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

CAITLIN MARIE BUTCHER, individually,
and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

ARCHON BUSINESS GROUP, LLC, a
limited liability company; and DOES 1
through 10, inclusive,

Defendants

Case No.: 34-2022-00323196-CU-OE-GDS

CLASS ACTION

[Hon. Lauri A. Damrell]

**CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE**

Complaint filed: July 11, 2022
Trial date: Not set

CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between plaintiff Emilia Aceves aka Emily Barnes (“Plaintiff”) and defendant Archon Business Group, LLC (“Defendant”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendant collectively as “Parties,” or individually as “Party.”

1. **DEFINITIONS.**

- 1.1. “Action” means the Plaintiff’s lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned *Butcher v. Archon Business Group, LLC*, Case No.: 34-2022-00323196-CU-OE-GDS initiated on July 11, 2022, and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Sacramento.
- 1.2. “Administrator” means ILYM Group, Inc., the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.
- 1.3. “Administration Expenses Payment” means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s “not to exceed” bid submitted to the Court in connection with Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.4. “Aggrieved Employee” means a person employed by Defendant in California and classified as a non-exempt hourly employee who worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5. “Class” means all persons employed by Defendant in California as an hourly, non-exempt employee who worked for Defendant during the Class Period.
- 1.6. “Class Counsel” means Moon Law Group, PC.
- 1.7. “Class Counsel Fees Payment” and “Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment” mean the amounts allocated to Class Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action.
- 1.8. “Class Data” means Class Member identifying information in Defendant’s possession including the Class Member’s name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number,

and number of Class Period Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods.

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

1.10. “Class Member Address Search” means the Administrator’s investigation and search for current Class Member mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address (“NCOA”) database, skip traces, and direct contact by the Administrator with Class Members.

1.11. “Class Notice” means the COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL, to be mailed to Class Members in English, with a Spanish translation in the form, without material variation unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference into this Agreement. The Parties, through counsel, may agree to modifications to the Class Notice required to correct errors or effectuate changes required by the Court without the need to amend this Agreement, and the revised Class Notice shall be incorporated herein in place of the original Exhibit A.

1.12. “Class Period” means the period from July 11, 2018 until August 4, 2024.

1.13. “Class Representative” means the named Plaintiff in the operative complaint in the Action seeking Court approval to serve as a Class Representative.

1.14. “Class Representative Service Payment” means the payment to the Class Representative for initiating the Action and providing services in support of the Action.

1.15. “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento.

1.16. “Defendant” means named Defendant Archon Business Group, LLC

1.17. “Defense Counsel” means Fisher & Phillips LLP.

1.18. “Effective Date” means the date by when both of the following have occurred: (a) the Court enters a Judgment on its order granting final approval of the Settlement; and (b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (a) if no Participating Class Member objects to the Settlement, the day the Court enters

Judgment; (b) if one or more Participating Class Members objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment; or if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur.

1.19. “Final Approval” means the Court’s order granting final approval of the Settlement.

1.20. “Final Approval Hearing” means the Court’s hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.

1.21. “Gross Settlement Amount” means \$485,000.00 which is the total amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraphs 3.1 and 8 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, Class Representative Service Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment.

1.22. “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.

1.23. “Individual PAGA Payment” means the Aggrieved Employee’s pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of PAGA Pay Periods worked during the PAGA Period.

1.24. “Judgment” means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.

1.25. “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code § 2699(i).

1.26. “LWDA PAGA Payment” means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code § 2699(i).

1.27. “Net Settlement Amount” means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment.

- The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members as Individual Class Payments.
- 1.28. “Non-Participating Class Member” means any Class Member who opts out of the Class portion of the Settlement by sending the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.
- 1.29. “PAGA Pay Period” means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Period.
- 1.30. “PAGA Period” means the period from July 2, 2021 until August 4, 2024.
- 1.31. “PAGA” means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. *et seq.*).
- 1.32. “PAGA Notice” means Plaintiff’s PAGA letter to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3(a).
- 1.33. “PAGA Penalties” means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees (\$7,500.00) and 75% to LWDA (\$22,500.00) in settlement of PAGA claims.
- 1.34. “Participating Class Member” means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Class portion of the Settlement.
- 1.35. “Plaintiff” means Emilia Aceves, aka Emily Barnes, the named plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.36. “Preliminary Approval” means the Court’s order granting preliminary approval of the Class portion of the Settlement.
- 1.37. “Preliminary Approval Order” means the proposed order granting preliminary approval of the Class portion of the Settlement.
- 1.38. “Released Class Claims” means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.2 below.
- 1.39. “Released PAGA Claims” means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.3 below.
- 1.40. “Released Parties” means: Defendant and each of its former and present directors, officers, shareholders, owners, former and present managing employees, members, attorneys, agents, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, subsidiaries, and affiliates.

