class Member to submit supporting documentation. In the absence of any contrary documentation, the Administrator is entitled to presume that the Workweeks contained in the Class Notice are correct so long as they are consistent with the Class Data. The Administrator's determination of each Class Member's allocation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. The Administrator shall promptly provide copies of all challenges to the calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel and the Administrator's determination of the challenges.

7.7 Objections to Settlement.

7.7.1 Only Participating Class Members may object to the Class components of the Settlement and/or this Agreement, including contesting the fairness of the Settlement, and/or amounts requested for the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Class Representative Service Payment.

7.7.2 Participating Class Members may send written objections to the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail. In the alternative, Participating Class Members may appear in Court (or hire an attorney to appear in Court) to present verbal objections at the Final Approval Hearing. A Participating Class Member who elects to send a written objection to the Administrator must do so not later than sixty (60) days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional fourteen (14) days for Class Members whose Class Notice was re-mailed).

7.7.3 Non-Participating Class Members have no right to object to any of the Class components of the Settlement.

7.8 Administrator Duties. The Administrator has a duty to perform or observe all tasks to be performed or observed by the Administrator contained in this Agreement or otherwise.

7.8.1 Website, Email Address and Toll-Free Number. The Administrator will establish, maintain and use an internet website to post information of interest to Class Members including the date, time and location for the Final Approval Hearing and copies of the Settlement Agreement; Motion for Preliminary Approval; Preliminary Approval Order; Class Notice;

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Motion for Final Approval; Motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and Class Representative Service Payment; the Final Approval Order; and the Judgment. The Administrator will also maintain and monitor an email address and a toll-free telephone number to receive Class Member calls, faxes and emails.

7.8.2 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-outs) and Exclusion List. The Administrator will promptly review on a rolling basis Requests for Exclusion to ascertain their validity. Not later than five (5) days after the expiration of the deadline for submitting Requests for Exclusion, the Administrator shall email a list to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel containing (a) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have timely submitted valid Requests for Exclusion ("Exclusion List"); (b) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have submitted invalid Requests for Exclusion; (c) copies of all Requests for Exclusion from Settlement submitted (whether valid or invalid).

7.8.3 Weekly Reports. The Administrator must, on a weekly basis, provide written reports to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel that, among other things, tally the number of: Class Notices mailed or re-mailed, Class Notices returned undelivered, Requests for Exclusion (whether valid or invalid) received, objections received, challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods received and/or resolved, and checks mailed for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments ("Weekly Report"). The Weekly Reports must include the Administrator's assessment of the validity of Requests for Exclusion and attach copies of all Requests for Exclusion and objections received.

7.8.4 Workweek and/or Pay Period Challenges. The Administrator has the authority to address and make final decisions consistent with the terms of this Agreement on all Class Member challenges over the calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods. The Administrator's decision shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.

7.8.5 Administrator's Declaration. Not later than fourteen (14) days before the date by which Plaintiffs are required to file the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, the Administrator will provide to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its due diligence and compliance with all of its obligations under

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this Agreement, including, but not limited to, its mailing of Class Notice, the Class Notices returned as undelivered, the re-mailing of Class Notices, attempts to locate Class Members, the total number of Requests for Exclusion from Settlement it received (both valid or invalid), the number of written objections and attach the Exclusion List. The Administrator will supplement its declaration as needed or requested by the Parties and/or the Court. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration(s) in Court.

7.8.6 Final Report by Settlement Administrator. Within ten (10) days after the Administrator disburses all funds in the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will provide Class Counsel and Defense Counsel with a final report detailing its disbursements by employee identification number only of all payments made under this Agreement. At least fifteen (15) days before any deadline set by the Court, the Administrator will prepare, and submit to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its disbursement of all payments required under this Agreement. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration in Court.

