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

LORENA YEPEZ, individually, and on behalf
of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

EAST LOS ANGELES REMARKABLE
CITIZEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC., a
Nonprofit Corporation; and DOES 1 through
10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 22STCV31819

CLASS & REPRESENTATIVE ACTION

[Assigned for all purposes to: Hon. David S.
Cunningham III, Dept. 6]

**DECLARATION OF ALAN WILCOX IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION
FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION SETTLEMENT**

FINAL APPROVAL HEARING

Date: September 9, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Dept.: 11

Complaint filed: September 29, 2022
Trial date: Not set

DECLARATION OF ALAN WILCOX

I, Alan Wilcox, declare as follows:

1. I am admitted, in good standing, to practice as an attorney in the State of California and the United States District Courts for the Central, Southern, Eastern, and Northern Districts of California. I am a Senior Attorney at Wilshire Law Firm, PLC (“WLF”), counsel of record for Plaintiff Lorena Yopez (“Plaintiff”). I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration and could and would competently testify to them under oath if called as a witness. This Declaration is submitted in support of Plaintiff’s Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement (the “Motion”).

CASE BACKGROUND

2. This is a wage and hour class and Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”) (Lab. Code §§ 2699, *et seq.*) representative action. Plaintiff and the putative class members worked in California as hourly-paid or non-exempt employees for Defendant East Los Angeles Remarkable Citizen’s Association, Inc. (“Defendant”) during the class period. Defendant is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation operating since 1965 that works with people who have developmental disabilities.

3. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant’s payroll, timekeeping, and wage and hour practices resulted in Labor Code violations. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant failed to pay for all hours worked. Plaintiff further alleges that Defendant failed to provide employees with legally compliant meal and rest periods and Defendant failed to reimburse business expenses. Based on these allegations, Plaintiff asserts related claims for failure to provide accurate wage statements, failure to pay all final wages at termination, unfair business practices, and civil penalties under the PAGA.

4. On September 29, 2022, Plaintiff filed a putative wage and hour class action complaint against Defendant for: (1) failure to pay minimum and straight time wages; (2) failure to pay overtime wages; (3) failure to provide meal periods; (4) failure to authorize and permit rest periods; (5) failure to timely pay final wages at termination; (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (7) failure to indemnify employees for expenditures; and (8) unfair

1 business practices. On September 29, 2022, Plaintiff sent a notice to Defendant and the
2 California Labor & Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) alleging similar wage and hour
3 violations pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act “PAGA” (Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*)
4 On January 13, 2023, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint against Defendant adding
5 claims for civil penalties under PAGA.

6 DISCOVERY, INVESTIGATION, AND SETTLEMENT

7 5. Following the filing of the initial complaint, the Parties exchanged documents and
8 information before mediating this action. Defendant produced a sample of time and pay records
9 for the class members. Defendant also provided employee handbooks outlining its wage and hour
10 policies and practices during the class period and information regarding the total number of current
11 and former employees in its informal discovery responses.

12 6. After reviewing documents regarding Defendant’s wage and hour policies and
13 practices and analyzing Defendant’s timekeeping and payroll records, Class Counsel was able to
14 evaluate the probability of class certification, success on the merits, and Defendant’s maximum
15 monetary exposure for all claims. Class Counsel also investigated the applicable law regarding
16 the claims and defenses asserted in the litigation. Class Counsel reviewed these records and
17 prepared a damage analysis prior to mediation. This extensive investigation and discovery allowed
18 Class Counsel to act intelligently and effectively in negotiating the Settlement.

19 SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

20 7. On June 15, 2023, the Parties participated in private mediation with experienced
21 class action mediator, Lynn Frank. The mediation was conducted via Zoom. The settlement
22 negotiations were at arm’s length and, although conducted in a professional manner, were
23 adversarial. The Parties went into the mediation willing to explore the potential for a settlement
24 of the dispute, but each side was also prepared to litigate their position through trial and appeal if
25 a settlement had not been reached. After extensive negotiations and discussions regarding the
26 strengths and weaknesses of Plaintiff’s claims and Defendant’s defenses, the Parties reached a
27 settlement, the material terms of which are encompassed within the Settlement Agreement.
28 Attached as **Exhibit 1** is a true and correct copy of the Class Action and PAGA Settlement

1 Agreement and Class Notice (the “Settlement Agreement”).

2 8. Class Counsel has conducted a thorough investigation into the facts of this case.
3 Based on the foregoing discovery and their own independent investigation and evaluation, Class
4 Counsel is of the opinion that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best
5 interests of the Settlement Class Members in light of all known facts and circumstances, the risk
6 of significant delay, the defenses that could be asserted by Defendant both to certification and on
7 the merits, trial risk, and appellate risk.

8 9. Plaintiff filed her Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement on
9 February 28, 2024. On April 24, 2024, the Court continued the MPA hearing in order for the
10 Parties to correct deficiencies identified by the Court regarding the Settlement. Plaintiff filed her
11 amended Motion for Preliminary Approval on September 13, 2024. On January 30, 2025, the
12 Court granted Plaintiff’s Amended Motion for Preliminary Approval. The deadline for class
13 members to opt out or object to the Settlement is April 21, 2025. The reaction of the Class to the
14 settlement so far has been overwhelmingly positive. Indeed, as of the filing of the Motion, no
15 Class Member has opted out of the settlement and no Class Member has objected to the settlement.

16 10. The settlement obviates the significant risk that the Court may deny certification of
17 all or some of Plaintiff’s claims. While Plaintiff is confident in the merits of her claims, a
18 legitimate controversy exists as to each cause of action. Plaintiff also recognizes that proving the
19 amount of wages due to each class member would be an expensive, time-consuming, and uncertain
20 proposition. Furthermore, even if Plaintiff obtained certification of all or some of the claims,
21 continued litigation would be expensive, involving a trial and possible appeals, and would
22 substantially delay and reduce any recovery by the class.

23 11. The proposed Settlement Agreement was provided to the LWDA in advance of
24 Plaintiff’s filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement. Attached as
25 **Exhibit 2** is a true and correct copy of proof of Plaintiff’s submission of the Settlement Agreement
26 to the LWDA.

27 ENHANCEMENT AWARDS FOR PLAINTIFF IS REASONABLE

28 12. Class Counsel represents that Plaintiff devoted a great deal of time and work

1 assisting counsel in the case, communicated with counsel very frequently for litigation and to
2 prepare for mediation, and was frequently in contact with Class Counsel during the mediation.
3 Plaintiff's requested enhancement awards are reasonable particularly in light of the substantial
4 benefits Plaintiff generated for all class members.

5 13. Throughout this litigation, Plaintiff, who is a former employee of Defendant, has
6 cooperated immensely with my office and has taken many actions to protect the interests of the
7 class. Plaintiff provided valuable information regarding the off-the-clock, meal period, and rest
8 period claims. Plaintiff also informed my office of developments and information relevant to this
9 action, participated in decisions concerning this action, and made herself available to answer
10 questions during the mediation. Before we filed this case, Plaintiff provided my office with
11 documents regarding the claims alleged in this action. The information and documentation
12 provided by Plaintiff was instrumental in establishing the wage and hour violations alleged in this
13 action, and the recovery provided for in the Settlement Agreement would have been impossible to
14 obtain without Plaintiff's participation.

15 14. At the same time, Plaintiff faced many risks in adding herself as the class
16 representative in this matter. Plaintiff faced actual risks with her future employment, as putting
17 herself on public record in an employment lawsuit could also very well affect her likelihood for
18 future employment. Furthermore, as part of this settlement, Plaintiff is executing general releases
19 of all claims against Defendant.

20 15. In turn, class members will now have the opportunity to participate in a settlement,
21 reimbursing them for alleged wage violations they may have never known about on their own or
22 been willing to pursue on their own. If these class members would have each tried to pursue their
23 legal remedies on their own, that would have resulted in each having to expend a significant amount
24 of their own monetary resources and time, which were obviated by Plaintiff putting herself on the
25 line on behalf of these other class members.

26 16. In the final analysis, this class action would not have been possible without the aid
27 of Plaintiff, who put her own time and effort into this litigation, sacrificed the value of her own
28 individual claims, and placed herself at risk for the sake of the class members. The requested

enhancement awards for Plaintiff for her services as the class representatives and for her general release of all individual claims is a relatively small amount of money when the time and effort put into the litigation are considered and in comparison to enhancements granted in other class actions. The requested incentive award is therefore reasonable to compensate Plaintiff for her active participation in this lawsuit.

THE REQUEST FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS IS REASONABLE

17. The settlement provides for attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel in an amount up to 33 1/3% of the Gross Settlement Amount, for a maximum fees award of \$83,333.33, plus reasonable litigation expenses of up to \$20,000.00.

18. The total current lodestar for Wilshire Law Firm, PLC is not less than the following:

Person	Role	Hours	Rate	Lodestar
Alan Wilcox	Senior Attorney	7.5	\$900	\$6,750.00
Bradford Smith	Settlement Attorney	31.7	\$575	\$18,227.50
Justin F. Marquez	Senior Partner	35	\$1,500	\$52,500.00
Arsiné Grigoryan	Associate Attorney	35	\$800	\$28,000.00
Christina M. Le	Senior Attorney	30	\$900	\$27,000.00
Total:		139.2		\$132,477.50

19. Wilshire Law Firm, PLC has spent approximately 139.2 hours, for a lodestar of \$132,477.50 litigating this action to bring it to resolution, not including time which will be expended monitoring the administration of the settlement and distribution of funds to the Class Members. efforts expended by Plaintiff's counsel to achieve this result include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. the investigation of the matter, including meeting with Plaintiff, reviewing Defendant's policies, and requesting and reviewing Plaintiff's time and pay records, personnel files, and exploring the corporate structure of Defendant;
- b. filing the action;
- c. attending hearings and meeting and conferring with Defendant regarding the case;
- d. meeting and conferring with Defendant regarding mediation, exchange of informal

discovery beforehand, and negotiating with opposing counsel regarding the parameters thereof;

- e. selecting a mediator and mediation date;
- f. working with opposing counsel and an expert consultant for the receipt of a representative sampling and analyzing the same with the aid of expert consultant and Plaintiff to perform analyses of liability and exposure prior to attendance of the mediation in this matter;
- g. reviewing policy documents from Defendant and researching applicable defenses;
- h. preparation of a mediation brief and damages model for use at mediation;
- i. attendance at mediation by all Parties and Counsel;
- j. communicating with Plaintiff who requested updates or other information regarding this matter;
- k. engaging in settlement negotiations, followed by finalizing and fully executing the Settlement Agreement;
- l. preparing and assisting in the drafting of the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement and supporting documents.
- m. communicating with class members who sought additional information regarding the settlement, including answering questions regarding the settlement;
- n. communicating with the Settlement Administrator to ensure the Class Notice was properly distributed and engaging in extensive follow-up communications with the Settlement Administrator regarding class members who sought additional information about the Settlement; and
- o. preparing the instant Motion and supporting documents.

20. There are additional hours devoted by me (and by my colleagues) to this litigation that are not reflected in Class Counsel's request for attorneys' fees.

21. We can provide additional billing records in the event the Court requests them but, would request the opportunity to redact attorney-client privileged information and any other privileged information.

1 22. I am informed and believe that the fee and costs provision is reasonable. The fee
2 percentage requested is less than that charged by my office for most employment cases. My office
3 invested significant time and resources into the case, with payment deferred to the end of the case,
4 and then, of course, contingent on the outcome.

5 23. It is further estimated that my office will need to expend at least another 15 to 20
6 hours to monitor the process leading up to payments made to the class. My office also bears the
7 risk of taking whatever actions are necessary if Defendant fails to pay.

8 24. The risk to my office has been very significant, particularly if we would not be
9 successful in pursuing this class action. In that case, we would have been left with no compensation
10 for all the time taken in litigating this case. The contingent risk in these types of cases is very real
11 and they do occur regularly. Furthermore, we were precluded from focusing on, or taking on, other
12 cases which could have resulted in a larger, and less risky, monetary gain.

13 25. Because most individuals cannot afford to pay for representation in litigation on an
14 hourly basis, Wilshire Law Firm, PLC represents virtually all of its employment law clients on a
15 contingency fee basis. Pursuant to this arrangement, we are not compensated for our time unless
16 we prevail at trial or successfully settle our clients' cases. Because Wilshire Law Firm, PLC is
17 taking the risk that we will not be reimbursed for our time unless our client settles or wins his or
18 her case, we cannot afford to represent an individual employee on a contingency basis if, at the
19 end of our representation, all we are to receive is our regular hourly rate for services. It is essential
20 that we recover more than our regular hourly rate when we win if we are to remain in practice so
21 as to be able to continue representing other individuals in civil rights employment disputes.

22 26. As of the date of filing this Motion, Class Counsel has incurred around \$19,103.02
23 in costs, and Defendant has agreed that they will not oppose any cost award request up to
24 \$20,000.00. Accordingly, Class Counsel respectfully requests reimbursements of \$19,103.02 in
25 expenses, which should be reimbursed in full. Attached as **Exhibit 3** is a list of the costs and the
26 categories of costs for the costs incurred in this case to date by Wilshire Law Firm, PLC.

PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL'S EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

27. Plaintiff is represented by Wilshire Law Firm, PLC. The attorneys at WLF performed significant work and expended litigation costs in prosecuting this matter with no guarantee of payment.

28. WLF was selected by Best Lawyers and U.S. News & World Report as one of the nation's Best Law Firms for every year since 2020 and is comprised of more than 100 attorneys and over 600 employees. WLF is actively and continuously practicing in employment litigation, representing employees in both individual and class actions in both state and federal courts throughout California.

29. WLF is qualified to handle this Litigation because its attorneys are experienced in litigating Labor Code violations in both individual, class action, and representative action cases. WLF has handled, and is currently handling, numerous wage and hour class action lawsuits, as well as class actions involving consumer rights and data privacy litigation.

30. I obtained my Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 2007. I graduated from Pepperdine University's School of Law and became a member of the California State Bar in 2012.

31. Throughout my career up until my employment at Wilshire Law Firm, PLC, I was essentially continuously employed as a civil litigation attorney at multiple law firms. I have represented clients in both state and federal Courts in a wide variety of matters, including contract disputes, wrongful foreclosure unlawful detainer, divorce, product defect, tort, and employment.

32. From 2014 to the present, I have been exclusively practicing complex civil litigation representing plaintiff employees in employment matters. In that time, I believe I have become an expert in the field. I have handled both individual wrongful discharge and collective wage and hour actions, with the class action and PAGA matters including *Flores v. Aqua Terra Culinary, Inc.*, Monterey Superior Court Case No. 17CV002672, *Garcia v. Construction Innovations Group, LLC*, Sacramento Superior Court Case No. 34-2020-00285239, *Kim v. Sheraton Operating Corp.*, Central District of California Case No. 2:17-cv-09247-FMO-E, *Pease v. Wattrans, Inc.*, San

1 Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS1919832, and *Lachman v. Berlitz Languages, Inc.*,
2 Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV01533, among others.

3 33. I have used my programming skills to create complex systems for automatically
4 performing in-depth analyses of employment records to identify wage and hour violations in both
5 individual and collective action settings. I have tried several matters, including multiple
6 employment cases and multiple non-employment cases. My expertise has resulted in obtaining
7 multiple millions of dollars for my clients. I strive to represent individual struggling to enforce
8 their rights and recover what is owed to them from employers who violate California law. At
9 Wilshire Law Firm, I am a Senior Attorney charged with taking resolved class action and PAGA
10 matters and ensuring that they are carried through the approval and distribution process in an
11 efficient manner and in compliance with Court orders.

12 34. My current hourly billing rate is \$900.00 per hour. I believe that this hourly rate is
13 reasonable and appropriate, given my background and experience. I am generally familiar with
14 hourly rates charged by attorneys in both Southern and Northern California whose training and
15 experience are like mine, and I believe my rate is competitive in both markets for attorneys such
16 as myself. Indeed, a commonly used metric for determining reasonable attorney fee rates based
17 upon years of experience, the Laffey Matrix (<http://www.laffeymatrix.com/see.html>), indicates
18 that it would be reasonable for me to charge approximately \$948.00 per hour. Prior to taking on a
19 Senior Attorney role at Wilshire Law Firm, for multiple years my hourly billing rate stagnated at
20 \$650.00 per hour, following Judge Upinder S. Kalra granting the plaintiff's post-trial motion for
21 attorneys' fees and approving my hours and rate billed in the matter of *Parker v. Innovative Speech*
22 *Therapy and Communications Servs., Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV36310,
23 and when Judge Kory Mathewson approved my fee rate for a default judgment in *Segura v. Beyond*
24 *Staffing Solutions, Inc.*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS1908672. While working
25 for Wilshire Law Firm, I have repeatedly been approved as class counsel and my hourly billing
26 rate has been approved for many class and PAGA action settlements. The reasonableness of my
27 firm's hourly rates is also supported by several surveys of legal rates, including the following:
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- a. The 2022 Real Rate Report survey compiled by Wolters Kluwer, which presents the real market rates of Los Angeles area attorneys who practice litigation. For that category, the third quartile 2022 rate was \$1,045 per hour for partners and \$855 for associates. Likewise, page 32 of the Report describes the rates charged by 183 Los Angeles partners with “21 or more years of experience” and “Fewer than 21 years.” For those categories, the third quartile Los Angeles partner rate in 2022 were \$1,133 per hour for 21 or more years and \$1,075 for attorneys with fewer than 21 years. A true and correct copy of portions of the 2022 Real Rate Report is attached hereto as Exhibit 4.
- b. In an article entitled “Big Law Rates Topping \$2,000 Leave Value ‘In Eye of Beholder,’” written by Roy Strom and published by Bloomberg Law on June 9, 2022, the author describes how Big Law firms have crossed the \$2,000-per hour rate. The article also notes that law firm rates have been increasing by just under 3% per year. A true and correct copy of this article is attached hereto as Exhibit 5.

35. Bradford Smith is a Settlement Attorney at Wilshire Law Firm. He graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a Bachelor of Arts in History and received his Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles in 2022. He was admitted to practice law in the State of California in 2022. Before joining Wilshire Law Firm, he worked at a law firm specializing in insurance defense litigation. His focus now is on wage and hour class action litigation.

36. Justin F. Marquez is a former Senior Partner at Wilshire Law Firm who was actively involved in the litigation and resolution of this matter from its inception through December 2024.¹ He graduated from University of California, Los Angeles’s College Honors Program in 2004 with Bachelor of Arts degrees in History and Japanese, *magna cum laude* and *Phi Beta Kappa*. His practice focused primarily on advocating for the rights of consumers and employees in class action litigation and appellate litigation. He received numerous awards for his legal work: from 2017 to

¹ Justin F. Marquez, Christina M. Le, and Arsiné Grigoryan are no longer employed by Wilshire Law Firm and the hours they worked on this matter have been estimated based on the work and pleadings they contributed to this matter.

2020, Super Lawyers selected him as a “Southern California Rising Star,” and from 2022 to 2025, he was selected as a “Southern California Super Lawyer”; he was selected as one of the “Best Lawyers in America” from 2023 to 2025; and in 2024, he, along with his colleagues at Wilshire Law Firm, received a CLAY (California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year) award for their work on a false advertising case against Apple which ultimately led to a \$25 million settlement. He also was selected to speak at multiple CELA conferences throughout his career – in 2019, he spoke on the topic of manageability of class actions at CELA’s 2019 Advanced Wage & Hour Seminar, and in 2024, he spoke on the topic of dealings with multiple cases against the same defendant at CELA’s 2024 Advanced Wage & Hour Seminar. He served as lead or co-lead in negotiating class action settlements worth over \$10 million in gross recovery to class members for each year since 2020, including over \$37.5 million in 2022 and over \$75 million in 2023.

37. Christina M. Le was a Senior Attorney at Wilshire Law Firm. She is admitted to practice in the State of California, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States District Courts for the Central, Southern, Eastern, and Northern Districts of California. She graduated from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, and attended the University of California, Berkeley for her undergraduate studies, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in History. She has over 15 years of litigation experience, which includes the successful handling of numerous employment, wage and hour, and class and representative action matters during the latter half of his career in state and federal court through inception through case resolution. Prior to joining Wilshire Law Firm in November 2021, Ms. Le gained invaluable litigation experience working at various Plaintiffs and defense firms, including Kristensen Weisberg PLC, Jones Bell LLP, Archer Norris PLC, and Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP. Ms. Le is a member of NELA, CELA, CAALA, LACBA, and the Vietnamese Bar Association of Southern California, and has been a recognized speaker on wage and hour topics for some of these organizations at various conferences and seminars.

