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Aggrieved Employees

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

JUANITA VILLA; JESSICA LESHER;
SHERI AMIES as individuals, on behalf of
themselves, all others similarly situated and on
behalf of the State of California, as a private
attorney general,

PLAINTIFFS,

v.

DOLGEN CALIFORNIA, LLC; and DOES 1
thru 50, inclusive,

DEFENDANTS.

CASE NO. 22STCV34189

[Case Assigned for All Purposes to Hon. Elihu
M. Berle in Dept. 6]

**NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION
FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF
ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS;
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND
AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT THEREOF**

*[Filed concurrently with Declarations of Eric
B. Kingsley, Mike Arias, Juanita Villa, Jessica
Leshner, Sheri Amies, and Kevin Lee, Proposed
Order, and Proposed Judgment]*

Date: March 5, 2025

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Dept.: 6

Complaint Filed: October 24, 2022
Trial Date: None Set

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1 **TO ALL PARTIES AND TO THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:**

2 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on March 5, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. in Department 6 of the
3 above-entitled court, Plaintiffs Juanita Villa, Jessica Leshner, and Sheri Amies (“Plaintiffs”) will,
4 and hereby does, move the Court for an Order granting final approval of Class Counsel’s
5 Attorneys’ Fees and Costs pursuant to the Parties’ Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement.
6 Plaintiff also respectfully requests that the Court award an enhancement of \$15,000.00.

7 Good cause exists for the granting of this Motion because the work of Plaintiff and Class
8 Counsel resulted in an excellent settlement that created a common fund that compensates Class
9 Members. Class Counsel seek compensation from the common fund.

10 The Motion will be based on this Notice of Motion; the accompanying Memorandum of
11 Points and Authorities; the Declarations of Eric B. Kingsley; Plaintiffs Juanita Villa, Jessica
12 Leshner, and Sheri Amies; and Kevin Lee; all other papers and records on file in this action; and on
13 such oral and documentary evidence as may be presented at the hearing on this Motion.
14

15 DATED: January 6, 2025

KINGSLEY SZAMET EMPLOYMENT
LAWYERS

17
18 By: 

Eric B. Kingsley
Kelsey M. Szamet
Attorneys for Plaintiffs, the Proposed Class, and all
Aggrieved Employees

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1 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

2 **I. INTRODUCTION**

3 Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 3.769 (b) and California Code of Civil
4 Procedure section 382, Plaintiff Juanita Villa, Jessica Leshner, and Sheri Amies (“Plaintiffs”) move
5 this Court for approval of an award of attorneys’ fees and reimbursement of expenses to Class
6 Counsel, pursuant to the terms of the preliminary-approved Class Action and PAGA Settlement
7 Agreement (“Agreement” or “Settlement”) between named Plaintiffs and Defendant Dolgen
8 California, LLC (“Defendant”). Class Counsel also respectfully requests that the Court award an
9 enhancement for the named Plaintiffs of \$15,000.00.

10 **II. STATUS OF THE SETTLEMENT**

11 In an effort to conserve the Court’s time and resources, Plaintiffs will not repeat the
12 Procedural History set forth in the concurrently-filed Motion for Final Approval of Class Action
13 Settlement.

14 The Agreement has been preliminarily-approved by the Court and the Notice of Class
15 Action Settlement disseminated pursuant to the terms of the Agreement. (Declaration of Eric B.
16 Kingsley ¶18 (“Kingsley Decl.”); Declaration of Kevin Lee ¶2 (“Lee Decl.”).)

17 As discussed in the Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement, Class Counsel
18 worked diligently on behalf of the preliminarily certified Class Members in order to obtain this
19 Settlement.

