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**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

PAMELA RACE, SUSAN MOHAMED, and  
JUDITH SMULAND, on behalf of others  
similarly situated and the State of California  
under the Private Attorneys General Act,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

SOUTHWEST HEALTHCARE SYSTEM  
AUXILIARY; SOUTHWEST HEALTHCARE  
INLAND VALLEY HOSPITAL; SOUTHWEST  
HEALTHCARE RANCHO SPRINGS  
HOSPITAL; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

**Case No. 24CU021889C**

**DECLARATION OF JUDITH SMULAND  
IN SUPPORT OF JOINT STIPULATION  
REQUESTING APPROVAL OF  
REPRESENTATIVE PAGA  
SETTLEMENT**

Dept. C-60  
Hon. Matthew C. Braner

Complaint Filed: November 12, 2024  
Amended Complaint filed: July 10, 2026  
Trial Date: None Set

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Attorneys for Plaintiff SUSAN MOHAMED

1 I, Judith Smuland, declare:

2 1. I am a competent adult, I have personal knowledge of the facts in this declaration, and I  
3 am making this declaration on behalf of myself, as a named plaintiff, and in support of the Motion to  
4 Approve Private Attorneys General Act Settlement.

5 2. I worked in California as a non-exempt employee of Defendants UNIVERSAL  
6 HEALTH SERVICES OF RANCHO SPRINGS, INC. a California Corporation; dba SOUTHWEST  
7 HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, dba INLAND VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER, dba RANCHO SPRINGS  
8 HOSPITAL, dba SOUTHWEST HEALTHCARE INLAND VALLEY ("Defendants"), from June of  
9 2022 to March of 2024.

10 1. I retained my attorneys who are experienced in PAGA representative action litigation  
11 and claims against employers for violations of the California Labor Code. I have no personal  
12 relationship or family ties to my attorneys or any officer of the Court. I am not aware of having any  
13 actual or potential conflicts of interest with another aggrieved employee in this case nor am I aware of  
14 having any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Apex Class Action Administration, the  
15 settlement administrator.

16 2. I was subject to Defendants' policies and practices that have been alleged as unlawful in  
17 the Complaint and the PAGA notice sent to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency. For  
18 example, I received non-discretionary compensation from time to time, such as bonuses, but these  
19 payments during certain pay periods when I worked overtime were not factored into my regular rate. I  
20 was underpaid overtime as a result. As another example, I often did not receive compliant meal and rest  
21 breaks which were late, interrupted or missed entirely. I also did not receive all the meal and rest break  
22 premiums I was entitled to and when I did receive premium payments, they were often an incorrect  
23 amount. Additionally, I was required to use my personal cellular phone for company business without  
24 reimbursement by Defendants. I was also required to work off the clock at times, after hours for  
25 example, but I was not paid any wages for this time I worked for the company.

26 3. In bringing this case for myself, the State of California, and the other employees, I  
27 understood a lot of work would be required, and I was willing to, and did, do the work to keep the case  
28 moving forward. For instance, before the complaint was filed, I spoke to my attorneys several times

1 and discussed how Defendants implemented their company policies and procedures. I also assisted my  
2 attorneys in their investigation into my claims by providing them documents and answering their  
3 questions. I reviewed the complaint before it was filed and after it was filed, I was given access to an  
4 electronic file sharing program that alerted me via email when important documents were filed so that I  
5 could review them and keep up with the developments in the case. I was informed that the Defendants  
6 had the right to take my deposition, and that the preparation and deposition itself could take multiple  
7 days. Although my deposition was not taken, I feel I would have been adequately prepared and  
8 comfortable to give testimony on my experiences.

9 4. My attorneys explained to me the risks and benefits of bringing a representative action.  
10 I understood that I took on the risk, both professionally and financially, in pursuing the case as a  
11 representative PAGA action.

12 5. A mediation took place on January 21, 2026, with Tripper Ortman, Esq., a well-  
13 respected and experienced mediator. The mediation resulted in an agreement to settle the action. I  
14 communicated with my attorneys regarding the terms of the settlement which was reached between the  
15 parties and understood that the recovery in this case was for the benefit of my fellow coworkers, not  
16 just for me, and therefore wanted the best possible result to be obtained for the aggrieved employees.  
17 On June 5, 2026, I closely reviewed the settlement agreement and signed the settlement agreement.

18 6. I have been actively involved with this lawsuit. Although I did not keep time records, I  
19 was in regular contact with my attorneys, reviewed court filings, and spent a significant amount of time  
20 on the issues presented during the lawsuit and in the settlement process. I estimate that I spent  
21 approximately 40-50 hours working on this case up until this point.

22 7. I reviewed the final PAGA Settlement Agreement and I believe it is fair and reasonable  
23 given the facts of the case.

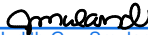
24 8. I believe the \$5,000 Service Award I have requested is fair compensation for my efforts  
25 in support of this action and the risks I undertook.

26  
27 ///

28 ///

1 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the  
2 foregoing is true and correct.

3  
4 Executed on 09/01/2026, at Winchester California.  
(city, state)

5   
6 Judith Guy Smuland (Sep 1, 2026 13:49:03 PDT)

Judith Smuland