38. Arsiné Grigoryan was an Associate Attorney at my office. She earned two Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of California, Berkeley in (1) Political Science with an emphasis on international relations and (2) Media Studies. She obtained her Juris Doctor degree from Southwestern Law School. She is presently admitted to practice in all state courts of

1 California (admitted in 2017) and before all federal district courts in California. The focus of her
2 practice at Wilshire Law Firm is currently on class action wage-and-hour law, including Private
3 Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”) matters. Prior to joining Wilshire Law Firm, PLC, she
4 worked at a law firm specializing in wage-and-hour class action cases. She handled more than a
5 dozen active class action matters currently pending and prosecuting multiple PAGA collective
6 action matters in various courts throughout the State of California.

7 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United
8 States that the foregoing is true and correct.

9 Executed on August 15, 2025, in Los Angeles, California.

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12 Alan Wilcox
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Exhibit 1

CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between Plaintiff LORENA YEPEZ (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of the other “Class Members” as defined herein, on the one hand, and Defendant EAST LOS ANGELES REMARKABLE CITIZEN’S ASSOCIATION, INC. (“Defendant”), on the other hand. 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 *Lorena Yopez v. East Los Angeles Remarkable Citizen’s Association, Inc.*, LASC Case No.: 22STCV31819 initiated on September 29, 2022, and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles.
- 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 all current and former non-exempt, hour paid employees who worked for Defendant EAST LOS ANGELES REMARKABLE CITIZEN’S ASSOCIATION, INC., within the State of California at any time during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5. “Class” means all current and former non-exempt, hourly paid employees who worked for Defendant EAST LOS ANGELES REMARKABLE CITIZEN’S ASSOCIATION, INC., within the State of California at any time during the Class Period.
- 1.6. “Class Counsel” means Justin F. Marquez and Arsiné Grigoryan of WILSHIRE LAW FIRM.
- 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 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, attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.
- 1.12. “Class Period” means the period from September 29, 2018 to September 24, 2023.
- 1.13. “Class Representative” means LORENA YEPEZ, 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 Los Angeles.
- 1.16. “Defendant” means East Los Angeles Remarkable Citizen’s Association, INC., the named Defendant in the Action.
- 1.17. “Defense Counsel” means Alfred J. Landegger, Marie D. Davis, and Evelyn Zarraga of LANDEGGER VERANO & DAVIS, ALC.
- 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 (c) if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed or other judicial review is commenced, 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. “Final Judgment” means the Judgment entered by the Court upon Granting Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.22. “Gross Settlement Amount” means \$250,000.00 which is the total amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph 9 below, and not including the employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Counsel Fees, Class Counsel Expenses, Class Representative Service Payment and the Administrator’s Expenses.
- 1.23. “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.
- 1.24. “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.
- 1.25. “Judgment” means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.
- 1.26. “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.27. “LWDA PAGA Payment” means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.28. “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.
- 1.29. “Non-Participating Class Member” means any Class Member who opts out of the Settlement by sending the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.
- 1.30. “PAGA Pay Period” means any pay period that an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant within the State of California as a non-exempt, hourly paid employee during the PAGA Period.
- 1.31. “PAGA Period” means the period from September 29, 2021 to September 24, 2023.

- 1.32. "PAGA" means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).
- 1.33. "PAGA Notice" means Plaintiff Lorena Yepez's September 29, 2022 letter (and any amendments or supplements thereto) to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a).
- 1.34. "PAGA Penalties" means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties (\$20,000.00) to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees (\$5,000.00) and 75% to LWDA (\$15,000.00) in settlement of PAGA claims.
- 1.35. "Participating Class Member" means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.
- 1.36. "Plaintiff" means LORENA YEPEZ, the named plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.37. "Preliminary Approval" means the Court's Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.38. "Preliminary Approval Order" means the proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement to be mutually agreed upon by the Parties prior to Plaintiff's presentation of the same to the Court.
- 1.39. "Released Class Claims" means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.2 below.
- 1.40. "Released PAGA Claims" means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.3 below.
- 1.41. "Released Parties" means: Defendant and each of its former and present directors, officers, principals, trustees, shareholders, owners, members, managers, managing agents, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, DBAs, parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates.
- 1.42. "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.
- 1.43. "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 Settlement, or (b) fax, email, or mail his or her Objection to the Settlement. Class Members to whom Notice Packets are resent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator shall have an additional 14 calendar days beyond the Response Deadline has expired.

- 1.44. “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.45. “Workweeks” means the number of workweeks that a Class Member worked for Defendant within the State of California as a non-exempt employee during the Class Period.

2. RECITALS.

- 2.1. On September 29, 2022, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a Complaint alleging the following causes of action against Defendant: (1) Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, and 1197); (2) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194 and 1198); (3) Failure to Provide Meal Periods (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512); (4) Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods (Cal. Lab. Code § 226.7); (5) Failure to Timely Pay Final Wages at Termination (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201, 202, and 203); (6) Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements (Cal. Lab. Code § 226); (7) Failure to Indemnify Employees for Expenditures (Cal. Lab. Code § 2802); and (8) Unfair Business Practices (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.). On January 13, 2023, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint adding a cause of action for Civil Penalties Under the PAGA (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2699, et seq.). The First Amended Complaint is the operative complaint in the Action (the “Operative Complaint”). Defendant denies each and every allegation in the Operative Complaint, denies any failure to comply with the laws identified in the Operative Complaint, and asserts that it has no liability for the claims of Plaintiff or the Class.
- 2.2. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.
- 2.3. On June 15, 2023, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by experienced wage-and-hour mediator, Lynn Frank, Esq. which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.
- 2.4. Prior to mediation, Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery, a sampling of Class Members’ time and payroll records, Plaintiff’s time and payroll records and personnel file, information related to class size and composition, as well as Defendant’s written wage and hour policies and practices. Plaintiff’s investigation was sufficient to satisfy the criteria for court approval set forth in *Dunk v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1801 and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116, 129-130 (“Dunk/Kullar”).
- 2.5. The Court has not granted class certification.
- 2.6. The Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by the Settlement.

3. MONETARY TERMS.

- 3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 9 below, Defendant promises to pay \$250,000.00 and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount pursuant to Paragraph 4.3 below, and to separately pay Defendant's share of employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments. Defendant has no obligation to pay any portion of the Gross Settlement Amount (or any payroll taxes) prior to the deadlines stated in Paragraph 4.3 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant.
- 3.2. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Final Approval:
- 3.2.1. To Plaintiff: Class Representative Service Payment to the Class Representative of not more than \$5,000.00 (in addition to any Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment the Class Representative is entitled to receive as a Participating Class Member). Defendant will not oppose Plaintiff's request for a Class Representative Service Payment that does not exceed this amount. As part of the motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment, Plaintiff will seek Court approval for any Class Representative Service Payments no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Representative Service Payment less than the amount requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will pay the Class Representative Service Payment using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiff assumes full responsibility and liability for employee taxes owed on the Class Representative Service Payment.
- 3.2.2. To Class Counsel: A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount, which is currently estimated to be \$83,333.33 and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$20,000.00. Defendant will not oppose requests for these payments provided that do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will file a motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Counsel Fees Payment and/or a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to Class Counsel or any other Plaintiff's Counsel arising from any claim to any portion any Class Counsel Fee Payment and/or Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The

Administrator will pay the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. Class Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the Class Counsel Fees Payment and the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds Defendant harmless, and indemnifies Defendant, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these Payments.

- 3.2.3. To the Administrator: An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed \$4,995.00 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the Administration Expenses are less or the Court approves payment less than \$4,995.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.
- 3.2.4. To Each Participating Class Member: An Individual Class Payment calculated by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Participating Class Member's Workweeks.
 - 3.2.4.1. Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. 20% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portions are subject to tax withholding and will be reported on an IRS W-2 Form. 80% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of claims for interest and penalties (the "Non-Wage Portion"). The Non-Wage Portions are not subject to wage withholdings and will be reported on IRS 1099 Forms. Participating Class Members assume full responsibility and liability for any employee taxes owed on their Individual Class Payment. Notwithstanding the treatment of the payments to each Participating Class Member, none of the payments called for by this Agreement, including the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments, are to be treated as earnings, wages, pay or compensation for any purpose of any applicable benefit or retirement plan, nor do any payments under this Agreement extend or alter Class Members' or Aggrieved Employees' period of employment for any purpose.
 - 3.2.4.2. Effect of Non-Participating Class Members on Calculation of Individual Class Payments. Non-Participating Class Members will not receive any Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will retain amounts equal to their Individual Class Payments in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis.

3.2.5. To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties in the amount of \$20,000.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% (\$15,000.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (\$5,000.00) 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 (\$5,000.00) by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA 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. 100% of the PAGA Penalties are allocated as penalties and not as wages. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

4. SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.

4.1. Class Workweeks and Aggrieved Employee Pay Periods. Based on a review of its records, Defendant estimates there are 149 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 12,627 Workweeks, and 67 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total 1,500 PAGA Pay Periods as of June 15, 2023 (i.e., as of the date the Parties participated in mediation).

4.2. Class Data. Not later than 15 business days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendant will simultaneously 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 updated Class Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendant must send the Class Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Class Data.

4.3. Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount, and also fund the amounts necessary to fully pay Defendant's share of employer payroll taxes by transmitting the funds to the Administrator in three installments as follows:

- 4.3.1. Defendant shall pay the First Installment of \$83,334.00 plus an amount sufficient to pay Defendant's share of employer payroll taxes on the Wage Portion of the First Installment by July 1, 2024, or within 30 days after the Effective Date, whichever date comes later.
 - 4.3.2. Defendant shall pay the Second Installment of \$83,333.00 plus an amount sufficient to pay Defendant's share of employer payroll taxes on the Wage Portion of the Second Installment by July 1, 2025, or within 1 year and 30 days after the Effective Date, whichever date comes later.
 - 4.3.3. Defendant shall pay the Third Installment of \$83,333.00 by July 1, 2026, or within 2 years and 30 days after the Effective Date, whichever date comes later.
- 4.4. Cure Provision. In the event Defendant fails to make any payment on the date it is due as set forth in this Agreement, the Settlement Administrator will provide notice to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel within 3 business days of the missed payment. Thereafter, Defendant will have 30 days to cure the untimely payment. Defendant shall make any payment under this provision pursuant to the Settlement Administrator's payment instructions. Defendant's payment obligations with respect to any installment payment and any cure shall be met upon initiating the electronic transfer of funds to the Settlement Administrator, pursuant to its instructions. In the event of an unsuccessful electronic transfer of funds, the Parties agree to cooperate in good faith to resolve the issues.
- 4.5. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within 14 days after Defendant funds the Second Installment plus Defendant's share of employer payroll taxes, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment. The Settlement Administrator shall also set aside the Employer Taxes and all employee-side payroll taxes, contributions, and withholdings, and timely forward these to the appropriate government authorities. Within 14 days after Defendant funds the Third Installment the Settlement Administrator will issue the Administration Expenses Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, and the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. Disbursement of the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and the Class Representative Service Payment shall not precede disbursement of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments.
 - 4.5.1. The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual Class Payments and/or Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Class Members via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (not less than 180 days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided. The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. The Administrator will send checks for

Individual Settlement Payments to all Participating Class Members (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator will send checks for Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees including Non-Participating Class Members who qualify as Aggrieved Employees (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator may send Participating Class Members a 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 National Change of Address Database.