8. **CLASS SIZE ESTIMATES and ESCALATOR CLAUSE.** Based on its records and reasonable extrapolation, Defendant represents there are 549 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 15,062 Workweeks from July 2, 2022 through the February 18, 2026 mediation. If the total number of Workweeks increases by more than 10% (i.e. an increase of more than 1,506 workweeks), then the GSA will be increased proportionally by the number of workweeks worked in excess of 10%. For example, if the final number of total workweeks increases by 15% over 16,568 workweeks, the GSA will increase by 5%. At their option, however, Defendant may elect to shorten the release period so that the release covers only up to 16,568 Workweeks in order to avoid any further increase to the GSA. If the Escalator is triggered, the Parties agree that the portion of the GSA allocated to attorneys' fees will increase proportionally such that the total amount of attorneys' fees remains one third (1/3) of the GSA after the upward adjustment required by this provision is implemented.

9. **RIGHT TO VOID.** Defendant has the sole right to void the settlement if more than ten (10) Class Members opt out.

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10. **MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.** Not later than sixteen (16) court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, unless otherwise scheduled by the Court, Plaintiffs will file in Court, a Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement that includes a request for approval of the PAGA settlement under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l); a Proposed Final Approval Order; and a proposed Judgment (collectively "Motion for Final Approval"). Plaintiffs shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel at least three (3) business days' to prior to filing the Motion for Final Approval. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously meet and confer in good faith to resolve any disagreements concerning the Motion for Final Approval.

10.1 Response to Objections. Each Party retains the right to respond to any objection raised by a Participating Class Member, including the right to file responsive documents in Court no later than five (5) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered or accepted by the Court.

10.2 Duty to Cooperate. If the Court does not grant Final Approval or conditions Final Approval on any material change to the Settlement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), the Parties will expeditiously work together in good faith to address the Court's concerns by revising the Agreement as necessary to obtain Final Approval. The Court's decision to award less than the amounts requested for the Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and/or Administrator Costs Payment shall not constitute a material modification to the Agreement within the meaning of this paragraph.

10.3 Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court. The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, the Action, and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.

10.4 Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment as set forth in this Settlement, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Participating Class Members who did not object to the Settlement as provided in

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this Agreement, waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs, and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If an objector appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.

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

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

12. **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.**

12.1 No Admission of Liability, Class Certification or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by Defendant that any of the allegations in the Action or Operative Complaint has merit or that Defendant has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiffs that Defendant's defenses in the Action has merit. The Parties agree that class certification and representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any

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reason, the Court does grant Preliminary Approval, Final Approval, or enter Judgment, Defendant reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reason, Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiffs reserve the right to move for class certification on any grounds available and to contest Defendant's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement and Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation (except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement).

12.2 Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval. Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Defendant, and Defense Counsel separately agree that, until the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement is filed, they and each of them will not disclose, disseminate and/or publicize, or cause or permit another person to disclose, disseminate or publicize, any of the terms of the Agreement directly or indirectly, specifically or generally, to any person, corporation, association, government agency, or other entity except: (1) to the Parties' attorneys, accountants, or spouses, all of whom will be instructed to keep this Agreement confidential; (2) counsel in a related matter; (3) to the extent necessary to report income to appropriate taxing authorities; (4) in response to a court order or subpoena; or (5) in response to an inquiry or subpoena issued by a state or federal government agency. Each Party agrees to immediately notify the other Party of any judicial or agency order, inquiry, or subpoena seeking such information. Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Defendant, and Defense Counsel separately agree not to, directly or indirectly, initiate any conversation or other communication, before the filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval, with any third party regarding this Agreement or the matters giving rise to this Agreement except to respond only that "the matter was resolved," or words to that effect. This paragraph does not restrict Class Counsel's communications with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

12.3 No Publicity. Plaintiffs and Class Counsel agree not to discuss, answer questions about, promote, or publicize the Settlement, this Agreement and its terms, or the negotiations leading up to this Agreement with anyone other than the Court, Class Members or those individuals necessary to effectuate the terms of this Agreement.

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12.4 No Solicitation. The Parties separately agree that they and their respective counsel and employees will not solicit any Class Member to opt out of or object to the Settlement, or appeal from the Judgment. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to restrict Class Counsel's ability to communicate with Class Members in accordance with Defense Counsel's and Class Counsel's ethical obligations and Class Counsel's fiduciary duties owed to Class Members.