- 1.41. "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.
- 1.42. "Response Deadline" means 45 days after the Administrator mails Notice to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees, and shall be the last date on which Class Members may: (a) fax, email, or mail Requests for Exclusion from the Class portion of the Settlement, or (b) fax, email, or mail his or her Objection to the Settlement. The Response Deadline for Class Members to whom Notice Packets are resent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator shall be extended by 14 calendar days beyond the original Response Deadline.
- 1.43. "Settlement" means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.44. "Workweek" means any week during which a Class Member worked for Defendant for at least one day during the Class Period.

2. **RECITALS.**

- 2.1. Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3(a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.
- 2.2. On June 5, 2024, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by neutral professional mediator Tripper Ortman, Esq., which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.
- 2.3. Prior to mediation, Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery, (1) a representative randomized sampling of corresponding time and payroll records for of the putative class; (2) written policies in effect during the Class and PAGA Periods; (3) Plaintiff's personnel records and employment files; (4) Class data points, including, for both current and formerly-employed Class Members between the start of the Class Period and the date of mediation total numbers of Class Members, and approximate numbers of workweeks worked, pay periods, and (5) PAGA group data points, including, for both current and formerly-employed Aggrieved Employees between the start of the PAGA Period and the

1 date of mediation total numbers of Aggrieved Employees, and approximate numbers of
2 workweeks worked, pay periods. Plaintiff's investigation was sufficient to satisfy the
3 criteria for court approval set forth in *Dunk v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.*, 48 Cal. App. 4th
4 1794, 1801 (1996) and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.*, 168 Cal. App. 4th 116, 129-130
5 (2008) ("*Dunk/Kullar*").

6 2.4. The Court has not granted class certification.

7 2.5. The Parties, Class Counsel, and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any
8 other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by the
9 Settlement.

10
11 **3. MONETARY TERMS.**

12 3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 8 below, Defendant
13 promises to pay \$485,000.00 and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount and to
14 separately pay any and all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions of the
15 Individual Class Payments. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement
16 Amount (or any payroll taxes) prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 4.3 of this
17 Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without
18 asking or requiring Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees to submit any
19 claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to
20 Defendant

21 3.2. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the
22 following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the
23 Court in the Final Approval:

24 3.2.1. To Plaintiff: Class Representative Service Payment to the Class Representative of
25 not more than \$7,500.00 (in addition to any Individual Class Payment and any
26 Individual PAGA Payment the Class Representative is entitled to receive as a
27 Participating Class Member). Defendant will not oppose Plaintiff's request for a
28 Class Representative Service Payment that does not exceed this amount. As part of

1 the motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses
2 Payment, Plaintiff will seek Court approval for any Class Representative Service
3 Payments no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the
4 Court approves a Class Representative Service Payment less than the amount
5 requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement
6 Amount. The Administrator will pay the Class Representative Service Payment
7 using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiff assumes full responsibility and liability for
8 employee taxes owed on the Class Representative Service Payment.

9 3.2.2. To Class Counsel: A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than 33
10 1/3%, which is currently estimated to be \$161,666.67 and a Class
11 Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$30,000.00.
12 Defendant will not oppose requests for these payments provided that
13 they do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will
14 file a motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation
15 Expenses Payment no later than 16 court days prior to the Final
16 Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Counsel Fees Payment
17 and/or a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the
18 amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the
19 Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to Class
20 Counsel or any other Plaintiff's Counsel arising from any claim to any
21 portion any Class Counsel Fee Payment and/or Class Counsel Litigation
22 Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the Class Counsel Fees
23 Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment using one or
24 more IRS 1099 Forms. Class Counsel assumes full responsibility and
25 liability for taxes owed on the Class Counsel Fees Payment and the Class
26 Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds Defendant harmless,
27 and indemnifies Defendant, from any dispute or controversy regarding
28 any division or sharing of any of these Payments. Plaintiff's Counsel shall

1 have the right to revoke this settlement if the Court reduces Plaintiff's attorneys
2 fees to less than 25% of the Gross Settlement Amount.