- 4.5.2. The Administrator must conduct a Class Member Address Search for all other Class Members whose checks are returned undelivered without 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.
- 4.5.3. 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 Section 384, subd. (b).
- 4.5.4. 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. In addition to the Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims described below, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of her respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all claims, transactions, occurrences, demands, rights, liabilities and causes of action of every nature and description whatsoever, whether known or unknown, asserted or that might have been asserted, whether in tort, contract, or for

violation of any state or federal statute, rule, law or regulation arising out of, relating to, or in connection with any act or omission of the Released Parties through the date of full execution of this Settlement Agreement. (“Plaintiff’s Release.”) Plaintiff’s Release does not extend to any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to those rights that as a matter of law cannot be waived, including, but not limited to any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, or workers’ compensation benefits. Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff’s Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff’s discovery of them.

5.1.1. Plaintiff’s Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542. For purposes of Plaintiff’s Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

“A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor 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.”

5.2. Release by Participating Class Members: All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from any and all claims that were or reasonably could have been alleged in the Operative Complaint that arose during the Class Period including the following claims: (a) failure to pay minimum wages owed; (b) failure to pay all overtime wages owed; (c) failure to provide meal periods, or premium pay for non-compliant meal periods; (d) failure to authorize and permit rest periods, or provide premium pay for non-compliant rest periods; (e) failure to timely pay all wages due upon separation of employment; (f) failure to timely pay all wages due during employment; (g) failure to issue accurate, itemized wage statements and maintain payroll records; (h) failure to reimburse for necessary business expenses; (i) all claims under California Business & Professions Code § 17200 for unfair business practices that could have been premised on the facts, claims, causes of action or legal theories described above; (j) violation of or claims under the following sections of the California Labor Code, sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, 1174, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, 2802; and (j) violation of the California Industrial Wage Orders that could have been premised on the facts, claims, causes of action or legal theories described above, as well as any potential penalties, interest or attorneys’ fees associated with all of such causes of action under California law. (“Released Class Claims”). Except for Plaintiff’s Release by Plaintiff and as set forth in Section 5.3 of this Agreement, Participating Class

Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.

- 5.3. Released PAGA Claims by Aggrieved Employees: All Aggrieved Employees, regardless of whether they are Participating Class Members or Non-Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release the Released Parties from all claims, demands, rights, liabilities and causes of action under the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the claims asserted in the Operative Complaint, the PAGA Notice (including any amendments thereto) and ascertained in the course of the Action, arising during or with respect to the PAGA Period. ("Released PAGA Claims"). The foregoing release shall be binding on Plaintiff, the Aggrieved Employees, and the State of California, and shall bar by res judicata any claim under the PAGA brought by any person, including the Aggrieved Employees, on behalf of the State of California, as to any claims predicated on the Released PAGA Claims. Except for Released Class Claims being released by Participating Class Members as set forth in Section 5.2 of this Agreement, Aggrieved Employees do not release any other claims, including the underlying individual wage-and-hour claims upon which the Released PAGA Claims are based on.

6. **MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL.** The Parties agree to jointly prepare and file a motion for preliminary approval ("Motion for Preliminary Approval") that complies with the Court's current checklist for Preliminary Approvals.

- 6.1. Defendant's Declaration in Support of Preliminary Approval. Defendant is not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement. Defendant and Defense Counsel are not aware of any potential conflicts of interest with the Administrator.
- 6.2. Plaintiff's Responsibilities. Plaintiff will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all documents necessary for obtaining Preliminary Approval, including: (i) a draft of the notice, and memorandum in support, of the Motion for Preliminary Approval that includes an analysis of the Settlement under *Dunk/Kullar* and a request for approval of the PAGA Settlement under Labor Code Section 2699, subd. (f)(2)); (ii) a draft proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement; (iii) a draft proposed Class Notice; (iv) a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its "not to exceed" bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve; competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Class Data; amounts of insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members; and the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant, or Defense Counsel;

(v) a signed declaration from Plaintiff confirming willingness and competency to serve and disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members, and/or the Administrator; and (vi) a signed declaration from each Class Counsel firm attesting to its competency to represent the Class Members; its timely transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (initial notice of violations (Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a)), the Operative Complaint (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (1)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (1)(2)); and all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members, and/or the Administrator. In their Declarations, Plaintiff and Class Counsel Declaration shall aver that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.

- 6.3. Responsibilities of Counsel. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than 30 days after the full execution of this Agreement; obtaining a prompt hearing date for the Motion for Preliminary Approval; and for appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the Motion for Preliminary Approval. Class Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Preliminary Approval to the Administrator.
- 6.4. Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed Motion for Preliminary Approval and/or the supporting declarations and documents, 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 resolve the disagreement. If the Court does 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, including without limitation, calculating the Individual Class Payments to be issued to Participating Class Members, Individual PAGA Payment to be issued to Aggrieved Employees, sending notices and translating same to Spanish, sending notices, preparing all checks and mailings, establishing a qualified settlement fund and holding the various payments from Defendant comprising the Gross Settlement Amount and employer payroll taxes. 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. Tax Reporting. The Administrator will be responsible for calculating the applicable taxes and withholdings, including Defendant's employer payroll taxes owed, on the Individual Class Payments, and for paying the taxes and withholdings to the applicable taxing or governmental authorities with the necessary reports, and submitting copies to Defense Counsel. The Administrator shall issue to Participating Class Members IRS Forms W-2 for the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments, IRS Forms 1099 for the Non-Wage Portions, and IRS Forms 1099 to Aggrieved Employees for Individual PAGA Payments, as described in this Agreement.
- 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 section 468B-1.
- 7.4. Notice to Class Members.
- 7.4.1. No later than 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 14 days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator will send to all Class Members identified in the Class Data, via first-class United States Postal Service ("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 amounts of any Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment payable to the Class Member, and the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if applicable) used to calculate these amounts. Before mailing Class Notices, the Administrator shall update Class Member addresses using the National Change of Address database.
- 7.4.3. Not later than 3 business days after the Administrator's receipt of any Class Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the Class Notice using any forwarding address provided by the USPS. If the USPS does not provide a forwarding address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class Member Address Search, and re-mail the Class Notice to the most current address obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further attempts to locate or send Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by the USPS a second time.
- 7.4.4. The deadlines for Class Members' written objections, Challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional 14 days beyond the 45 days otherwise provided in

the Class Notice for all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.

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

7.5. Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs).

- 7.5.1. Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) the Class Settlement must send the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail, a signed written Request for Exclusion not later than 45 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed). A Request for Exclusion is a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative that reasonably communicates the Class Member's election to be excluded from the Settlement and includes the Class Member's name, address and email address or telephone number. To be valid, a Request for Exclusion must be timely faxed, emailed, or postmarked by the Response Deadline.
- 7.5.2. The Administrator may not reject a Request for Exclusion as invalid because it fails to contain all the information specified in the Class Notice. The Administrator shall accept any Request for Exclusion as valid if the Administrator can reasonably ascertain the identity of the person as a Class Member and the Class Member's desire to be excluded. The Administrator's determination shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. If the Administrator has reason to question the authenticity of a Request for Exclusion, the Administrator may demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity. The Administrator's determination of authenticity shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.
- 7.5.3. Every Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion is deemed to be a Participating Class Member under this Agreement, entitled to all benefits and bound by all terms and conditions of the Settlement, including the Participating Class Members' Releases under Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of this Agreement, regardless of whether the

Participating Class Member actually receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.

7.5.4. Every Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion is a Non-Participating Class Member and shall not receive an Individual Class Payment or have the right to object to the class action components of the Settlement. Because future PAGA claims are subject to claim preclusion upon entry of the Judgment, Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release the claims identified in Paragraph 5.3 of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.

7.6. Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks. Each Class Member shall have 45 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if any) allocated to the Class Member in the Class Notice. The Class Member may challenge the allocation by communicating with the Administrator via fax, email or mail. The Administrator must encourage the challenging Class Member to submit supporting documentation. In the absence of any contrary documentation, the Administrator is entitled to presume that the Workweeks contained in the Class Notice are correct so long as they are consistent with the Class Data. The Administrator's determination of each Class Member's allocation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. The Administrator shall promptly provide copies of all challenges to calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel and the Administrator's determination the challenges.

7.7. Objections to Settlement.

7.7.1. Only Participating Class Members may object to the class action components of 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 (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice was re-mailed).

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, 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 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 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 of Class Members who have timely submitted valid Requests for Exclusion (“Exclusion List”); and (b) the names of Class Members who have submitted invalid Requests for Exclusion.
- 7.8.3. Weekly Reports. The Administrator must, on a weekly basis, provide written reports to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel that, among other things, tally the number of: Class Notices mailed or re-mailed, Class Notices returned undelivered, Requests for Exclusion (whether valid or invalid) received, objections received, challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods received and/or resolved, and checks mailed for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments (“Weekly Report”). The Weekly Reports must include the Administrator’s assessment of the validity of Requests for Exclusion and attach copies of all Requests for Exclusion and objections received.
- 7.8.4. Workweek and/or Pay Period Challenges. The Administrator has the authority to address and make final decisions consistent with the terms of this Agreement on all Class Member challenges over the calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods. The Administrator’s decision shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.
- 7.8.5. Administrator’s Declaration. Not later than 14 days before the date by which Plaintiff is required to file the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, the Administrator will provide to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its due

diligence and compliance 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 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 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 there are 149 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 12,627 Workweeks as of June 15, 2023 (i.e., as of the date the Parties participated in mediation). Should the total number of Workweeks worked by Participating Class Members during the Class Period increase by more than 10% of this figure (i.e., by more than 1,262 Workweeks), Defendant shall increase the Gross Settlement Amount on a pro-rata basis equal to the percentage increase in the number of Workweeks worked by Participating Class Members above 10% (i.e., if there is a 12% increase in the number of Workweeks worked by Participating Class Members, Defendant shall increase the Gross Settlement Amount by 2%).
9. **DEFENDANT'S RIGHT TO WITHDRAW.** If the number of valid Requests for Exclusion identified in the Exclusion List exceeds 7% of the total of all Class Members, Defendant may, but is not obligated to, elect 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 Agreement; provided, however, Defendant will remain responsible for paying all Settlement Administration Expenses incurred to that point. Defendant must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its election to withdraw not later than 14 days after the Administrator sends the final Exclusion List to Defense Counsel; late elections will have no effect.
10. **MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.** Not later than 16 court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff will file in Court, a motion for final approval of the Settlement that includes a request for approval of the PAGA settlement under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l), a Proposed Final Approval Order and a proposed Judgment

(collectively “Motion for Final Approval”). Plaintiff shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel not later than 7 days prior to filing the Motion for Final Approval. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve any disagreements concerning the Motion for Final Approval.