12.5 Waiver. Plaintiffs and Defendant, and each of them, waive any and all claims for fees, costs, indemnity or contribution against Plaintiffs, any Class Member, Class Counsel in the Action, Defendant, or Defense Counsel in the Action other than as provided herein.

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

12.7 Destruction of Records: Upon final funding of the settlement, Plaintiffs and their attorneys agree to destroy all of Defendant's records produced and certify that this has been done.

12.8 Attorney Authorization. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiffs and Defendant, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.

12.9 Cooperation. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts, in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying the Settlement Agreement, submitting supplemental evidence and supplementing points and authorities as requested by the Court. In the event the Parties are unable to agree upon the form or content of any document necessary to implement the Settlement, or on any modification of the Agreement that may become necessary to implement the Settlement, the Parties will seek the assistance of a mediator and/or the Court for resolution.

12.10 No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or

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encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.

12.11 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Defendant nor Defense Counsel are providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.

12.12 Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.

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

12.14 Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the state of California, without regard to conflict of law principles.

12.15 Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.

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

12.17 Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.

12.18 Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to "days" in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.

12.19 Notice. All notices, demands, or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the

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third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiffs:

John G. Yslas
john.yslas@wilshirelawifrm.com
Eugene Zinovyev
Eugene.zinovyev@wilshirelawfirm.com
John Brown
John.brown@wilshirelawfirm.com
Emily Borman
emily.borman@wilshirelawfirm.com
Lisa B. Iturriaga
lisa.iturriaga@wilshirelawfirm.com
Gabriella Solé
gabriella.sole@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
660 S. Figueroa St., Sky Lobby
Los Angeles, California 90017
Telephone: (213) 381-9988
Facsimile: (213) 381-9989

To Defendant:

Mark J. Payne (SBN 157989)
mark.payne@troutman.com
Kristalyn F. Lee (SBN 300677)
Kristalyn.Lee@troutman.com
TROUTMAN PEPPER LOCKE
100 Spectrum Center Drive, Suite 1500
Irvine, CA 92618

12.20 Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or by email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

12.21 Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further

agree that upon the signing of this Agreement pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

12.22 Binding Agreement. The Parties intend that this Agreement shall be fully enforceable and binding upon all Parties within the provisions of Cal. Civil Proc. § 664.6, and that it shall be admissible and subject to disclosure in any proceeding to enforce its terms pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §§ 1122(a)(1) and 1123(b), notwithstanding the confidentiality provisions that otherwise might apply under federal or state law. The Parties further agree and intend that the Sacramento County Superior Court may enforce this Agreement pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 664.6.

IT IS SO AGREED.

By the Parties:

DATED: 5/29/2026

DocuSigned by:
A39D4C80736445C...

Plaintiff Simon Gebremicael

DATED: 6/2/2026

Signed by:
DAFCE09ED4C6442...

Plaintiff Xavier Perez

DATED: 6/4/2029

Defendant Quality First Home Improvement, Inc.

By: SCOTT M. GABARDI

Position: CEO / PRESIDENT

Approved by counsel:

DATED: 6/2/26

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM

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BY: _____
John G. Yslas
Eugene Zinovyev
Counsel for Plaintiffs

DATED: 6/4/26

TROUTMAN PEPPER LOCKE

BY: Kristalyn Lee
Mark J. Payne
Kristalyn F. Lee
Counsel for Defendant

EXHIBIT "A"

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

Gebremicael et al. v. Quality First Home Improvement, Inc.
Case No. 25CV002378 (Sacramento County Superior Court)

The Sacramento County Superior Court authorized this notice.
It is not junk mail, spam, an advertisement, or solicitation by a lawyer.
Please read it carefully! You are not being sued.