20 **III. THE COURT SHOULD GRANT PLAINTIFF’S APPLICATION FOR AN AWARD**
21 **OF ATTORNEYS’ FEES**

22 A. Class Counsel are Entitled to a Fee From the Common Fund

23 On August 11, 2016, the California Supreme Court decided *Laffitte v. Robert Half*
24 *International*, which addressed the correct methodology for awarding fees in a class action
25 settlement. (*Laffitte v. Robert Half Intern. Inc.* (Cal. 2016) 205 Cal.Rptr.3d 555, 573.) The *Laffitte*
26 Court approved awarding fees as a percentage of the settlement fund in cases like the present one,
27 where a settlement results in the creation of a common fund on behalf of a class:

28 We join the overwhelming majority of federal and state courts in holding that when

1 class action litigation establishes a monetary fund for the benefit of the class
2 members, and the trial court in its equitable powers awards Class Counsel a fee out
3 of that fund, the court may determine the amount of a reasonable fee by choosing
4 an appropriate percentage of the fund created.

5 (*Id.* at p. 573.) The Court then set out several reasons why the percentage-of-the-fund method is
6 preferred over the alternative lodestar-multiplier approach in California courts:

7 The recognized advantages of the percentage method—including relative ease of
8 calculation, alignment of incentives between counsel and the class, a better
9 approximation of market conditions in a contingency case, and the encouragement
10 it provides counsel to seek an early settlement and avoid unnecessarily prolonging
11 the litigation [citations]—convince us the percentage method is a valuable tool that
12 should not be denied our trial courts.

13 (*Id.* at p. 573.)

14 An award of 1/3 of the common fund is appropriate here under the “substantial benefit”
15 theory. (*Dunk v. Ford Motor Co.* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1810; *Wershba v. Apple Computer,*
16 *Inc.* (2001) 91 Cal.App.4th 224, 254.) That theory permits a litigant who has sued in a
17 representative capacity to recover fees when the litigant’s efforts have created a substantial, actual,
18 and concrete benefit for members of an ascertainable class and the court’s jurisdiction over the
19 subject matter makes possible an award which spreads the cost proportionately among the
20 members of the benefitted class. (*See Ciani v. San Diego Trust & Sav. Bank* (1994) 25 Cal.App.4th
21 563, 578.)

22 This doctrine rests on the understanding that attorneys should normally be paid by their
23 clients, and that unless attorneys’ fees are paid out of the common fund, those who benefitted from
24 the fund would be unjustly enriched. (*Woodland Hills Residents Assn., Inc. v. City Council* (1979)
25 23 Cal.3d 917, 943; *Save El Toro Ass’n v. Days* (1979) 98 Cal.App.3d 544, 548-49.) To prevent
26 this unfair result, courts exercise their inherent equitable powers to assess attorneys’ fees against
27 the entire fund, thereby spreading the cost of those fees among all those who benefitted. (*Serrano*
28 *III*, 20 Cal.3d at p. 35.) “A court, in the exercise of its equitable discretion, may decree that those
receiving the benefit should contribute to the costs of its production.” (*Save El Toro Assn., supra*,
98 Cal.App.3d at p. 548.) As this approach “better approximates the workings of the marketplace
than the lodestar approach,” there is “a greater judicial willingness to evaluate a fee award as a
percentage of the recovery” in common fund cases. (*Lealao v. Beneficial Calif., Inc.* (2000) 82

1 Cal. App. 4th 19, 31, 48.)

2 As detailed fully in the Agreement and set forth above, the Agreement provides for
3 Defendant to create a Gross Settlement Amount of \$1,190,000.00. From that fund, Plaintiff
4 requests an award of attorneys' fees in the amount of \$396,666.66, or 1/3 of the Gross Settlement
5 Amount created on behalf of members of the Class. (Kingsley Decl. ¶68.) This litigation resulted
6 in "a substantial, actual and concrete . . . benefit on the members of an ascertainable class," *Save*
7 *El Toro Assn., supra*, 98 Cal.App.3d at p. 548, namely a non-reversionary settlement fund of
8 \$1,190,000.00. Because none of the Class Members have paid fees to Class Counsel for their
9 efforts during the litigation, equity requires that they pay a fair and reasonable fee based on what
10 the market would traditionally require, no less than if they had hired private counsel to litigate
11 their cases individually. Class Counsel is therefore entitled to a reasonable contingency fee of 1/3
12 from the Settlement fund as a whole.