- 10.1. Response to Objections. Each Party retains the right to respond to any objection raised by a Participating Class Member, including the right to file responsive documents in Court no later than 5 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered or accepted by the Court.
- 10.2. Duty to Cooperate. If the Court does not grant Final Approval or conditions Final Approval on any material change to the Settlement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), the Parties will expeditiously work together in good faith to address the Court’s concerns by revising the Agreement as necessary to obtain Final Approval. The Court’s decision to award less than the amounts requested for the Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Administrator Expenses Payment shall not constitute a material modification to the Agreement within the meaning of this paragraph.
- 10.3. Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court. The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.
- 10.4. Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment 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, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.
- 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 section 384, the Parties will work together in good faith to jointly submit 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 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 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's 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 Cal. Evid. 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 the destructions, of Class Data.
- 12.15. Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.
- 12.16. Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to "days" in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.
- 12.17. Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff:
Justin F. Marquez
justin@wilshirelawfirm.com

Christina M. Le
cle@wilshirelawfirm.com
Arsiné Grigoryan
agrigorian@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
3055 Wilshire Blvd., 12th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90010
Telephone: (213) 381-9988
Facsimile: (213) 381-9989

To Defendant:
Alfred Landegger
alfred@landeggeresq.com
Marie D. Davis
marie@landeggeresq.com
Evelyn Zarraga
evelyn@landeggeresq.com
LANDEGGER VERANO & DAVIS, ALC
15760 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 1200
Encino, California 91436
Telephone: (818) 986-7561

- 12.18. Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.
- 12.19. Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

DATED: _____

PLAINTIFF Lorena Yepez

Lorena Yepez,
Individually and as Class Representative

Christina M. Le
cle@wilshirelawfirm.com
Arsiné Grigoryan
agrigorian@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
3055 Wilshire Blvd., 12th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90010
Telephone: (213) 381-9988
Facsimile: (213) 381-9989

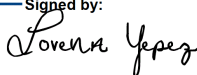
To Defendant:
Alfred Landegger
alfred@landeggeresq.com
Marie D. Davis
marie@landeggeresq.com
Evelyn Zarraga
evelyn@landeggeresq.com
LANDEGGER VERANO & DAVIS, ALC
15760 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 1200
Encino, California 91436
Telephone: (818) 986-7561

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

12.19. Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

DATED: 9/16/2024 _____

PLAINTIFF Lorena Yepez

Signed by:

08940107DB2C485...

Lorena Yepez,
Individually and as Class Representative

DATED: _____

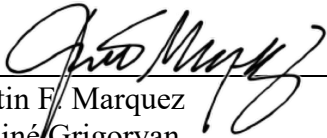
DEFENDANT East Los Angeles Remarkable
Citizen's Association Inc.

By: Dr. John M. Menchaca, CEO

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DATED: 09/13/2024

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM


Justin F. Marquez
Arsiné Grigoryan

Counsel for Plaintiff Lorena Yopez

DATED: _____

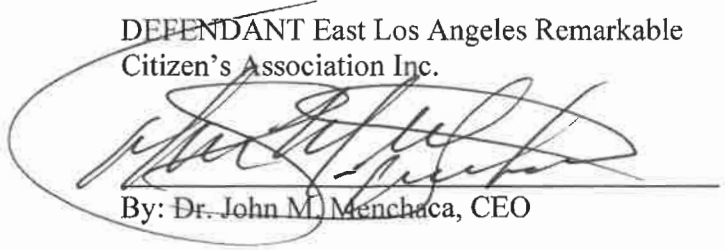
LANDEGGER, VERANO, & DAVIS, ALC

Alfred J. Landegger
Marie D. Davis
Evelyn Zarraga

Counsel for Defendant East Los Angeles
Remarkable Citizen's Association Inc.

DATED: 9/13/2024

DEFENDANT East Los Angeles Remarkable
Citizen's Association Inc.



By: Dr. John M. Menchaca, CEO

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DATED: _____

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM

Justin F. Marquez
Arsiné Grigoryan

Counsel for Plaintiff Lorena Yopez

DATED: 9/13/2024

LANDEGGER, VERANO, & DAVIS, ALC



Alfred J. Landegger
Marie D. Davis
Evelyn Zarraga

Counsel for Defendant East Los Angeles
Remarkable Citizen's Association Inc.

EXHIBIT A

**COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING
DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL**

Lorena Yepez v. East Los Angeles Remarkable Citizen's Association, Inc.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: 22STCV31819

***The Superior Court for the State of California authorized this Notice. Read it carefully!
It's not junk mail, spam, an advertisement, or solicitation by a lawyer. You are not being sued.***

You may be eligible to receive money from an employee class action lawsuit ("Action") against EAST LOS ANGELES REMARKABLE CITIZEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC., ("Defendant") for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by LORENA YEPEZ, a former employee of Defendant ("Plaintiff") and seeks payment of (1) back wages and other relief for a class of all current and former non-exempt, hourly paid employees who worked for Defendant within the State of California at any time during the Class Period of September 29, 2018 to September 24, 2023 ("Class Members"); and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA") for all current and former non-exempt, hourly paid employees who worked for Defendant within the State of California during the PAGA Period of September 29, 2021 to September 24, 2023 ("Aggrieved Employees").

The proposed Settlement has two main parts: (1) a Class Settlement requiring Defendant to fund Individual Class Payments, and (2) a PAGA Settlement requiring Defendant to fund Individual PAGA Payments and pay penalties to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA").

Based on Defendant's records, and the Parties' current assumptions, **your Individual Class Payment is estimated to be \$ [REDACTED] (less withholding) and your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$ [REDACTED]**. The actual amount you may receive likely will be different and will depend on a number of factors. (If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment, then according to Defendant's records you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you didn't work during the PAGA Period.)

The above estimates are based on Defendant's records showing that **you worked [REDACTED] workweeks during the Class Period and you worked [REDACTED] pay periods during the PAGA Period**. If you believe that you worked more workweeks/pay periods during either period, you can submit a challenge by the deadline date. See Section 4 of this Notice.

The Court has already preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement and approved this Notice. The Court has not yet decided whether to grant final approval. Your legal rights are affected whether you act or not act. Read this Notice carefully. You will be deemed to have carefully read and understood it. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will decide whether to finally approve the Settlement and how much of the Settlement will be paid to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's attorneys ("Class Counsel"). The Court will also decide whether to enter a judgment that requires Defendant to make payments under the Settlement and requires Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against Defendant.

If you worked for Defendant during the Class Period and/or the PAGA Period, you have two basic options under the Settlement:

- (1) **Do Nothing.** You don't have to do anything to participate in the proposed Settlement and be eligible for an Individual Class Payment and/or an Individual PAGA Payment. As a Participating Class Member, though, you will give up your right to assert Class Period wage claims and PAGA Period penalty claims against Defendant.
- (2) **Opt-Out of the Class Settlement.** You can exclude yourself from the Class Settlement (opt-out) by submitting a written Request for Exclusion notifying the Administrator of your request to be excluded. If you opt-out of the Settlement, you will not receive an Individual Class Payment. You will, however, preserve your right to personally pursue Class Period wage claims against Defendant. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. If you are an Aggrieved Employee, you will remain eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment regardless of whether you opt-out of the Class Settlement.

Defendant will not retaliate against you for any actions you take with respect to the proposed Settlement.

SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT

You Don't Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement.	If you do nothing, you will be a Participating Class Member, eligible for an Individual Class Payment and an Individual PAGA Payment (if any). In exchange, you will give up your right to assert the wage claims against Defendant that are covered by this Settlement (Released Claims).
You Can Opt-out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement. The Opt-out Deadline is .	If you don't want to fully participate in the proposed Settlement, you can opt-out of the Class Settlement by sending the Administrator a written Request for Exclusion. Once excluded, you will be a Non-Participating Class Member and no longer eligible for an Individual Class Payment. Non-Participating Class Members cannot object to any portion of the proposed Settlement. See Section 6 of this Notice. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. Defendant must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees and the Aggrieved Employees must give up their rights to pursue Released PAGA Claims (defined below).
Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement.	All Class Members who do not opt-out ("Participating Class Members") can object to any aspect of the proposed Settlement. The Court's decision whether to finally approve the Settlement will include a determination of how much will be paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff who pursued the Action on behalf of the Class. You are

Written Objections Must be Submitted by [REDACTED].	not personally responsible for any payments to Class Counsel or Plaintiff, but every dollar paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff reduces the overall amount paid to Participating Class Members. You can object to the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiff if you think they are unreasonable. See Section 7 of this Notice.
You Can Participate in the [REDACTED] Final Approval Hearing.	The Court's Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on [REDACTED]. You don't have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone, or by using the Court's virtual appearance platform. Participating Class Members can verbally object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing. See Section 8 of this Notice.
You Can Challenge the Calculation of Your Workweeks/Pay Periods. Written Challenges Must be Submitted by [REDACTED].	The amount of your Individual Class Payment and PAGA Payment (if any) depend on how many workweeks you worked during the Class Period and how many Pay Periods you worked during the PAGA Period, respectively. The number of Class Period Workweeks and number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked according to Defendant's records is stated on the first page of this Notice. If you disagree with either of these numbers, you must challenge it by [REDACTED]. See Section 4 of this Notice.

1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?