You may be eligible to receive money from an employee class and a representative action lawsuit ("Action") against Quality First Home Improvement, Inc. ("Defendant") for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by former employees, Simon Gebremicael and Xavier Perez, and seek (1) alleged payment of back wages and other relief for a class of all persons currently or formerly employed by Defendant as hourly-paid, non-exempt employees in the State of California, and who have not signed a release agreement as of February 18, 2026 or are otherwise bound by a release of any of the Released Class Claims ("Class Members") during the Class Period (July 2, 2022, through April 19, 2026); and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA") for all Class Members who worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period (January 28, 2024, through April 19, 2026) ("Aggrieved Employees")

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

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

The above estimates are based on Defendant's records showing that **you worked _____ Workweeks during the Class Period and you worked _____ Pay Periods during the PAGA Period**. If you believe that you worked more during either period, you can submit a challenge by the deadline date. Note that you must have actually worked during the workweek or pay period for it to count towards your Individual Class Payment or PAGA Payment. For example, workweeks in which you were on a leave or took vacation do not count.

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

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YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT	
DO NOTHING	Be eligible to receive an Individual Class Payment and a portion of the PAGA settlement (if eligible). Give up rights to sue Defendant for wage claims released as part of the Settlement.
EXCLUDE YOURSELF	Receive no money from the Class settlement. You will retain the right to pursue your own legal claims against Defendant. However, even if you exclude yourself from the Class settlement, you will still receive a portion of the PAGA settlement and be bound by it if you worked during the PAGA Period.
OBJECT	If you do not exclude yourself from the Class Settlement, write to the Court about why you object to the Class Settlement. If the Settlement receives Final Approval, you will still receive an Individual Class Payment and a portion of the PAGA settlement (if eligible),and give up rights to sue Defendant for wage claims released in the Settlement.
CHALLENGE YOUR NUMBER OF WORKWEEKS AND/OR PAY PERIODS	Challenge your number of Workweeks or Pay Periods listed in this Notice and provide supporting evidence. If you challenge your Workweeks or Pay Periods, you will still be included as part of the Settlement and will give up rights to sue Defendant for wage claims released in the Settlement.

BASIC INFORMATION

1. WHY AM I RECEIVING THIS NOTICE?

Defendant's records indicate that you worked for Defendant in California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee at some point(s) between July 2, 2022, through April 19, 2026, and are therefore a member of the Class for purposes of this Settlement.

You received this Notice because you have a right to know about a proposed Settlement of the Action, and about all of your options, before the Court decides whether to finally approve the Settlement. The Settlement will resolve all Class Members' claims, which are described below, during the Class Period. The Settlement will also resolve claims for civil penalties brought under the California Private Attorneys' General Act ("PAGA"). If you are a Class Member, you may also an "Aggrieved Employee" if you worked for Defendant during the "PAGA Period," which is January 28, 2024, through April 19, 2026.

If the Court grants Final Approval of the Settlement, a settlement Administrator appointed by the Court will issue the payments provided for by the Settlement to Class Members. You are encouraged to always keep your address up to date with the Administrator (the Administrator's contact information can be found in Section 12, below).

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This Notice package explains the allegations and background regarding the lawsuit, the Settlement, your legal rights, what benefits are available, who is eligible for them, and how to receive those benefits.

The Court in charge of the Action is the Sacramento County Superior Court, and the case is titled, *Gebremicael et al. v. Quality First Home Improvement, Inc.,* Case No. 25CV002378. The persons who sued, Simon Gebremicael and Xavier Perez, are the Plaintiffs, and the company sued, Quality First Home Improvement, Inc., is the Defendant.

2. WHAT IS THE LAWSUIT ABOUT?

The Plaintiffs in the lawsuit allege wage and hour violations against Defendant for: (1) Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages; (2) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages; (3) Failure to Provide Meal Periods; (4) Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods; (5) Failure to Timely Pay Final Wages at Termination; (6) Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements; (7) Failure to Indemnify Employees for Expenditures; and (8) Unfair Business Practices. In addition, Plaintiffs are seeking to recover civil penalties pursuant to PAGA ("PAGA Penalties") based on the alleged violations of the California Labor Code listed above. Defendant strongly denies the allegations alleged in the Action, violating any laws or failing to pay any wages, and contends that it complied with all applicable laws at all times. Plaintiffs have not proven these allegations, and the Court has not ruled on whether or to what extent any of these allegations are true.

The issuance of this Notice is not an expression of the Court's opinion on the merits or the lack of merits of the Representative Plaintiffs' claims in the Case.