13 B. The Attorneys' Fees Requested By Class Counsel Are Well Within the Range of
14 Fees in Comparable Cases

15 Courts historically award fees in the twenty-to-fifty-percent range, depending on the
16 circumstances of the case. As stated in Newberg:

17 No general rule can be articulated on what is a reasonable percentage of a common
18 fund. Usually 50% of the fund is the upper limit on a reasonable fee award from a
19 common fund in order to assure that the fees do not consume a disproportionate
part of the recovery obtained for the Class, although somewhat larger percentages
are not unprecedented.

20 (Newberg on Class Actions, 3rd Ed., 1992, § 14.03; *and see Chavez v. Netflix, Inc.* (2008) 162
21 Cal.App.4th 43, 66, fn 11 ["Empirical studies show that, regardless whether the percentage method
22 or the lodestar method is used, fee awards in class actions average around one-third of the
23 recovery."] Thus, Class Counsel's requested fee of 33.3% is not only well within the range of
24 reasonableness, but is fair compensation for undertaking this complex, risky, expensive, and time-
25 consuming litigation on a contingent basis.

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1 C. The Contingency Fee of 1/3 Requested By Class Counsel Is Reasonable Based on
2 the Risks of Litigation and the Diligent Efforts of Counsel that Led to an
3 Outstanding Settlement for the Class

4 In the present case, Class Counsel asks the Court to award a fee of 1/3 of the common fund,
5 or \$396,666.66, as provided in the Agreement. This amount is reasonable because Class Counsel's
6 diligent litigation efforts and experience led to an outstanding settlement, with an average net
7 recovery of over \$47.87 per Class Member (*See* Lee Decl. ¶13), based on cognizable risks which
8 are discussed in detail in Plaintiff's Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement.

9 Additionally, it is recognized that one of the primary factors justifying an attorney fee
10 award in cases such as this are the attendant risks inherent in the litigation. As observed in *City of*
11 *Detroit v. Grinnell Corporation* (2d Cir. 1974) 495 F.2d 448, 470:

12 No one expects a lawyer whose compensation is contingent upon his success to
13 charge, when successful, as little as he would charge a client who had agreed to pay
14 for his services, regardless of success. Nor, particularly in complicated cases
producing large recoveries, is it just to make a fee depend solely on the reasonable
amount of time expended.

15 Class Counsel extensively addressed the perceived risks in this case in the concurrently
16 filed Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement and will not repeat that analysis here.
17 In addition to the complexity of this case, Class Counsel has borne the entire risk and costs of this
18 litigation during the entire time that it has been pending, all on a pure contingency basis. (Kingsley
19 Decl. ¶69.) Through the investment of substantial effort and resources, Class Counsel has secured
20 an outstanding Settlement of behalf of the Class Members. (*Id.*) Defendant vigorously contested
21 liability, the amount of claimed damages, and the propriety of class certification. (*Id.*) It is this
22 kind of situation, involving complex issues, that has been recognized as justifying a substantial
23 attorney fee award. (*Id.*)

24 **IV. CLASS COUNSEL'S FEE REQUEST IS REASONABLE UNDER A LODESTAR**
25 **CROSSCHECK**

26 Courts may "cross-check" the results of the common fund method against the lodestar
27 method. (*See, e.g., In re Consumer Privacy Cases* (2009) 175 Cal.App.4th 545, 557.) The lodestar
28 is calculated by multiplying the reasonable hours expended by a reasonable hourly rate. (*Serrano*

1 v. *Priest* (1977) 20 Cal.3d 25, 48-49 (“*Serrano III*”).) Those rates reflect “the general local hourly
2 rate for a fee-bearing case” and do “not include any compensation for contingent risk,
3 extraordinary skill, or any other factors.” (*Ketchum v. Moses* (2001) 24 Cal.4th 1122, 1138.) The
4 court may then enhance the lodestar with a multiplier. (*Wershba, supra*, 91 Cal.App.4th at p. 254;
5 *Rebney v. Wells Fargo Bank* (1991) 232 Cal.App.3d 1344, 1347; *Serrano III, supra*, 20 Cal.3d at
6 p. 49.)

7 A. Requested Multiplier

8 The purpose of using the lodestar/multiplier method is to mirror the legal marketplace.
9 Counsel will not handle cases for straight hourly fees payable only if they win; therefore, an
10 enhancement is often awarded so that the fee received is commensurate with what attorneys could
11 expect to be compensated for services in similar circumstances. (*See San Bernardino Valley*
12 *Audubon Soc., Inc. v. County of San Bernardino* (1984) 155 Cal.App.3d 738, 755 [an award must
13 be large enough “to entice competent counsel to undertake difficult public interest cases”].) No
14 specific findings reflecting the court’s calculations are required. (*Wershba, supra*, 91 Cal.App.4th
15 at p. 254; *Rebney, supra*, 232 Cal.App.3d at p. 1349.) “The record need only show that the attorney
16 fees were awarded according to the ‘lodestar’ or ‘touchstone’ approach.” (*Ibid.*)

17 Here, a lodestar cross-check confirms that the percentage requested is reasonable. Class
18 Counsel’s aggregate lodestar amounts to \$463,925.00 (without future hours)¹, which represents
19 627.75 hours of attorney work on this litigation incurred from its inception through the filing of
20 Plaintiff’s Motion for Final Approval. (Kingsley Decl. ¶76.) As such, Class Counsel is not asking
21 for a multiplier. (Kingsley Decl. ¶77.) Typically, the lodestar is merely the starting point of the
22 calculation of a reasonable fee, and courts often multiply the lodestar by a factor to account for the
23 risk of non-payment, delay in payment, the quality of work, and the novelty and difficulty of the
24 issues involved. (*See Radar v. Thrasher* (1962) 57 Cal.2d 244, 253; *Beasley v. Wells Fargo Bank*
25 (1991) 235 Cal.App.3d 1407, 1419; *Coal. for L.A. County Planning v. Bd. of Supervisors* (1977)

26
27 ¹ Though Class Counsel will certainly continue to spend time working on this matter for tasks
28 such as preparing for and attending the final approval hearing, overseeing the administration
process, and communicating with Class Members, Class Counsel is not requesting approval of
future hours.

1 76 Cal.App.3d 241, 251.)

2 B. The Number of Hours Claimed is Reasonable

3 Plaintiffs' counsel are entitled to be compensated "for all time reasonably expended in
4 pursuit of the ultimate result achieved in the same manner that an attorney traditionally is
5 compensated by a fee-paying client for all time reasonably expended on a matter." (*Hensley v.*
6 *Eckerhart* (1983) 461 U.S. 424, 431 [internal quotations omitted]; *accord Serrano v. Unruh* (1982)
7 32 Cal.3d 621, 633 ["Serrano IV"] [parties should recover for all hours reasonably spent]; *Meister*
8 *v. Regents of Univ. of Cal.* (1998) 67 Cal.App.4th 437, 447-48 [same].)

9 The amount of time spent on this case (over 627.75 hours), which culminated in a very
10 favorable proposed Settlement for the Class Members, is reasonable given the complexity and
11 novelty of the issues involved, the vigorous defense, the length and intensity of the litigation, and
12 the exceptional results obtained. (Kingsley Decl. ¶78.) Class Counsel litigated this action with
13 great efficiency in light of the amount of work required to achieve the Settlement. (Kingsley Decl.
14 ¶79.) Class Counsel has submitted a declaration evidencing the reasonable hourly rate for their
15 services and establishing the number of hours spent working on the case. (Kingsley Decl. ¶¶76-
16 101.) Accordingly, Plaintiff is entitled to full compensation for the hours claimed by Class
17 Counsel.

18 C. The Hourly Rates Requested Are Reasonable

19 Class Counsel is entitled to be compensated at hourly rates that reflect the reasonable
20 market value of their legal services, based on their experience and expertise. (*See Serrano IV,*
21 *supra*, 32 Cal.3d at pp. 640-43, n.31.) "The reasonable hourly rate is that prevailing in the
22 community for similar work." (*PLCM Group, Inc. v. Drexler* (2000) 22 Cal.4th 1084, 1095.)
23 Payment at full market rates is essential to entice well-qualified counsel to undertake difficult
24 cases, such as this one. (*San Bernardino Valley Audubon Soc'y v. County of San Bernardino* (1984)
25 155 Cal. App. 3d 738, 755.) Additionally, calculation of a lodestar based on current hourly rates
26 is appropriate as a means of compensating for delay in payment. (*Missouri v. Jenkins by Agyei*
27 (1989) 491 U.S. 274, 283-84.)

28 The requested hourly rates in this case range from \$450.00 per hour to \$1,100.00. (Kingsley

Decl. ¶80.) Class Counsel’s hourly rates are fully supported by their experience and reputation in handling complex employment litigation, including wage and hour class actions. (Kingsley Decl. ¶82; ¶¶76-101.)

I am a 24-year attorney with expertise in wage and hour class action lawsuits. (Kingsley Decl. ¶83.) I have litigated several hundred such cases, including at the appellate level at the U.S. Supreme Court, California Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit, and the California Court of Appeal. (Kingsley Decl. ¶84.) I am also a prolific speaker at various seminars on employment law and has contributed to legal publications on employment topics. (Kingsley Decl. ¶85.) Biographical information for the other handling attorneys is included in the concurrently filed Declaration of Eric B. Kingsley. (Kingsley Decl. ¶¶82-90.)

Mike Arias is a seasoned attorney with extensive expertise with wage and hour class actions lawsuits.² (See Declaration of Mike Arias ¶¶6-9.)

Class Counsel’s charged rates are commensurate with the prevailing market rates in Los Angeles County for attorneys of comparable experience and skill handling complex litigation. (Kingsley Decl. ¶94.) Furthermore, Class Counsel’s rates in calculating the lodestar are the same rates charged to non-contingent hourly clients and thus necessarily reflect the current market value of counsel’s legal services.³ (Kingsley Decl. ¶95.) Class Counsel has made all reasonable attempts to avoid duplication of assignments and to assign tasks to timekeepers at the appropriate billing rates. (Kingsley Decl. ¶96.)

Finally, Class Counsel’s rates are in line with the 2024-2025 Laffey Matrix, which is a fee scale that courts often consult in determining the reasonableness of hourly rates. Under the adjusted Laffey Matrix, a reasonable rate for an attorney with 20+ years of experience, such as Mr. Kingsley, is \$1057, a reasonable rate for an attorney with 16 years of experience, such as Ms. Ly,

² Kingsley Szamet Employment Lawyers and Arias Sanguinetti Wang & Torrijos LLP have entered into a written fee sharing agreement that was also signed by the named Plaintiffs. (Kingsley Decl. ¶93.)

³ The Court should also note that other California courts approved many of these same rates over 15 years ago. (See, e.g., *Bihun v. AT&T Info. Sys., Inc.* (1993) 13 Cal.App.4th 976, 997, disapproved on other grounds, 6 Cal.4th 644, 664 [\$450 hourly rate was a reasonable fee based on counsel’s knowledge, skill, experience and reputation].)

1 is \$878, a reasonable rate for an attorney with 11 years of experience, such as Mr. Stiller, is \$878,
2 a reasonable rate for an attorney with 4-7 years of experience, such as Ms. Adlouni, is \$538, and
3 a reasonable rate for an attorney with 3 or less years of experience, such as Ms. Bulaon is \$3437.
4 (Kingsley Decl. ¶97; Ex. 4 [2024-2025 Adjusted Laffey Matrix].)

5 D. The Fees Requested Are Reasonable

6 The trial court has substantial discretion in adjusting the lodestar to account for various
7 factors inadequately reflected therein. (*See Lealao, supra*, 82 Cal.App.4th at pp. 40-45.) A lodestar
8 multiplier is recognized as earned compensation: “The adjustment to the lodestar, e.g., to provide
9 a fee enhancement reflecting the risk the attorney will not receive payment if the suit does not
10 succeed, constitutes earned compensation; unlike a windfall, it is neither unexpected nor
11 fortuitous.” (*Ketchum, supra*, 24 Cal.4th at p. 1138.)