Plaintiff is a former employee of Defendant. The Action accuses Defendant of violating California labor laws by failing to pay overtime wages, minimum wages, wages due upon termination and reimbursable expenses and failing to provide compliant meal periods, rest breaks and accurate itemized wage statements. Based on the same claims, Plaintiff has also asserted a claim for civil penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq.) ("PAGA"). Plaintiff is represented by attorneys in the Action: Wilshire Law Firm. ("Class Counsel."). Defendant strongly denies violating any laws or failing to pay any wages and contends it complied with all applicable laws. Defendant is represented by attorneys in the Action: Landegger Verano & Davis, ALC ("Defense Counsel.").

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE ACTION HAS SETTLED?

So far, the Court has made no determination whether Defendant or Plaintiff is correct on the merits. In the meantime, Plaintiff and Defendant hired an experienced, neutral mediator in an effort to resolve the Action by negotiating an end to the case by agreement (settle the case) rather than continuing the expensive and time-consuming process of litigation. The negotiations were successful. By signing a lengthy written settlement agreement ("Agreement") and agreeing to jointly ask the Court to enter a judgment ending the Action and enforcing the Agreement, Plaintiff and Defendant have negotiated a proposed Settlement that is subject to the Court's Final Approval.

Both sides agree the proposed Settlement is a compromise of disputed claims. By agreeing to settle, Defendant does not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims.

Plaintiff and Class Counsel strongly believe the Settlement is a good deal for you because they believe that: (1) Defendant has agreed to pay a fair, reasonable and adequate amount considering the strength of the claims and the risks and uncertainties of continued litigation; and (2) Settlement is in the best interests of the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. The Court preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, authorized this Notice, and scheduled a hearing to determine Final Approval.

3. WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT TERMS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

- (1) Defendant Will Pay \$250,000.00 as the Gross Settlement Amount (“Gross Settlement”). Defendant has agreed to deposit the Gross Settlement into an account controlled by the Administrator of the Settlement in three installments. Assuming the Court grants Final Approval, Defendant will fund the Gross Settlement in three installments as follows:
 - a) Defendant will make the First Installment payment of \$83,333.00 by July 1, 2024, or within 30 days after the Judgment entered by the Court becomes final, whichever date comes later. The Judgment will be final on the date the Court enters Judgment granting Final Approval of the Settlement, or a later date if Participating Class Members object to the proposed Settlement or the Judgment is appealed.
 - b) Defendant will make the Second Installment payment of \$83,333.00 by July 1, 2025, or within 1 year and 30 days after the Judgment entered by the Court becomes final, whichever date comes later.
 - c) Defendant will make the Third Installment of \$83,333.00 by July 1, 2026, or within 2 years and 30 days after the Judgment entered by the Court becomes final, whichever date comes later.

The Administrator will use the Gross Settlement to pay the Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel’s attorney’s fees and expenses, the Administrator’s expenses, and penalties to be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”). The Individual Class Payments shall be paid from the first two installments. Within 14 days after Defendant funds the Second Installment plus Defendant’s share of employer payroll taxes, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment.

- (2) Court Approved Deductions from Gross Settlement. At the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve the following deductions from the Gross Settlement, the amounts of which will be decided by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing:

- a) Up to \$83,333.33 (one-third of the Gross Settlement) to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and up to \$20,000.00 for their litigation expenses. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.
- b) Up to \$5,000 as a Class Representative Service Payment for filing the Action, working with Class Counsel and representing the Class. A Class Representative Service Payment will be the only monies Plaintiff will receive other than Plaintiff's Individual Class Payment.
- c) Up to \$4,995.00 to the Administrator for services administering the Settlement.
- d) Up to \$20,000.00 for PAGA Penalties, allocated 75% to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% in Individual PAGA Payments to the Aggrieved Employees based on their PAGA Pay Periods.

Participating Class Members have the right to object to any of these deductions. The Court will consider all objections.

- (3) Net Settlement Distributed to Class Members. After making the above deductions in amounts approved by the Court, the Administrator will distribute the rest of the Gross Settlement (the "Net Settlement") by making Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members based on their Class Period Workweeks.
- (4) Taxes Owed on Payments to Class Members. Plaintiff and Defendant are asking the Court to approve an allocation of 20% of each Individual Class Payment to taxable wages ("Wage Portion") and 80% to interest and penalties ("Non-Wage Portion."). The Wage Portion is subject to withholdings and will be reported on IRS W-2 Forms. Defendant will separately pay employer payroll taxes it owes on the Wage Portion. The Individual PAGA Payments are counted as penalties rather than wages for tax purposes. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments and the Non-Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

Although Plaintiff and Defendant have agreed to these allocations, neither side is giving you any advice on whether your Payments are taxable or how much you might owe in taxes. You are responsible for paying all taxes (including penalties and interest on back taxes, if applicable) on any Payments received from the proposed Settlement. You should consult a tax advisor if you have any questions about the tax consequences of the proposed Settlement.

- (5) Need to Promptly Cash Payment Checks. The front of every check issued for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments will show the date when the check expires (the void date). If you don't cash it by the void date, your check will be automatically cancelled, and the monies will be deposited with the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in your name. If the monies represented by your check is sent to the Controller's Unclaimed Property, you should consult the rules of the Fund for instructions on how to retrieve your money. https://www.sco.ca.gov/search_upd.html

- (6) Requests for Exclusion from the Class Settlement (Opt-Outs). You will be treated as a Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Class Settlement, unless you notify the Administrator in writing, not later than [REDACTED], that you wish to opt-out. The easiest way to notify the Administrator is to send a written and signed Request for Exclusion by the [REDACTED] Response Deadline. The Request for Exclusion should be a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative setting forth a Class Member's name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement electing to be excluded from the Settlement. Excluded Class Members (i.e., Non-Participating Class Members) will not receive Individual Class Payments, but will preserve their rights to personally pursue wage and hour claims against Defendant.

You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Class Members who exclude themselves from the Class Settlement (Non-Participating Class Members) who are Aggrieved Employees remain eligible for Individual PAGA Payments and are required to give up their right to assert PAGA claims against Defendant based on the PAGA claims alleged in the Action.

- (7) The Proposed Settlement Will be Void if the Court Denies Final Approval. It is possible the Court will decline to grant Final Approval of the Settlement or decline to enter a Judgment. It is also possible the Court will enter a Judgment that is reversed on appeal. Plaintiff and Defendant have agreed that, in either case, the Settlement will be void: Defendant will not pay any money and Class Members will not release any claims against Defendant.
- (8) Administrator. The Court has appointed a neutral company, [REDACTED] (the "Administrator") to send this Notice, calculate and make payments, and process Class Members' Requests for Exclusion. The Administrator will also decide Class Member Challenges over Workweeks, mail and re-mail settlement checks and tax forms, and perform other tasks necessary to administer the Settlement. The Administrator's contact information is contained in Section 9 of this Notice.
- (9) Participating Class Members' Release. After the Judgment is final and Defendant has fully funded the Gross Settlement and separately paid all employer payroll taxes, Participating Class Members will be legally barred from asserting any of the "Released Class Claims" released under the Settlement. This means that unless you opted out by validly excluding yourself from the Class Settlement, you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendant or its related entities based on the Class claims alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

The Participating Class Members will be bound by the release of the following "Released Class Claims":

All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from any

and all claims that were or reasonably could have been alleged in the operative complaint in the Action that arose during the Class Period including the following claims: (a) failure to pay minimum wages owed; (b) failure to pay all overtime wages owed; (c) failure to provide meal periods, or premium pay for non-compliant meal periods; (d) failure to authorize and permit rest periods, or provide premium pay for non-compliant rest periods; (e) failure to timely pay all wages due upon separation of employment; (f) failure to timely pay all wages due during employment; (g) failure to issue accurate, itemized wage statements and maintain payroll records; (h) failure to reimburse for necessary business expenses; (i) all claims under California Business & Professions Code § 17200 for unfair business practices that could have been premised on the facts, claims, causes of action or legal theories described above; (j) violation of or claims under the following sections of the California Labor Code, sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, 1174, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, 2802; and (j) violation of the California Industrial Wage Orders that could have been premised on the facts, claims, causes of action or legal theories described above, as well as any potential penalties, interest or attorneys' fees associated with all of such causes of action under California law. Except for Released PAGA Claims being released by Aggrieved Employees, Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.

The "Released Parties" means: Defendant and each of its former and present directors, officers, principals, trustees, shareholders, owners, members, managers, managing agents, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, DBAs, parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates.

- (10) Aggrieved Employees' PAGA Release. After the Court's judgment is final, and Defendant has fully funded the Gross Settlement and separately paid all employer payroll taxes, all Aggrieved Employees will be barred from asserting any of the "Released PAGA Claims" against Defendant, whether or not they exclude themselves from the Settlement. This means that all Aggrieved Employees, including those who are Participating Class Members and those who opt-out of the Class Settlement, cannot sue, continue to sue, or participate in any other PAGA claim against Defendant or its related entities based on the PAGA claims alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

The Aggrieved Employees' will be bound by the release of the following "Released PAGA Claims":

All Aggrieved Employees, regardless of whether they are Participating Class Members or Non-Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and

their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release the Released Parties from all claims, demands, rights, liabilities and causes of action under the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the claims asserted in the operative complaint in the Action, the PAGA Notice (including any amendments thereto) and ascertained in the course of the Action, arising during or with respect to the PAGA Period. The foregoing release shall be binding on Plaintiff, the Aggrieved Employees, and the State of California, and shall bar by res judicata any claim under the PAGA brought by any person, including the Aggrieved Employees, on behalf of the State of California, as to any claims predicated on the Released PAGA Claims. Except for Released Class Claims being released by Participating Class Members, Aggrieved Employees do not release any other claims, including the underlying individual wage-and-hour claims upon which the Released PAGA Claims are based on.

4. HOW WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR CALCULATE MY PAYMENT?

- (1) Individual Class Payments. The “Net Settlement Amount” is calculated by deducting from the Gross Settlement Amount the amounts approved by the Court for the 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. The Administrator will calculate Individual Class Payments by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members, and (b) multiplying the result by the number of Workweeks worked by each individual Participating Class Member.
- (2) Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing the 25% share of the PAGA Penalties (\$5,000.00) by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees and (b) multiplying the result by the number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by each individual Aggrieved Employee.
- (3) Workweek/Pay Period Challenges. The number of Class Workweeks you worked during the Class Period and the number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked during the PAGA Period, as recorded in Defendant’s records are stated in the first page of this Notice. You have **until** to challenge the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you. You can submit your challenge by signing and sending a letter to the Administrator via mail. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator’s contact information. You need to support your challenge by sending copies of pay stubs or other records. The Administrator will accept Defendant’s calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods based on Defendant’s records as accurate unless you send copies of records containing contrary

information. You should send copies rather than originals because the documents will not be returned to you. The Administrator will resolve Workweek and/or Pay Period challenges based on your submission and on input from Class Counsel (who will advocate on behalf of Participating Class Members) and Defendant's Counsel. The Administrator's decision is final. You can't appeal or otherwise challenge its final decision.