3. WHY IS THIS A CLASS ACTION?

In an employment class action, one or more people called "Class Representatives" (in this case, the Plaintiffs) sue on behalf of all workers who they contend have similar claims. All of these workers are a Class or Class Members. Bringing one lawsuit, as opposed to many small ones, saves money, time and court resources. A class action resolves the issues for all Class Members, except for those who exclude themselves from the Class Settlement.

4. WHY IS THERE A SETTLEMENT?

The Court has not decided in favor of the Plaintiffs or Defendant on the merits of the claims alleged in the lawsuit. Instead, rather than continuing the expensive and time-consuming process of litigation, the Parties have agreed to a negotiated settlement, subject to the Court's approval. The Settlement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. By agreeing to the Settlement, Defendant does not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE SETTLEMENT?

5. WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE SETTLEMENT?

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If you received this Notice, you are a Class Member for settlement purposes. The Class includes: all persons currently or formerly employed by Defendant in California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee at any time during the Class Period, and who have not signed a release agreement as of February 18, 2026 or are otherwise bound by a release of any of the Released Class Claims at any time from July 2, 2022, through April 19, 2026.

6. ARE THERE EXCEPTIONS TO BEING INCLUDED?

You are not a Class Member if you already have resolved the claims asserted in this lawsuit, whether by settlement or a separate legal proceeding (i.e., another lawsuit).

THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS—WHAT YOU GET

7. WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

Defendant has agreed to pay a Gross Settlement Amount ("GSA") of $300,000.00 (three hundred thousand dollars and zero cents) to settle the Action. From the GSA, Class Counsel will apply to the Court for attorneys' fees of up to one third (1/3) of the GSA (currently $100,000.00) and up to $25,000.00 in costs; a Class Representative Service Payment of $10,000.00 each to Plaintiffs (for Plaintiffs' work and efforts prosecuting this case); a PAGA Penalties payment of $15,000.00 to resolve the PAGA claims; and Settlement Administration Costs to Apex Class Action Administration, not to exceed $5,750.00. The exact amount of the Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs, Class Representative Service Payment, and Settlement Administration Costs will be determined by the Court at the Final Approval hearing. The remaining portion of the Settlement amount, the "Net Settlement Amount" or the "NSA," is currently estimated to be approximately **$XXXXXXX**. The NSA will be apportioned and paid out as Individual Class Payments to the Settlement Class Members, who are the Class Members that do not request to be excluded ("opt out") of the Settlement.

PAGA Penalties payment: As part of the PAGA portion of the Settlement, the Parties will ask the Court to approve a $15,000.00 PAGA Penalties payment in settlement of claims for alleged civil penalties under PAGA. As required under PAGA, 65% of the PAGA Penalties payment, or $9,750.00, will be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency. The remaining 35% of the PAGA Penalties payment, or $5,250.00, will be distributed to the Aggrieved Employees as Individual PAGA Payments.

8. HOW MUCH WILL MY PAYMENT BE?

An approximation of your Individual Class Payment appears on the first page of this Notice. If you are also an Aggrieved Employee, an approximation of your Individual PAGA Payment will also appear on the first page of this Notice.

Individual Class Payment: Your Individual Class Payment is based on the number Workweeks you worked, as represented in Defendant's records, in comparison to the total number of Workweeks worked by all Class Members during the Class Period (July 2, 2022, through April 19, 2026). Eighty percent (80%) of each Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be treated as a payment in settlement of the alleged claims for penalties and interest and will be reported on a Form 1099 by the Settlement Administrator, and twenty percent (20%) of each Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be

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treated as a payment in settlement of alleged claims for unpaid wages. The 20% allocated as unpaid wages will be reduced by applicable payroll tax withholdings and deductions and reported on a Form W-2.

Individual PAGA Payment: If you worked for Defendant from January 28, 2024, through April 19, 2026 ("PAGA Period"), you are also an "Aggrieved Employee" and will receive an Individual PAGA Payment in addition to your Individual Class Payment. The Individual PAGA Payments are based on the number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by each Aggrieved Employee in comparison to the total amount of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period. One hundred percent (100%) of each Aggrieved Employees' Individual PAGA Payment will be characterized as penalties and will not be reduced by payroll tax withholdings and deductions. The Individual PAGA Payment will be reported on a Form 1099 by the Settlement Administrator. An approximation of your anticipated Individual PAGA Payment appears on the first page of this Notice.

