

John G. Yslas (SBN 187324)
John.yslas@wilshirelawfirm.com
Eugene Zinovyev (SBN 267245)
Eugene.zinovyev@wilshirelawfirm.com
John Brown (SBN 233605)
John.brown@wilshirelawfirm.com
Lucy H. Nguyen (SBN 338783)
Lucy.nguyen@wilshirelawfirm.com
Gabriella Solé (SBN 346164)
Gabriella.sole@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM, PLC
660 S. Figueroa Street, Sky Lobby
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Telephone: (213) 381-9988
Facsimile: (213) 381-9989

Attorneys for Plaintiff

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

NICOLE BENTON, individually, and on behalf
of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

TRAINCARECONSULT INC., a California
corporation; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles
08/03/2026

David W. Slayton, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

By: A. Morales Deputy

Case No.: 25STCV05651

*[Assigned for all purposes to Hon. Samantha
Jessner, Dept. 7]*

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT**

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL HEARING:

Date: August 3, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Dept.: 7

Action Filed: February 27, 2025

FAC Filed: June 3, 2025

[PROPOSED] ORDER

Having reviewed Plaintiff Nicole Benton's ("Plaintiff") Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement ("Motion"), the Declaration of John G. Yslas, Plaintiff's declaration, and the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Class Notice ("Settlement Agreement"), and good cause appearing, the Court finds and orders as follows:

1. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that the Settlement Agreement appears to be fair, adequate, and reasonable and therefore meets the requirements for preliminary approval. The Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement and the Settlement Class based on the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement between Plaintiff and Defendant Traincareconsult Inc. ("Defendant" or "TCC"), attached to the Declaration of John G. Yslas in Support of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement as **Exhibit 1**.

2. The Settlement falls within the range of reasonableness of a settlement which could ultimately be given final approval by this Court, and appears to be presumptively valid, subject only to any objections that may be raised at the Final Approval Hearing and final approval by this Court. The Court notes that Defendant has agreed to create a common fund of \$210,000.00 to cover (a) settlement payments to Class Members who do not validly opt out; (b) a \$10,500.00 allocation toward civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act, 65% of which (\$6,825.00) will be paid to the State of California, Labor & Workforce Development Agency and 35% of which (\$3,675.00) will be paid to eligible Aggrieved Employees; (c) Class Representative service payment of up to \$10,000.00 to Plaintiff; (d) Class Counsel's attorneys' fees, not to exceed one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$70,000.00), and up to \$20,000.00 in costs for actual litigation expenses incurred by Class Counsel; and (e) Settlement Administration Costs of up to \$5,950.00.

3. The Court preliminarily finds that the terms of the Settlement appear to be within the range of possible approval, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 and applicable law. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that: (1) the Settlement amount is fair and reasonable to the Class Members when balanced against the probable outcome of further litigation relating to class certification, liability and damages issues, and potential appeals; (2)

1 significant informal discovery, investigation, research, and litigation have been conducted such
2 that counsel for the Parties at this time are able to reasonably evaluate their respective positions;
3 (3) settlement at this time will avoid substantial costs, delay, and risks that would be presented
4 by the further prosecution of the litigation; and (4) the proposed Settlement has been reached as
5 the result of intensive, serious, and non-collusive negotiations between the Parties with the
6 assistance of a well-respected class action mediator. Accordingly, the Court preliminarily finds
7 that the Settlement Agreement was entered into in good faith.

8 4. A final fairness hearing on the question of whether the proposed Settlement,
9 attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel, payment to the State of California, Labor &
10 Workforce Development Agency for its share of the settlement of claims for penalties under the
11 Private Attorneys General Act, and the Class Representative's enhancement awards should be
12 finally approved as fair, reasonable and adequate as to the members of the Class is hereby set
13 in accordance with the Implementation Schedule set forth below.

14 5. The Court provisionally certifies for settlement purposes only the following class
15 (the "Class"): "all persons who worked for Defendant in California as an hourly-paid or non-
16 exempt employee at any time during the Class Period."

17 6. "Class Period" means the period from February 27, 2021 to March 4, 2026.

18 7. The Court finds, for settlement purposes only, that the Settlement Class meets the
19 requirements for certification under California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 in that: (1) the
20 Settlement Class Members are so numerous that joinder is impractical; (2) there are questions
21 of law and fact that are common, or of general interest, to all Settlement Class Members, which
22 predominate over individual issues; (3) Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the
23 Settlement Class Members; (4) Plaintiff and Class Counsel will fairly and adequately protect
24 the interests of the Settlement Class Members; and (5) a class action is superior to other
25 available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

26 8. The Court appoints as Class Representative, for settlement purposes only,
27 Plaintiff. The Court further preliminarily approves Plaintiff's ability to request an incentive
28 award up to \$10,000.00.

9. The Court appoints, for settlement purposes only, John G. Yslas, Eugene Zinovyev, Lucy H. Nguyen, John Brown, and Gabriella Solé of Wilshire Law Firm, PLC, as Class Counsel. The Court further preliminarily approves Class Counsel's ability to request attorneys' fees of up to one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$70,000.00), and costs not to exceed \$20,000.00.

10. The Court appoints Phoenix Settlement Administrators, Inc. as the Settlement Administrator with reasonable administration costs estimated not to exceed \$5,950.00.

11. The Court approves, as to form and content the Class Notice, attached to the Settlement Agreement. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that plan for distribution of the Notice to Settlement Class Members satisfies due process, provides the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto.

12. The Parties are ordered to carry out the Settlement according to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

13. Any Class Member who does not timely and validly request exclusion from the Settlement may object to the Settlement Agreement.

14. The Court orders the following Implementation Schedule:

EVENT:	DEADLINE:
Defendant to provide Class List to the Settlement Administrator	August 13, 2026 – 10 days after MPA approval
Settlement Administrator to mail the Notice Packets	August 27, 2026 - 14 days after receipt of Class Data
Class Member Response Deadline	October 11, 2026 - 45 days after mailing Notice to Class
Class Member Deadline to Object	October 11, 2026 - 45 days after mailing Notice to Class

EVENT:	DEADLINE:
Deadline for Administrator to Submit Declaration in Support of Motion for Final Approval	October 23, 2026 – 14 days before the last day to file Plaintiff’s Motion for Final Approval, Request for Attorney’s Fees and Costs, and Service Awards to Plaintiff
Deadline to file Motion for Final Approval, Request for Attorney’s Fees and Costs, and Service Awards to Plaintiff	November 13, 2026 - 16 court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing
Final Approval Hearing	December 1, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

15. The Court further ORDERS that, pending further order of this Court, all proceedings in this lawsuit, except those contemplated herein and in the settlement, are stayed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: 08/03/2026



Samantha Jessner / Judge

HON. SAMANTHA JESSNER
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT