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Attorneys for Plaintiffs Jenelle Olea and Nicole Foerst

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

JENELLE OLEA *et al.*

Plaintiff,

vs.

THE STEPPING STONES GROUP, LLC, EBS
HEALTHCARE STAFFING SERVICES, INC.,
AUTISM INTERVENTION PROFESSIONALS,
LLC, STAR OF CA, LLC, AND
BEHAVIORAL LEARNING CENTER, INC. *et al.*

Defendants.

Case No. 37-2022-00040884-CU-OE-CTL

*Hon. Kenneth J. Medel
Dept. 66*

CLASS ACTION

**Notice of Entry of Order Granting Final
Approval and Entering Judgment**

Action Filed: October 11, 2022

1 TO THE COURT, ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD, PLEASE
2 TAKE NOTICE THAT:

3 1. On April 12, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. in this Department, the Court entered the Order and
4 Judgment Granting Final Approval of Class Action Settlement and Attorneys' Fees and Costs and
5 Entering Judgment attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

6 2. The Judge confirmed the Court's Tentative Ruling attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

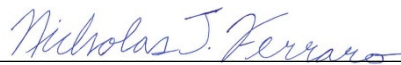
7 3. A conformed copy of this Notice will be submitted to the LWDA via its online
8 electronic portal in accordance with Labor Code § 2699(1)(3).

9 4. Notice of the Court's final ruling and entry of judgment is hereby provided.

10
11 Respectfully submitted,

12
13 Dated: April 25, 2024

Ferraro Vega Employment Lawyers, Inc.

14 

15 Nicholas J. Ferraro

16 Attorneys for Plaintiff Jenelle Olea
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Exhibit 1

FILED
San Diego Superior Court

APR 12 2024

Clerk of the Superior Court
By: B. Orihuela, Deputy

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

JENELLE OLEA, *et al.*

Plaintiffs,

vs.

THE STEPPING STONES GROUP, LLC, *et al.*

Defendants.

Case No. 37-2022-00040884-CU-OE-CTL

Hon. Kenneth J. Medel
Dept. 66

CLASS ACTION

**[Proposed] Order Granting Final Approval of
Class Action Settlement and Attorneys' Fees
and Costs and Entering Judgment**

Motion for Final Approval/Attorneys' Fees:

Date: April 12, 2024

Time: 9:30 a.m.

[Filed concurrently with Notice of Motion and
Motion for Final Approval of Class Action
Settlement, Memorandum of Points and
Authorities, Declaration of Nicholas J. Ferraro,
Declaration of Settlement Administrator,
Declaration of Jonathan Melmed, Declaration of
Jenelle Olea, and Declaration of Nicole Foerst]

Action Filed: October 11, 2022

1 This matter came on for hearing on April 12, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in Department 66 of the above-
2 captioned Court, the Honorable Kenneth J. Medel presiding, on (1) Plaintiffs' Motion for Final
3 Approval of Class Action Settlement and (2) Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs.

4 Having received and considered the motions and supporting papers, including the Class Action
5 Settlement Agreement ("Settlement"), the evidence and documents received by the Court in connection
6 with the Motions for Final Approval and Attorneys' Fees and Costs, and the previously decided Motion
7 for Preliminary Approval, the Court GRANTS FINAL APPROVAL of the Settlement and ORDERS
8 AND MAKES THE FOLLOWING DETERMINATIONS:

9 1. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement and the Order Granting Preliminary Approval,
10 and the Settlement, a notice was sent to each class member by first-class U.S. mail. The notice
11 informed the class of the terms of the Settlement, their right to receive a settlement payment without
12 any required action, their right to comment upon or object to the Settlement, and their right to appear
13 in person or by counsel at the Final Approval Hearing and to be heard regarding approval of the
14 Settlement. Adequate periods of time were provided for each of these procedures.

15 2. Zero class members returned a written objection to the proposed Settlement as part of
16 the notice process or stated an intention to appear at the Final Approval Hearing and there we no
17 dissenting appearances from class members at the hearing. 18 class members requested exclusion
18 from the Settlement. The following 18 "opt outs" are affirmatively excluded from the class settlement:

- 19 1. Schumacher, Janis
- 20 2. Paz, Victor
- 21 3. Flowers, Donnesha
- 22 4. Anderson, Angela
- 23 5. Fong, Sandra
- 24 6. Ratcliff, Deaudwin
- 25 7. Guerra, Sylvia
- 26 8. Thomas, Kari
- 27 9. Velasquez, Jackielou
- 28 10. Rosales, Jeanette
11. Young, Vicki
12. Balinghasay, Rosario Teresa
13. Dixon, Precious
14. Smith, Jennifer
15. Izaguirre, Guadalupe
16. Brennand, Hailie
17. Dubberke-Ewan, Kristina

1 18. Aragon, Sonja

2 3. The Court finds and determines the notice procedure afforded adequate protections to
3 the class and provides the basis for the Court's informed decision regarding approval of the Settlement
4 based the response. The Court finds and determines the notice provided was the best notice
5 practicable, satisfying the requirements of law and due process.