12 In California, courts regularly use a multiplier of 2.0 or greater in statutory fee cases to
13 approximate market fees.⁴ In fact, “[m]ultipliers in the 3-4 range are common in lodestar awards
14 for lengthy and complex class action litigation.” (*Van Vracken v. Atlantic Richfield Co.*
15 (N.D.Cal.1995) 901 F.Supp. 294, 298; *see also, Wershba, supra*, 91 Cal.App.4th at p. 255
16 [“Multipliers can range from 2 to 4 or even higher.”].) Here, Class Counsel is not requesting a
17 multiplier. (Kingsley Decl. ¶102.)

18 **V. THE COURT SHOULD APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF**
19 **COSTS**

20 In addition to their request for fees, Class Counsel further request reimbursement of the
21 reasonable out-of-pocket expenses advanced and/or incurred by them in connection with this
22 litigation, in the amount of \$105,000.00. (Kingsley Decl. ¶102.) To date, Kingsley Szamet
23 Employment Lawyers and Arias Sanguinetti Wang and Torrijos, LLP have incurred \$52,469.59 in
24 costs. (Kingsley Decl. ¶103.) Class Counsel anticipates incurring an additional \$600.00 in costs
25 to file, serve, and copy this motion; to prepare for and attend the hearing; and for future copy

26 ⁴ See, for example, *Mangold v. Cal. Pub. Utils. Comm’n*, 67 F.3d 1470, 1478-79 (9th Cir. 1995)
27 (2.0); *City of Oakland v. Oakland Raiders* (1988) 203 Cal.App.3d 78, 82-85 (2.34); *Coal. for*
28 *L.A. County Planning v. Bd. of Supervisors* (1977) 76 Cal.App.3d 241, 251 (slightly above
2.0); *Crommie v. State of Cal. Public Utilities Comm’n* (N.D. Cal. 1994) 840 F.Supp.719, 726
(2.0 multiplier in employment case).

1 charges, however, pursuant to the Agreement, Class Counsel shall not seek an amount in excess
2 of \$105,000.00 for litigation costs. Any portion of the \$105,000.00 litigation costs amount that is
3 not used in the course of these proceedings will revert to the Net Settlement Amount. (Kingsley
4 Decl. ¶104; Agreement ¶4.2.2.) As such, Class Counsel is requesting a cost reimbursement of
5 \$105,000.00. (Kingsley Decl. ¶105.)

6 All of the requested costs are reasonable in amount and were necessarily incurred by Class
7 Counsel in prosecuting this litigation. (Kingsley Decl. ¶106; Ex. 5 [Cost Report].)

8 Expenses in this matter to date include costs for filing fees, research, mediation,
9 employment of a database expert to synthesize the tens of thousands of lines of payroll and
10 timekeeping data produced by Defendant to assist with preparation of Plaintiffs' damage model,
11 and additional costs for the prosecution of this case evidenced in the costs spreadsheet attached to
12 the Declaration of Eric B. Kingsley. All of these costs have been incurred in the course of this
13 litigation, and all costs advanced have already been paid by Class Counsel. (Kingsley Decl. ¶107.)

14 Accordingly, the requested reimbursement of the reasonable out-of-pocket expenses
15 advanced and/or incurred is appropriate and justified as part of the overall settlement and the Court
16 should approve the request for reimbursement in the amount of \$105,000.00.