3
4 3.2.3. To the Administrator: An Administration Expenses Payment not to exceed
5 \$10,000.00 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To
6 the extent the Administration expenses are less or the Court approves payment less
7 than \$10,000.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement
8 Amount.

9 3.2.4. To Each Participating Class Member: An Individual Class Payment calculated by
10 (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked
11 by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period and (b) multiplying the
12 result by each Participating Class Member's Workweeks.

13 3.2.4.1. Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. 10% of each Participating
14 Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement
15 of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portions are subject to tax
16 withholding and will be reported on an IRS W-2 Form. The 90% of each
17 Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated
18 to settlement of claims for interest, and penalties (the "Non-Wage
19 Portion"). The Non-Wage Portions are not subject to wage withholdings
20 and will be reported on IRS 1099 Forms. Participating Class Members
21 assume full responsibility and liability for any employee taxes owed on
22 their Individual Class Payment.

23 3.2.4.2. Effect of Non-Participating Class Members on Calculation of Individual
24 Class Payments. Non-Participating Class Members will not receive any
25 Individual Class Payments. The Workweeks of Non-Participating Class
26 Members are not included in the calculation of payments to Participating
27 Class Members and therefore have no effect on the calculation of
28 Individual Class Payments paid from the Net Settlement Amount.

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

3.2.5.1. The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalties \$7,500.00 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 Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Period Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

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

4. **SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.**

4.1. Class Workweeks. Based on a review of its records as of May 23, 2024, Defendant estimates there are 502 Class Members who collectively worked 41,356 workweeks.

4.2. Class Data. Not later than 15 days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendant will deliver the Class Data to the Administrator, in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Class Members' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Class Data in confidence, use the Class Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Class Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Class Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify Class Counsel if it discovers that the Class Data omitted class member identifying information and to provide corrected or

1 updated Class Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline
2 by which Defendant must send the Class Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their
3 counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise
4 resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Class Data.

5 4.3. Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement
6 Amount, and also fund the amounts necessary to fully pay Defendant's share of payroll
7 taxes, by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than 30 days after the
8 Effective Date.

9 4.4. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within 7 days after Defendant funds the
10 Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual Class
11 Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the
12 Administration Expenses Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel
13 Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment.
14 Disbursement of the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses
15 Payment and the Class Representative Service Payment shall not precede disbursement of
16 Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments.

17 4.4.1. The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual Class Payments and/or
18 Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Class Members via First Class
19 U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the
20 date (not less than 180 days after the date of mailing) when the check will be
21 voided. The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. The
22 Administrator will send checks for Individual Settlement Payments to all
23 Participating Class Members (including those for whom Class Notice was returned
24 undelivered). The Administrator will send checks for Individual PAGA Payments
25 to all Aggrieved Employees including Non-Participating Class Members who
26 qualify as Aggrieved Employees (including those for whom Class Notice was
27 returned undelivered). The Administrator may send Participating Class Members a
28 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 NCOA database.

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

4.4.3. For any Class Member whose Individual Class Payment check or Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to the 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 § 384(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.

5. RELEASES OF CLAIMS.

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

5.1. Plaintiff's Release.

5.1.1. Scope of Plaintiff's Release. Plaintiff and her respective former and present

1 spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and
2 assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all claims,
3 transactions, or occurrences including, but not limited to: (a) all claims that were,
4 or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained, in the
5 Operative Complaint and (b) all PAGA claims that were, or reasonably could have
6 been, alleged based on facts contained in the Operative Complaint a n d Plaintiff's
7 PAGA Notice, ("Plaintiff's Release.") Plaintiff's Release does not extend to any
8 claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any claims for vested benefits,
9 unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, workers'
10 compensation benefits that arose at any time, or based on occurrences outside the
11 Class Period. Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts or law
12 different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff now knows or
13 believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff's Release shall be and
14 remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or
15 Plaintiff's discovery of them.