6 4. For purposes of approving this Settlement only, this Court finds and concludes: (a) the
7 proposed class is ascertainable and so numerous that joinder of all members of the class is
8 impracticable; (b) there are questions of law or fact common to the proposed class, and there is a well-
9 defined community of interest among members of the class with respect to the subject matter of the
10 claims; (c) the claims of the representative are typical of the claims of the class; (d) the class
11 representatives have and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class; (e) a class action
12 is superior to other available methods for an efficient adjudication of this controversy in the context of
13 settlement; and (f) the law firm of Ferraro Vega Employment Lawyers, Inc. and Melmed Law Group
14 P.C., is qualified and adequate to serve as Class Counsel in this action.

15 5. The Court confirms certification, for settlement purposes only, of the class as defined in
16 the Settlement and approved at the preliminary approval stage.

17 6. The Court finds and determines the terms set forth in the Settlement are fair, reasonable,
18 and adequate and, having found the Settlement was reached as a result of informed and non-collusive
19 arms'-length negotiations facilitated by a neutral and experienced mediator, directs the Parties to
20 effectuate the Settlement according to its terms. The Court further finds the Parties conducted
21 extensive investigation, research, and informal discovery, and that their attorneys were able to
22 reasonably evaluate their respective positions. The Court also finds that Settlement will enable the
23 Parties to avoid additional and potentially substantial litigation costs, as well as delay and risks if the
24 Parties were to continue to litigate the case. The Court has reviewed the monetary recovery and
25 recognizes the significant value provided to the Class. Therefore, the Court approves the Settlement
26 and incorporates the terms of the Settlement in full into this Final Approval Order as though fully set
27 forth herein.

1 7. The Court finds and determines the fees and expenses in administering the Settlement
2 incurred by the Settlement Administrator of \$52,500 are fair and reasonable. The Court orders these
3 administration costs be paid in accordance with the terms of the Settlement.

4 8. The Court finds and determines the Service Award of \$20,000 (10,000 each) to Plaintiffs
5 Olea and Plaintiff Foerst as fair and reasonable. The Court orders the service awards be paid in
6 accordance with the terms of the Settlement.

7 9. The Court finds and determines payment to the California Labor and Workforce
8 Development Agency of \$75,000, as its 75% share of the civil penalties under the Private Attorneys
9 General Act is fair, reasonable, and appropriate. The Court orders that amount be paid in accordance
10 with the terms of the Settlement and approves the settlement of claims under the Private Attorneys
11 General Act pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(1)(2).

12 10. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement and the statutory provisions authorizing
13 attorneys' fees under the California Labor Code and Code of Civil Procedure, as set forth in the Motion
14 for Attorneys' Fees, the Court awards Class Counsel attorneys' fees of \$1,416,525 and litigation costs
15 of \$27,808.36. Class Counsel has sufficiently explained the basis for the fee award based on a
16 percentage of the fund. The Court finds such amounts to be fair and reasonable. The Court orders the
17 Settlement Administrator to make these payments in accordance with the Settlement.

18 11. Without affecting the finality of this Order or the entry of judgment in any way, the
19 Court retains jurisdiction of all matters relating to the interpretation, administration, implementation,
20 and enforcement of this Order and the Settlement.

21 12. Nothing in this Order shall preclude any action to enforce the Parties' obligations under
22 the Settlement or under this Order, including the requirement that Defendants make payments to Class
23 Members in accordance with the Settlement.

24 13. The Court hereby ENTERS FINAL JUDGMENT in accordance with the terms of the
25 Settlement, in accordance with this Final Approval Order and Judgment.
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1 14. The Parties shall comply with Cal. Rules of Court Rule 3.771(b), by filing a Notice of
2 Entry of Judgment with the Court.

3
4 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

5
6 Date: 4.12.24


The Honorable Kenneth J. Medel
Judge of the Superior Court

Exhibit 2

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

HALL OF JUSTICE

TENTATIVE RULINGS - April 11, 2024

EVENT DATE: 04/12/2024

EVENT TIME: 09:30:00 AM

DEPT.: C-66

JUDICIAL OFFICER: Kenneth J Medel

CASE NO.: 37-2022-00040884-CU-OE-CTL

CASE TITLE: OLEA VS THE STEPPING STONES GROUP LLC [E-FILE]

CASE CATEGORY: Civil - Unlimited

CASE TYPE: Other employment

EVENT TYPE: Motion Hearing (Civil)

CAUSAL DOCUMENT/DATE FILED: Motion for Approval of Class Settlement, 03/20/2024

The Motion for Final Approval of Settlement and Motion for Attorney Fees is GRANTED. Counsel to prepare an order for the Court's signature.