5. HOW WILL I GET PAID?

- (1) Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single check to every Participating Class Member (i.e., every Class Member who doesn't opt-out) including those who also qualify as Aggrieved Employees. The single check will combine the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment, if any.
- (2) Non-Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single Individual PAGA Payment check to every Aggrieved Employee, including those who opt out of the Class Settlement (i.e., every Non-Participating Class Member who is an Aggrieved Employee).

Your check will be sent to the same address as this Notice. If you change your address, be sure to notify the Administrator as soon as possible. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

6. HOW DO I OPT-OUT OF THE CLASS SETTLEMENT?

Submit a written and signed letter with your name, present address, telephone number, the last four digits of your social security number, and a simple statement that you do not want to participate in the Settlement. The Administrator will exclude you based on any writing communicating your request to be excluded. Be sure to personally sign your request, identify the Action as *Lorena Yopez v. East Los Angeles Remarkable Citizen's Association Inc.*, and include your identifying information (full name, address, telephone number, approximate dates of employment, and the last four digits of your social security number for verification purposes). You must make the request yourself. If someone else makes the request for you, it will not be valid. **The Administrator must be sent your request to be excluded by _____, or it will be invalid. Section 9 of the Notice has the Administrator's contact information.**

7. HOW DO I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT?

Only Participating Class Members have the right to object to the Settlement. Before deciding whether to object, you may wish to see what Plaintiff and Defendant are asking the Court to approve. At least 16 court days before the _____ **Final Approval Hearing**, Class Counsel and/or Plaintiff will file in Court (1) a Motion for Final Approval that includes, among other things, the reasons why the proposed Settlement is fair, and (2) a Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Class Representative Service Payment stating (i) the amount Class Counsel is requesting for attorneys' fees and litigation expenses; and (ii) the amount Plaintiff is requesting as a Class

Representative Service Payment. Upon reasonable request, Class Counsel (whose contact information is in Section 9 of this Notice) will send you copies of these documents at no cost to you. You can also view them on the **Administrator's Website: _____ (url)** or the Court's website: <https://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/>.

A Participating Class Member who disagrees with any aspect of the Agreement, the Motion for Final Approval and/or Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Class Representative Service Payment may wish to object, for example, that the proposed Settlement is unfair, or that the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiff are too high or too low. **The deadline for sending written objections to the Administrator is _____.** Be sure to tell the Administrator what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. Make sure you identify the Action *Lorena Yepez v. East Los Angeles Remarkable Citizen's Association, Inc.* and include your name, current address, telephone number, and approximate dates of employment for Defendant and sign the objection. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

Alternatively, a Participating Class Member can object (or personally retain a lawyer to object at your own cost) by attending the Final Approval Hearing. You (or your attorney) should be ready to tell the Court what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. See Section 8 of this Notice (immediately below) for specifics regarding the Final Approval Hearing.

8. CAN I ATTEND THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING?

You can, but don't have to, attend the Final Approval Hearing on _____ at _____ in Department 11 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. At the Hearing, the judge will decide whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and how much of the Gross Settlement will be paid to Class Counsel, Plaintiff, and the Administrator. The Court will invite comment from objectors, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel before making a decision. You can attend (or hire a lawyer to attend) either personally or virtually via LACourtConnect (<https://www.lacourt.org/lacc/>). Check the Court's website for the most current information.

It's possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the Administrator's **website _____ (url)** beforehand or contact Class Counsel to verify the date and time of the Final Approval Hearing.

9. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The Agreement sets forth everything Defendant and Plaintiff have promised to do under the proposed Settlement. The easiest way to read the Agreement, the Judgment or any other Settlement documents is to go **to _____ (specify entity) 's website at _____ (url)**. You can also telephone or send an email to Class Counsel or the Administrator using the contact information listed below, or consult the Superior Court website by going to (<http://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/index.aspx>) and entering the Case Number for the Action, Case No. 22STCV31819. You can also make an appointment to personally review court

documents in the Clerk's Office at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse by calling (213) 830-0800.

**DO NOT TELEPHONE THE SUPERIOR COURT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION
ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT.**

Settlement Administrator:

Administrator Name

Email Address

Mailing Address

Telephone

Fax Number

Attorneys for the Plaintiff Lorena Yopez and Settlement Class Members:

Justin F. Marquez

justin.marquez@wilshirelawfirm.com

Arsiné Grigoryan

arsine.grigoryan@wilshirelawfirm.com

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM

3055 Wilshire Blvd., 12th Floor

Los Angeles, California 90010

Telephone: (213) 381-9988

Facsimile: (213) 381-9989

10. WHAT IF I LOSE MY SETTLEMENT CHECK?

If you lose or misplace your settlement check before cashing it, the Administrator will replace it as long as you request a replacement before the void date on the face of the original check. If your check is already void you should consult the Unclaimed Property Fund for instructions on how to retrieve the funds.

11. WHAT IF I CHANGE MY ADDRESS?

To receive your check, you should immediately notify the Administrator if you move or otherwise change your mailing address.

**PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE CLERK OF THE COURT, THE JUDGE, OR
DEFENDANT WITH INQUIRIES.**

The statements in this document are not findings by a court of law. These statements are not an expression of opinion or approval by a judge. This notice is based only on statements by the Parties to this Lawsuit. You received this notice to help you decide what steps, if any, to take about this Lawsuit.

Exhibit 2

IMPORTANT NOTICE OF REDACTION RESPONSIBILITY: All filers must redact: Social Security or taxpayer identification numbers; personal addresses, personal telephone numbers, personal email addresses, dates of birth; names of minor children; & financial account numbers. This requirement applies to all documents, including attachments.



Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) – Filing

Proposed Settlement of PAGA case

PAGA Number (LWDA-CM-) : *

Please enter only the numbers after "LWDA-CM-" in the following format, "XXXXXXXX-XX".

[Search for PAGA Case number](#)

The timing of the deposit of settlement checks is governed by the provisions of the State Administrative Manual. This ministerial, administrative act of depositing a settlement check mandated by state procedures should not be construed as nor does it constitute an unconditional, voluntary and/or absolute acceptance of settlement proceeds or approval of the terms of any settlement agreement or judgment related to that check.

Your Information (Person Who is Filing)

Your First Name *

Your Last Name *

Your Email Address *

Your Street Name, Number and Suite/Apt *

Your Mobile Phone Number

Your City *

Your Work Phone Number

Your State *

Your Zip/Postal Code *

Court and Hearing Information

Court *

Los Angeles County Superior Court ▼

Court Case Number *

22STCV31819

Hearing Date *

09/09/2025

Hearing Time *

10:00

HH:MM

Hearing Location *

Spring Street Courthouse

Number of aggrieved employees *

149

Net Amount to Aggrieved Employees *

5,000.00

Gross settlement amount *

250,000.00

Gross penalty *

20,000.00

Penalties to LWDA *

15,000.00

Date of proposed settlement *

09/09/2025

Other PAGA Notices

[Search for PAGA Case number](#)

- ☒ I have searched LWDA's database for other PAGA claims filed against the employer(s) named in my NEW PAGA Claim Notice.
- ☒ There are no other PAGA claims which may be affected by this proposed settlement.
- ☐ The proposed settlement may affect other PAGA claims.
- ☐ A Notice of Related Cases has been filed in all related actions.
- ☐ Plaintiff has provided copies of proposed settlement and moving papers to plaintiffs with claims that are affected by this proposed settlement agreement.
- ☐ Plaintiff has submitted to LWDA the court complaint(s) on which this settlement is based.

Proposed Settlement and Other Documents

Proposed Settlement (must be .pdf) *

 Ex. 1 - Revise...greement.pdf

Other Attachment (if any, must be .pdf)

 No file chosen[Add Another Attachment](#)

LWDA requests that settling parties provide copies of supporting documents, including memorandum of points and authorities and declaration of counsel filed with the court, to assist LWDA in evaluating proposed settlement agreements.

IMPORTANT NOTICE OF REDACTION RESPONSIBILITY: All filers must redact: Social Security or taxpayer identification numbers; personal addresses, personal telephone numbers, personal email addresses, dates of birth; names of minor children; & financial account numbers. This requirement applies to all documents, including attachments.

☒ **I understand that, if I file, I must comply with the redaction rules consistent with this notice.**

Should you have questions regarding this online form, please contact PAGAInfo@dir.ca.gov

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Previous Page

Submit

Coley Hayes

From: no-reply@formassembly.com
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2025 3:29 PM
To: Coley Hayes
Subject: Thank you for your Proposed Settlement Submission

08/15/2025 03:28:55 PM

Thank you for your submission to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

Item submitted: Proposed Settlement

On 08/15/2025 03:28:55 PM your Proposed Settlement was successfully processed for case number LWDA-CM-911050-22

If you have questions or concerns regarding this submission or your case, please send an email to pagainfo@dir.ca.gov.