For the Class Members who are also Aggrieved Employees, their Individual Class Payment will be combined with their Individual PAGA Payment, and they will receive a single check for the combined payments. If a Class Member chooses to opt-out of the Settlement, they will still receive an Individual PAGA Payment, as Aggrieved Employees cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement under California law, handled by the Administrator.

HOW YOU GET A PAYMENT

9. HOW DO I RECEIVE A PAYMENT?

You do not need to do anything to receive a payment. However, if you believe that the number of Workweeks or PAGA Pay Periods you worked is incorrect, please correct it and provide any supporting evidence to the settlement Administrator, whose contact information is listed in Section 12 below.

10. WHEN WOULD I GET MY PAYMENT?

The Court will hold a Final Fairness Hearing on _____, to decide whether to approve the Settlement. If the Judge approves the Settlement, and anyone objects, there may be appeals. It is always uncertain when these objections and appeals can be resolved and resolving them can take time. If there is no objection or appeal, the Effective Date of the Settlement will be 60 days after the date of entry of the Court's Order granting final approval.

Following the Effective Date, Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments will be mailed to Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees approximately 40 days after the Court's approval of the Settlement becomes final so long as there are no appeals.

Settlement checks should be cashed promptly upon receipt. Proceeds of checks which remain uncashed after 180 days from the date of issuance will be forwarded to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Class Member thereby leaving no "unpaid residue" subject to the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 384, subd. (b). If your settlement check is lost or misplaced, you should contact the Settlement Administrator immediately to request a replacement.

For an update on the status of payments, please contact the Settlement Administrator (see Section 12).

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11. WHAT AM I GIVING UP TO GET A PAYMENT?

If the Court approves this Settlement and unless you exclude yourself, you will become a Participating Class Member, and that means that you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendant concerning the legal claims being resolved in this Settlement. Specifically, you will be giving up or "releasing" the Released Class Claims described below against Defendant and all of Defendant's direct and indirect equity holders, and each of their former and present directors, officers, owners, subsidiaries, affiliates, shareholders, members, employees, attorneys, insurers, agents, predecessors, successors, and assigns ("Released Parties"). The releases become effective once the GSA is fully funded by Defendant.

Released Class Claims: The "Released Class Claims" are all claims, rights, demands, liabilities, and causes of action, that were alleged or which could have reasonably been alleged based on the facts alleged in the Operative Complaint (including all previously filed and amended complaints) and the PAGA Notice, including but not limited to: (1) failure to pay minimum and straight time wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, 1197 and 1197.1); (2) failure to pay overtime wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and 1198); (3) failure to provide meal periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512); (4) failure to authorize and permit rest periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7); (5) failure to timely pay final wages at termination (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 201-203); (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226); (7) failure to indemnify employees for expenditures (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 2802); (8) unfair business practices (pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.); (9) failure to pay all earned wages twice per month and unlawfully withholding accrued wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 204, 210 and 216); (10) failure to maintain accurate records of hours worked and meal periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 1174, and 1174.5); (11) recordkeeping requirement violations (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.6, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1198 and 1199); (12) civil penalties for wage and hour violations (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code § 558); and, (13) civil penalties under PAGA (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 2699, et seq.). The enumeration of these specific claims shall neither enlarge nor narrow the scope of res judicata based on the claims that were asserted in the Action or could have been asserted in the Action based on the facts and circumstances alleged in the Complaint. The Released Class Claims are those that are alleged to have occurred during the Class Period.