16 5.1.2. Plaintiff's Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code § 1542. For purposes of
17 Plaintiff's Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions,
18 rights, and benefits, if any, of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which
19 reads:

20 **A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or**
21 **releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor**
22 **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.

23 5.2. Release by Participating Class Members: All Participating Class Members, on
24 behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives,
25 agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release
26 Released Parties from and every cause of action asserted, or that could have been
27 asserted based on the same facts, against Defendant in Plaintiff's operative Complaint
28 of the Action during the Class Period including 1) failure to pay minimum wages; 2)

1 failure to pay overtime compensation; 3) failure to provide meal periods; 4) failure to
2 authorize and permit rest breaks; 5) failure to indemnify necessary business expenses;
3 6) failure to timely pay final wages at termination; 7) failure to provide accurate
4 itemized wage statements; 8) unfair business practices.

5 Release by Aggrieved Employees: All Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of
6 themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators,
7 successors, and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or
8 reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint of
9 the Action and the PAGA Notices.

10 **6. MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL.**

11 Plaintiff will prepare and file a motion for preliminary approval (“Motion for Preliminary Approval”) that
12 complies with the Court’s current checklist for preliminary approvals, to the extent the Court maintains
13 such a checklist.

14 6.1. Defendant’s Declaration in Support of Preliminary Approval. Because funds from
15 uncashed checks will be transmitted to the California Controller’s Office, Unclaimed
16 Property Fund, Defendant and Defense Counsel have no obligation to provide declarations
17 disclosing any facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts with a “cy pres recipient.”

18 6.2. Responsibilities of Counsel. Class Counsel is responsible for expeditiously finalizing and
19 filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than 45 days after the full execution of
20 this Agreement; obtaining a prompt hearing date for the Motion for Preliminary Approval;
21 and for appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the Motion for Preliminary Approval.
22 Class Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court’s Preliminary Approval to the
23 Administrator.

24 6.3. Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed Motion for
25 Preliminary Approval and/or the supporting declarations and documents, Class Counsel
26 and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting
27 in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does
28 not grant Preliminary Approval or conditions Preliminary Approval on any material

change to this Agreement, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

7. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

7.1. Selection of Administrator. The Parties have jointly selected ILYM Group, Inc. to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, ILYM Group, Inc. agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for payment of Administration Expenses. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.

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

7.3. Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") under US Treasury Regulation § 468B-1.

7.4. Notice to Class Members.

7.4.1. No later than three (3) business days after receipt of the Class Data, the Administrator shall notify Class Counsel that the list has been received and state the number of Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, 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 seven (7) days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator will send to all Class Members identified in the Class Data, via first-class USPS mail, the Class Notice with Spanish translation substantially in the form attached to this Agreement as Exhibit A. The first page of the Class Notice shall prominently estimate the dollar

1 amounts of each Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment
2 payable to the Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee, and the number of
3 Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if applicable) used to calculate these
4 amounts. Before mailing Class Notices, the Administrator shall update Class
5 Member addresses using the NCOA database.

6 7.4.3. Not later than three (3) business days after the Administrator's receipt of any Class
7 Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the
8 Class Notice using any forwarding address provided by the USPS. If the USPS
9 does not provide a forwarding address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class
10 Member Address Search, and re-mail the Class Notice to the most current address
11 obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further attempts to locate
12 or send Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by the
13 USPS a second time.

14 7.4.4. The deadlines for Class Members' written objections, challenges to Workweeks
15 and/or pay periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional 14
16 days beyond the 45 days otherwise provided in the Class Notice for all Class
17 Members whose notices are re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class
18 Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.

19 7.4.5. If the Administrator, Defendant or Class Counsel is contacted by or otherwise
20 discovers any persons who believe they should have been included in the Class
21 Data and should have received Class Notice, the Parties will expeditiously meet
22 and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, in an effort to agree on
23 whether to include them as Class Members. If the Parties agree, such persons will
24 be Class Members entitled to the same rights as other Class Members, and the
25 Administrator will send, via email or overnight delivery, a Class Notice requiring
26 them to exercise options under this Agreement not later than 14 days after receipt
27 of Class Notice, or the deadline dates in the Class Notice, which ever are later.