17 **VI. THE NAMED PLAINTIFFS' ENHANCEMENT SHOULD BE APPROVED**

18 Finally, Class Counsel request an enhancement of \$15,000.00 to the named Plaintiffs
19 Juanita Villa, Jessica Leshner, and Sheri Amies for their work on behalf of the Class. (Kingsley
20 Decl. ¶108.) As set forth in detail in Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of Class Settlement
21 and Juanita Villa's, Jessica Leshner's, and Sheri Amies's declarations, Plaintiffs Juanita Villa,
22 Jessica Leshner, and Sheri Amies invested significant time and effort in this case. (Kingsley Decl.
23 ¶109; Juanita Villa ¶¶2-8; Jessica Leshner ¶¶2-8; Sheri Amies Decl. ¶¶2-8.) Ms. Villa, Ms. Leshner,
24 and Ms. Amies stand to receive \$5,000.00. (Lee Decl. ¶12.)

25 Plaintiffs Juanita Villa, Jessica Leshner, and Sheri Amies were also at risk of for paying
26 Defendant's legal fees and costs in the event that Defendant prevailed at trial. (Kingsley Decl.
27 ¶113.)

28 The Class has benefited from Plaintiffs Juanita Villa's, Jessica Leshner's, and Sheri Amies's

actions in stepping forward on their behalf to bring this lawsuit. (Kingsley Decl. ¶114.) The average settlement payment is \$47.87 for a Class Member with a high of \$349.01. (Lee Decl. ¶13.)

Further, the Class Notice disclosed the enhancement award. (*See* Agreement Ex. A [class notice], p. 5.) (Kingsley Decl. ¶115.) As of today, no Class Member has objected to the proposed enhancement. (Kingsley Decl. ¶116.)

Under the circumstances, a representative payment of \$15,000.00, or \$5,000 each, is justified and the Court should award this payment to Juanita Villa from the Gross Settlement Amount as provided in the Agreement. (Kingsley Decl. ¶117.)

VII. PROOF OF SUBMISSION TO THE LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

As indicated on the Proof of Service, Plaintiffs' Motion for Approval of Attorneys' Fees and Costs ("Motion") was uploaded to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency's ("LWDA") website on the date this Motion was filed as required by statute. Proof of submission of Plaintiffs' Motion, all related documents, and copy of the email from the LWDA confirming receipt is attached to the Declaration of Eric B. Kingsley as Exhibit "6". (Kingsley Decl. ¶118.)

VIII. CONCLUSION

Class Counsel respectfully requests that the Court award a fee equal to 1/3 of the gross settlement amount, or \$396,666.66 and reimbursement of costs of \$105,000.00. Class Counsel also respectfully requests that the Court award an enhancement for the named Plaintiffs of Kevin Lee. For the above reasons, all of these requests are appropriate and justified as part of the overall Settlement, and the Court should approve them as reasonable and fair.

DATED: January 6, 2025

KINGSLEY SZAMET EMPLOYMENT
LAWYERS

By:



Eric B. Kingsley
Kelsey M. Szamet
Attorneys for Plaintiffs, the Proposed Class, and all
Aggrieved Employees

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action. My business address is 16133 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 1200, Encino, California 91436.

On January 6, 2025, I served all interested parties in this action the following documents described as: **NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS; MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT THEREOF** by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed as follows:

Mike Arias

mike@aswtlawyers.com

Craig S. Momita

craig@aswtlawyers.com

**ARIAS SANGUINETTI WANG
& TORRIJOS LLP**

6701 Center Drive West, Suite 1400
Los Angeles, CA 90045

MCGUIREWOODS LLP

Sabrina A. Beldner

Email: sbeldner@mcguirewoods.com

Sarah Y. Oh

Email: soh@mcguirewoods.com

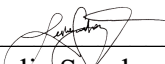
1800 Century Park East, 8th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90067

[XX] BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE: I caused a true and correct copy thereof to be electronically filed using the Labor and Workforce Development Agency Electronic Filing ("EF") System (<https://dir.tfaforms.net/315>) and service was completed by electronic means by transmittal of the documents referenced herein on the EF System.

[XX] (BY ELECTRONIC MAIL TRANSMISSION): I caused the document to be send to the persons at the e-mail address(es) listed on the attached service list. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful. A pdf copy of which was sent via email to the above email address(es).

[XX] (STATE) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Executed on January 6, 2025, at Chino, California.



Leslie Sanchez