Released PAGA Claims: If you an Aggrieved Employee (i.e. if you worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period), you will also release claims for PAGA civil penalties that are alleged or reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts alleged in the Operative Complaint (including all previously filed and amended complaints) and in the PAGA Notice, including but not limited to: (1) failure to pay minimum and straight time wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, 1197 and 1197.1); (2) failure to pay overtime wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and 1198); (3) failure to provide meal periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512); (4) failure to authorize and permit rest periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7); (5) failure to timely pay final wages at termination (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 201-203); (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226); (7) failure to indemnify employees for expenditures (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 2802); (8) unfair business practices (pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*); (9) failure to pay all earned wages twice per month and unlawfully withholding accrued wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 204, 210 and 216); (10) failure to maintain accurate records of hours

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worked and meal periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 1174, and 1174.5); (11) recordkeeping requirement violations (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.6, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1198 and 1199); (12) civil penalties for wage and hour violations (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code § 558); and, (13) civil penalties under PAGA (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 2699, et seq.). The Released PAGA Claims are those that are alleged to have occurred during the PAGA Period.

EXCLUDING YOURSELF FROM THE SETTLMENT

12. HOW DO I EXCLUDE MYSELF FROM THE SETTLEMENT?

To exclude yourself from the Settlement, you must send the Settlement Administrator a written and signed request for exclusion that reasonably communicates your election to be excluded from the Class Settlement, which must be postmarked no later than 60 days after Class Notice is mailed. Your written request must include your name, address, and email address or telephone number. You can send your request for exclusion to the settlement Administrator at:

Apex Class Action Administration
Gebremicael et al. v. Quality First Home Improvement, Inc
XXXXX
City, State, XXXXX
Email:

If you ask to be excluded from the Settlement, you will not be legally bound by anything that happens in the Action, except as it relates to settlement of the PAGA claim. If you ask to be excluded from the Settlement you will not be able to object to the Settlement and you will not receive an Individual Class Payment, but you will still receive an Individual PAGA Payment if you worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period (January 28, 2024, through April 19, 2026).

13. IF I DON'T EXCLUDE MYSELF, CAN I SUE DEFENDANT FOR THE SAME THING LATER?

No. Unless you exclude yourself, you give up any right to sue Defendant for the claims that this Settlement resolves, including any pending lawsuits. The exclusion deadline is 60 days after Class Notice is mailed (plus an additional 14 days for Class members whose Class Notice is re-mailed).

14. IF I EXCLUDE MYSELF, CAN I GET MONEY FROM THIS SETTLMENT?

Not unless you worked during the PAGA Period. If you timely exclude yourself, you will not receive any Individual Class Payment, but you will retain the right to pursue your own claims against Defendant, if you desire. Even if you exclude yourself from the Class settlement, you will still receive a portion of the PAGA settlement and be bound by it if you worked during the PAGA Period.

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THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU IN THIS LAWSUIT

15. DO I HAVE A LAWYER IN THIS CASE?

The Court has determined that Wilshire Law Firm is qualified to represent you and the Class Members in the lawsuit. These lawyers are called Class Counsel and their contact information is listed below. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

John G. Yslas
john.yslas@wilshirelawfirm.com
Eugene Zinovyev
Eugene.zinovyev@wilshirelawfirm.com
John Brown
John.brown@wilshirelawfirm.com
Emily Borman
emily.borman@wilshirelawfirm.com
Lisa B. Iturriaga
lisa.iturriaga@wilshirelawfirm.com
Gabriella Solé
gabriella.sole@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
660 S. Figueroa St., Sky Lobby
Los Angeles, California 90017
Telephone: (213) 381-9988
Facsimile: (213) 381-9989

16. HOW WILL THE LAWYERS BE PAID?

Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve up to one third (1/3) of the GSA (currently $100,000.00) for attorneys' fees incurred in investigating the facts, litigating the case, and negotiating the Settlement. Class Counsel will also seek Court-approval of up to $25,000.00 in litigation expenses incurred in this matter. The Court may award Class Counsel less than what they request. Class Counsel will also ask the Court to approve a Class Representative Service Payment to Plaintiffs Simon Gebremicael and Xavier Perez in the amount of $10,000.00 each, which is in addition to Plaintiffs' Individual Class Payment and Individual PAGA Payment for the initiative, risk, and time and energy Plaintiffs have spent in service to the Class as the Class Representatives. The Court may award the Class Representatives less than what is requested.

OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENT

You can and have the right to tell the Court you do not agree with the Settlement or some part of it.

17. HOW DO I TELL THE COURT THAT I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT?

Only Participating Class Members have the right to object to the Settlement. Before deciding whether to object, you may wish to see what Plaintiffs and Defendant are asking the Court to approve. If you

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disagree with any aspect of the Settlement, you can object to some or all of the Settlement. You can either object to the Settlement in person at the Final Approval Hearing or you can submit a written objection. Written objections and notices of intent to appear at the Final Approval Hearing must be mailed to the Settlement Administrator and postmarked on or before the Response Deadline, which is 60 days after Class Notice is mailed (plus an additional 14 days for Class members whose Class Notice is re-mailed), at the following address:

Apex Class Action Administration
Gebremicael et al. v. Quality First Home Improvement, Inc
XXXXX
City, State, XXXXX
Email:

The written objection should identify the Action (*Gebremicael et al. v. Quality First Home Improvement, Inc.,* Case No. 25CV002378) and state your name and address and describe all legal and factual reasons that you object to the terms of the Settlement. You should also include or attach any documents upon which your objection is based. If the Court overrules the objection at the Final Approval hearing, the Settlement Agreement will be approved, and you will be considered a Participating Class Member. If you do not submit a written objection, you may still appear at the Final Approval hearing to voice your objection or to otherwise observe the proceedings.

18. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OBJECTING AND REQUESTING EXCLUSION?

Objecting is simply telling the Court that you do not agree with something about the Settlement. You can object only if you stay in the Class.

Requesting exclusion is telling the Court that you do not want to be part of the Class. If you exclude yourself, you have no basis to object because the case no longer affects you, and you are not eligible to receive an Individual Class Payment as part of this Settlement. If you submit both an objection and a request to be excluded from the Settlement, the request to be excluded will control and you will not receive an Individual Class Payment from this Settlement.

THE COURT'S FAIRNESS HEARING

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing to decide whether to approve the Settlement. You may attend and you may ask to speak, but you don't have to.

19. WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE COURT DECIDE WHETHER TO APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT?

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing at _____ on _____ in Department 8A of the Sacramento County Superior Court located at Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye Courthouse, 500 G Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 to determine whether the Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate. If there are objections, the Court will consider them at that time. The Court will also be asked to approve the requests for the Class Representative Service Payment, the Class Counsel Fees and Litigation Expenses Payments, and the Settlement Administration Costs.

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20. DO I HAVE TO COME TO THE HEARING?

No. Class Counsel will answer questions the Court may have. However, you are welcome to attend. If you send an objection, you do not have to come to the Court to talk about it. As long as you mailed your written objection to the settlement administrator on time, the Court will consider it. You may also pay your own lawyer to attend, but it is not necessary.

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

If you would like to attend the hearing and appear remotely, you must join via Department 8A's zoom link or phone number listed below:

https://saccourt-ca-gov.zoomgov.com/j/16108301121
Telephone Number: (833) 5688864
Meeting ID: 161 0830 1121

IF YOU DO NOTHING

21. WHAT IF I DO NOTHING AT ALL?

If you do nothing, you will receive a Settlement payment, and you will be bound by the terms of Settlement, which means that you will not be able to start a lawsuit, continue a lawsuit, or be a part of any other lawsuit against the Defendant about the Released Class Claims or the Released PAGA Claims.

GETTING MORE INFORMATION

22. HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The easiest way to read the Settlement Agreement, the Judgment or any other key Settlement documents is to go to the [ADMINISTRATOR] website at _____. You can also contact Class Counsel at the contact information listed above in Section 15 if you have any questions about the Settlement. You may also contact the Court-appointed Settlement Administrator, Apex Class Action Administration, by calling toll free 1-800_____, or you can write to the Administrator at the following address:

Apex Class Action Administration
Gebremicael et al. v. Quality First Home Improvement, Inc.
XXXXX
City, State, XXXXX
Email:

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS SETTLEMENT OR THE CLAIM PROCESS. YOU MAY, HOWEVER, CALL CLASS COUNSEL OR THE SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR, LISTED ABOVE.

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