28 7.5. Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs).

1 7.5.1. Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) the Class portion of
2 the Settlement must send the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail, a signed written
3 Request for Exclusion not later than 45 days after the Administrator mails the Class
4 Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-
5 mailed). A Request for Exclusion is a letter from a Class Member or his/her
6 representative that reasonably communicates the Class Member's election to be
7 excluded from the Class portion of the Settlement and includes the Class Member's
8 name, address and email address or telephone number. To be valid, a Request for
9 Exclusion must be timely faxed, emailed, or postmarked by the Response
10 Deadline.

11 7.5.2. The Administrator may not reject a Request for Exclusion as invalid because it
12 fails to contain all the information specified in the Class Notice. The Administrator
13 shall accept any Request for Exclusion as valid if the Administrator can reasonably
14 ascertain the identity of the person as a Class Member and the Class Member's
15 desire to be excluded. The Administrator's determination shall be final and not
16 appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. If the Administrator has reason to
17 question the authenticity of a Request for Exclusion, the Administrator may
18 demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity. The Administrator's
19 determination of authenticity shall be final as to the Parties, but a Class Member
20 whose Request for Exclusion is rejected by the Administrator may present a
21 challenge to that determination to the Court.

22 7.5.3. Every Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for
23 Exclusion is deemed to be a Participating Class Member under this Agreement,
24 entitled to all benefits and bound by all terms and conditions of the Settlement,
25 including the Participating Class Members' Releases under Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3
26 of this Agreement, regardless of whether the Participating Class Member actually
27 receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.

28 7.5.4. Every Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion is a

1 Non-Participating Class Member and shall not receive an Individual Class
2 Payment or have the right to object to the class action components of the
3 Settlement. Non-Participating Class Members, who are Aggrieved Employees, are
4 deemed to release on behalf of themselves and their former and present
5 representatives, agents and attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns,
6 the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or
7 reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts stated in the Operative
8 Complaint of the Action and PAGA Notice that occurred during the PAGA period.

9 7.6. Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks. Each Class Member shall have 45 days after the
10 Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose
11 Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay
12 Periods (if any) allocated to the Class Member in the Class Notice. The Class Member
13 may challenge the allocation by communicating with the Administrator via fax, email or
14 mail. The Administrator must encourage the challenging Class Member to submit
15 supporting documentation. In the absence of any contrary documentation, the
16 Administrator is entitled to presume that the Workweeks contained in the Class Notice are
17 correct so long as they are consistent with the Class Data. The Administrator's
18 determination of each Class Member's allocation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay
19 Periods shall be final as to the Parties (although Defendant shall retain the right to correct
20 erroneous Class Data if subsequently discovered), but a Class Member whose Workweek
21 and/or Pay Period challenge is rejected by the Administrator may present the same
22 evidence supporting the Workweek and/or Pay Period challenge to the Court for review.
23 The Administrator shall promptly provide copies of all challenges to the calculation of
24 Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel and the
25 Administrator's determination the challenges.

26 7.7. Objections to Settlement.

27 7.7.1. Only Participating Class Members may object to the class action components of
28 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 45 days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice

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

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

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

1 Exclusion (“Exclusion List”); (b) the names and other identifying information of
2 Class Members who have submitted invalid Requests for Exclusion; (c) copies of
3 all Requests for Exclusion from Settlement submitted (whether valid or invalid).

4 7.8.3. Weekly Reports. The Administrator must, on a weekly basis, provide written
5 reports to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel that, among other things, tally the
6 number of: Class Notices mailed or re-mailed, Class Notices returned undelivered,
7 Requests for Exclusion (whether valid or invalid) received, objections received,
8 and challenges to Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods received and/or resolved
9 (“Weekly Report”). The Weekly Reports must include the Administrator’s
10 assessment of the validity of Requests for Exclusion and attach copies of all
11 Requests for Exclusion and objections received. In addition to the Weekly Reports,
12 the Administrator shall report to the Parties when it has completed the initial
13 distribution of the Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments to
14 all individuals with valid addresses.

15 7.8.4. Workweek and/or Pay Period Challenges. The Administrator has the authority to
16 address and make decisions consistent with the terms of this Agreement on all
17 Class Member challenges over the calculation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay
18 Periods. The Administrator’s determination of each Class Member’s allocation of
19 Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods shall be final as to the Parties (although
20 Defendant shall retain the right to correct erroneous Class Data if subsequently
21 discovered), but a Class Member whose Workweek and/or Pay Period challenge is
22 rejected by the Administrator may present the same evidence supporting the
23 Workweek and/or Pay Period challenge to the Court for review.

24 7.8.5. Administrator’s Declaration. Not later than fourteen (14) days before the date by
25 which Plaintiff is required to file the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement,
26 the Administrator will provide to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed
27 declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its due diligence and compliance
28 with all of its obligations under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, its

mailing of Class Notice, the Class Notices returned as undelivered, the re-mailing of Class Notices, attempts to locate Class Members, the total number of Requests for Exclusion from Settlement it received (both valid or invalid), the number of written objections and attach the Exclusion List. The Administrator will supplement its declaration as needed or requested by the Parties and/or the Court. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration(s) in Court.

7.8.6. Final Report by Settlement Administrator. Within 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, Defendant estimates that, as of the date of this Settlement Agreement, there were approximately 502 Class Members and 41,356 work weeks as of May 23, 2024. If, when the notices are prepared for distribution following preliminary approval of the settlement, the aggregate number of Class Members as of May 23, 2024 exceeds the estimate of 41,356 work weeks by more than 10% (e.g. if there are more than 45,492 work weeks) Defendant agrees to increase the Gross Settlement Amount on a pro-rata basis equal to the increase in number of work weeks relative to the estimates.

9. DEFENDANT'S RIGHT TO WITHDRAW.

If the number of valid Requests for Exclusion identified in the Exclusion List exceeds fifteen percent (15%) of the total of all Class Members, Defendant may, but is not obligated to, withdraw from the Settlement. The Parties agree that, if Defendant withdraws, the Settlement shall be void ab initio, have no force or effect whatsoever, and that neither Party will have any further obligation to perform under this

1 Agreement; provided, however, Defendant will remain responsible for paying all Settlement
2 administration expenses incurred to that point. Defendant must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its
3 election to withdraw not later than seven (7) days after the Administrator sends the final Exclusion List to
4 Defense Counsel; late elections will have no effect.

5 **10. MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.**

6 Not later than sixteen (16) court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff will file in
7 Court, a motion for final approval of the Settlement that includes a request for approval of the PAGA
8 settlement under Labor Code § 2699(l), a Proposed final approval order and a proposed Judgment
9 (collectively “Motion for Final Approval”).

10 10.1. Response to Objections. Each Party retains the right to respond to any objection raised by
11 a Participating Class Member, including the right to file responsive documents in Court no
12 later than five (5) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered
13 or accepted by the Court.

14 10.2. Duty to Cooperate. If the Court does not grant Final Approval or conditions Final
15 Approval on any material change to the Settlement (including, but not limited to, the scope
16 of release to be granted by Class Members), the Parties will expeditiously work together in
17 good faith to address the Court’s concerns by revising the Agreement as necessary to
18 obtain Final Approval. The Court’s decision to award less than the amounts requested for
19 the Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel
20 Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Administration Expenses Payment shall not constitute
21 a material modification to the Agreement within the meaning of this paragraph.

22 10.3. Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court. The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the
23 Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement solely for
24 purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing settlement
25 administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by
26 law.

27 10.4. Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and
28 conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the Class Counsel Fees Payment and

Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment reflected set forth in this Settlement, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Participating Class Members who did not object to the Settlement as provided in this Agreement, waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs, and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If an objector appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final.

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 Expenses reasonably incurred after remittitur. An appellate decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of the Class Representative Service Payment or any payments to Class Counsel shall not constitute a material modification of the Judgment within the meaning of this paragraph, as long as the Gross Settlement Amount remains unchanged.

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 and a proposed amended judgment.

12. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

12.1. No Admission of Liability, Class Certification or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed

claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by Defendant that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint of the Action have merit or that Defendant has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendant's defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree that class certification and representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason the Court does not grant Preliminary Approval, Final Approval or enter Judgment, Defendant reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reasons, and Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiff reserves the right to move for class certification on any grounds available and to contest Defendant 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. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree that, until the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement is filed, they and each of them will not disclose, disseminate and/or publicize, or cause or permit another person to disclose, disseminate or publicize, any of the terms of the Agreement directly or indirectly, specifically or generally, to any person, corporation, association, government agency, or other entity except: (1) to the Parties' attorneys, accountants, or spouses, all of whom will be instructed to keep this Agreement confidential; (2) counsel in a related matter; (3) to the extent necessary to report income to appropriate taxing authorities; (4) in response to a court order or subpoena; or (5) in response to an inquiry or subpoena issued by a state or federal government agency. Each Party agrees to immediately notify each other Party of any judicial or agency order, inquiry, or subpoena seeking such information. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree not to, directly or indirectly, initiate any conversation or other communication, before the filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval, 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 Solicitation. The Parties separately agree that they and their respective counsel and employees will not solicit any Class Member to opt out of or object to the Settlement, or appeal from the Judgment. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to restrict Class Counsel’s ability to communicate with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel’s ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

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

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

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

12.7. No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.

- 12.8. No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant nor Defense Counsel are providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.
- 12.9. Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.
- 12.10. Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 12.11. Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the state of California, without regard to conflict of law principles.
- 12.12. Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.
- 12.13. Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made, and orders entered during Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.
- 12.14. Use and Return of Class Data. Information provided to Class Counsel pursuant to Evidence Code § 1152, and all copies and summaries of the Class Data provided to Class Counsel by Defendant in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of court. Not later than 90 days after the date when the Court discharges the Administrator's obligation to provide a declaration confirming the final pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy, all paper and electronic versions of Class Data received from Defendant unless, prior to the Court's discharge of the Administrator's obligation, Defendant makes a written request to Class Counsel for the return, rather than

1 the destructions, of Class Data.

2 12.15. Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is
3 inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this
4 Agreement.

5 12.16. Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to “days” in this Agreement shall be
6 to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a
7 weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day
8 thereafter.

9 12.17. Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection
10 with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third
11 business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger,
12 addressed as follows:

13 To Plaintiff:

14 Kane Moon, Esq.
15 Enzo Nabiev, Esq.
16 725 S. Figueroa St., 31st Floor
17 Los Angeles, California 90017
18 kmoon@moonlawgroup.com
19 enabiev@moonlawgroup.com
20

21 To Defendant:

22 Chris Alvarez
23 Elizabeth Lobaugh
24 621 Capitol Mall, Ste 2400
25 Sacramento, CA, 95814
26 calvarez@fisherphillips.com
27 elobaugh@fisherphillips.com
28

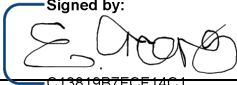
1 12.18. Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts
2 by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement
3 shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be
4 deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between
5 themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence
6 to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

7 12.19. Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the
8 litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties
9 further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to Code of Civil
10 Procedure § 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under Code of Civil
11 Procedure § 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

12 [SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]
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Plaintiff & Class Representative:

Dated: 10/18/2024

Signed by:

By: _____
Emilia Aceves aka Emily Barnes

Plaintiff's Counsel:

Dated: October 18, 2024

MOON LAW GROUP, PC

By:  _____
Kane Moon
Enzo Nabiev
Sandy Pham

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Defendant:

ARCHON BUSINESS GROUP, LLC

Dated:

By: _____
Print Name

Signature

Title

Defendant's Counsel:

Dated:

FISHER & PHILLIPS, LLP

By: _____

Attorneys for Defendants

Plaintiff & Class Representative:

Dated:

By: _____
Emilia Aceves aka Emily Barnes

Plaintiff's Counsel:

Dated:

MOON LAW GROUP, PC

By: _____
Kane Moon
Enzo Nabiev
Sandy Pham

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Defendant:

ARCHON BUSINESS GROUP, LLC

Dated: 10/30/2024

By: _____
Heather Patton
Print Name

Heather Patton
Signature

Co-CEO
Title

Defendant's Counsel:

Dated: October 30, 2024

FISHER & PHILLIPS, LLP
By: _____
Elizabeth Lobaugh

Attorneys for Defendants