DIR PAGA Unit on behalf of
Labor and Workforce Development Agency

Website:

https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Flabor.ca.gov%2FPrivate_Attorneys_General_Act.htm&data=05%7C02%7Ccoley.hayes%40wilshirelawfirm.com%7C30097334731146d6cd7008dddc4b286a%7C9ada260a4f194da187b814d372333753%7C1%7C0%7C638908937551042324%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFrpbClzIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WeQ%2BrVKI2H5PMTpWrm2ahANeSDGuvf0Wk%2BcJl8avvMY%3D&reserved=0

Exhibit 3

Wilshire Law Firm, PLC
Transaction Detail by Account
All Transactions

11/8/2024
Accrual Basis

<u>Type</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
COS					
Mediation Fees					
	5/5/2023	44880	Mediation Fee - Lynn Frank	\$9,000.00	9,000.00
Total MEDIATION FEES				\$9,000.00	9,000.00
Expert Fees					
	6/23/2023	8781	Expert Fees - Berger Consulting	\$6,300.00	\$6,300.00
Total EXPERT FEES				\$6,300.00	\$6,300.00
Legal Expenses					
	6/3/2024		Los Angeles Superior Court	\$6.20	6.20
Total LEGAL EXPENSES				\$6.20	6.20
Process Service Fees					
	3/7/2023	282716	Attorney Services - Case Anywhere, LLC	\$147.60	147.60
	06/05/2023	291818	Attorney Services - Case Anywhere, LLC	\$135.00	282.60
	09/08/2023	301207	Attorney Services - Case Anywhere, LLC	\$147.00	429.60
	12/11/2023	311098	Attorney Services - Case Anywhere, LLC	\$141.00	570.60
	3/18/2024	320953	Attorney Services - Case Anywhere, LLC	\$171.00	741.60
	6/6/2024	331612	Attorney Services - Case Anywhere, LLC	\$135.00	876.60
	9/5/2024	3422874	Attorney Services - Case Anywhere, LLC	\$135.00	1,011.60
	12/6/2024	353963	Attorney Services - Case Anywhere, LLC	\$141.00	1,152.60
	3/5/2025	376625	Attorney Services - Case Anywhere, LLC	\$135.00	1,287.60
	4/4/2025	390457	Attorney Services - Case Anywhere, LLC	\$45.00	1,332.60
	6/1/2025	40204	Attorney Services - Case Anywhere, LLC	\$45.00	1,377.60
	7/1/2025	414529	Attorney Services - Case Anywhere, LLC	\$45.00	1,422.60
	7/1/2025	426984	Attorney Services - Case Anywhere, LLC	\$45.00	1,467.60
	8/4/2025	439499	Attorney Services - Case Anywhere, LLC	\$51.00	1,518.60
	10/21/2022	51887	Attorney Services - Valpro	\$157.00	1,675.60
	10/21/2022	51929	Attorney Services - Valpro	\$45.00	1,720.60
	09/30/2022		Attorney Services - Department of Industrial Relations	\$75.00	1,795.60
	09/29/2022		Attorney Services - One Legal LLC	\$1,494.53	3,290.13
	10/28/2022		Attorney Services - One Legal LLC	\$18.22	3,308.35
	12/12/2022		Attorney Services - One Legal LLC	\$18.22	3,326.57
	12/14/2022		Attorney Services - One Legal LLC	\$172.65	3,499.22
	01/17/2023		Attorney Services - One Legal LLC	\$18.22	3,517.44
	08/18/2023		Attorney Services - One Legal LLC	\$18.69	3,536.13
	06/06/2024	22337439(2)	Attorney Services - One Legal LLC	\$1.00	3,537.13
	06/06/2024	22343745(2)	Attorney Services - One Legal LLC	\$1.00	3,538.13
	07/18/2023	20813037	Attorney Services - One Legal LLC	\$18.69	3,556.82
	11/21/2023	21684745	Attorney Services - One Legal LLC	\$18.69	3,575.51
	12/06/2023	21770423	Attorney Services - One Legal LLC	\$18.69	3,594.20
	02/29/2024	22337439	Attorney Services - One Legal LLC	\$81.48	3,675.68
	02/29/2024	22343745	Attorney Services - One Legal LLC	\$19.71	3,695.39
	09/13/2024	23731569	Attorney Services - One Legal LLC	\$20.74	3,716.13
	09/16/2024	23736493	Attorney Services - One Legal LLC	\$20.80	3,736.93
	07/22/2025	25879339	Attorney Services - One Legal LLC	\$23.44	3,760.37
Total PROCESS SERVICE FEES				\$3,760.37	3,760.37
Other Costs					
	9/16/2024	E-3237395	DocuSign Envelope	\$1.89	1.89
	5/15/2023	8-129-54790	FedEx	\$34.56	36.45
Total OTHER COSTS				\$36.45	36.45
TOTAL				\$19,103.02	19,103.02

Exhibit 4



ELM Solutions

2022 Real Rate Report[®]

The industry's leading
analysis of law firm rates,
trends, and practices

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Report Use Considerations

2022 Real Rate Report

- Examines law firm rates over time
- Identifies rates by location, experience, firm size, areas of expertise, industry, and timekeeper role (i.e., partner, associate, and paralegal)
- Itemizes variables that drive rates up or down

All the analyses included in the report derive from the actual rates charged by law firm professionals as recorded on invoices submitted and approved for payment.

Examining real, approved rate information, along with the ranges of those rates and their changes over time, highlights the role these variables play in driving aggregate legal cost and income. The analyses can energize questions for both corporate clients and law firm principals.

Clients might ask whether they are paying the right amount for different types of legal services, while law firm principals might ask whether they are charging the right amount for legal services and whether to modify their pricing approach.

Some key factors¹ that drive rates²:

Attorney location - Lawyers in urban and major metropolitan areas tend to charge more when compared with lawyers in rural areas or small towns.

Litigation complexity - The cost of representation will be higher if the case is particularly complex or time-consuming; for example, if there are a large number of documents to review, many witnesses to depose, and numerous procedural steps, the case is likely to cost more (regardless of other factors like the lawyer's level of experience).

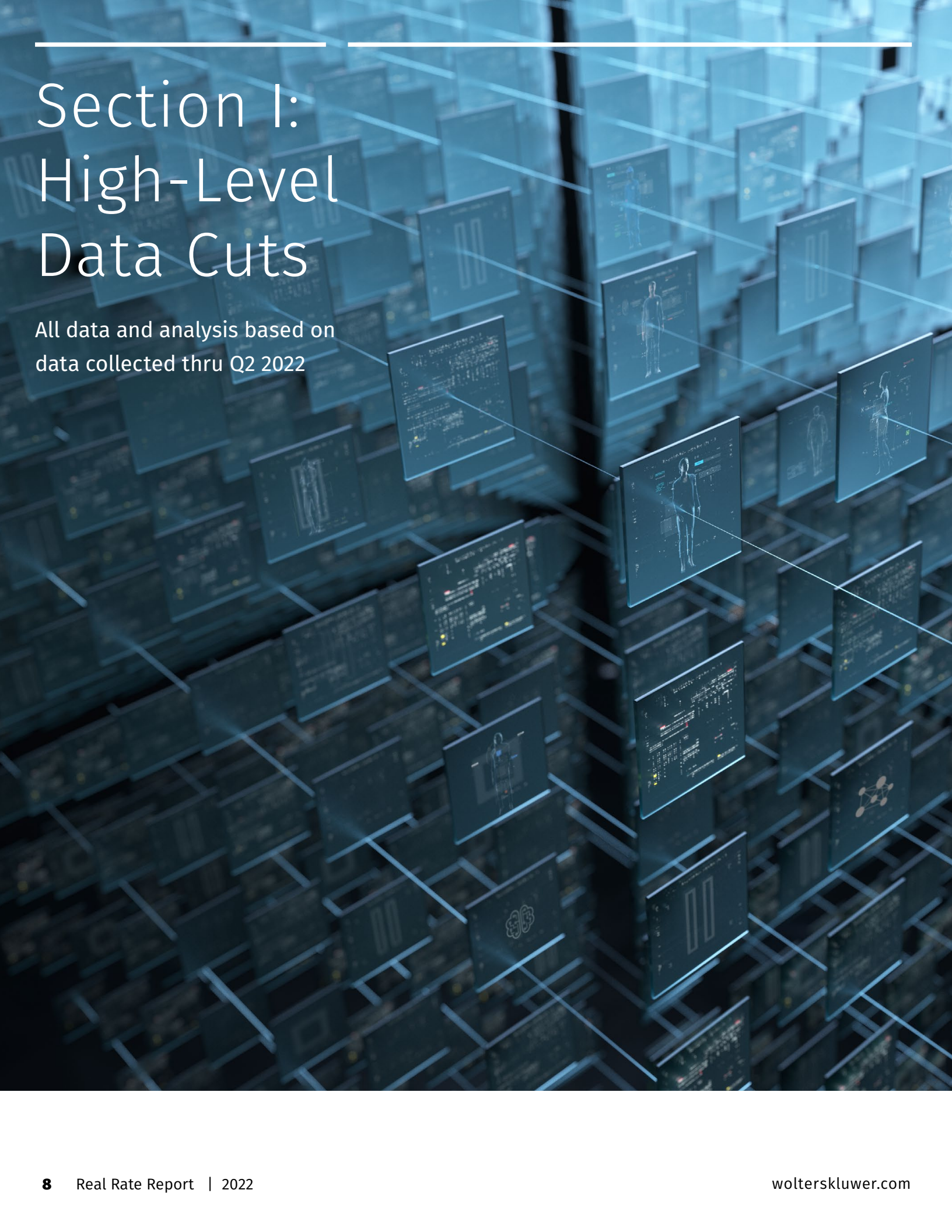
Years of experience and reputation - A more experienced, higher-profile lawyer is often going to charge more, but absorbing this higher cost at the outset may make more sense than hiring a less expensive lawyer who will likely take time and billable hours to come up to speed on unfamiliar legal and procedural issues.

Overhead - The costs associated with the firm's support network (paralegals, clerks, and assistants), document preparation, consultants, research, and other expenses.

Firm size - The rates can increase if the firm is large and has various timekeeper roles at the firm. For example, the cost to work with an associate or partner at a larger firm will be higher compared to a firm that has one to two associates and a paralegal.

¹ David Goguen, J.D., University of San Francisco School of Law (2020) Guide to Legal Services Billing Retrieved from: <https://www.lawyers.com/legal-info/research/guide-to-legal-services-billing-rates.html>

² Source: 2018 RRR. Factor order validated in multiple analyses since 2010



Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

All data and analysis based on
data collected thru Q2 2022

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities

By Matter Type

2022 - Real Rates for Associate and Partner

Trend Analysis - Mean

City	Matter Type	Role	n	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	2022	2021	2020
Jackson MS	Litigation	Associate	56	\$55	\$225	\$250	\$178	\$203	\$175
	Non-Litigation	Partner	24	\$315	\$420	\$485	\$418	\$394	\$375
		Associate	25	\$55	\$126	\$255	\$155	\$125	\$259
Kansas City MO	Litigation	Partner	74	\$413	\$450	\$556	\$472	\$450	\$450
		Associate	50	\$252	\$329	\$385	\$319	\$316	\$305
	Non-Litigation	Partner	101	\$411	\$487	\$615	\$519	\$487	\$464
		Associate	73	\$250	\$320	\$385	\$322	\$312	\$285
Las Vegas NV	Non-Litigation	Partner	20	\$350	\$425	\$525	\$440	\$422	\$432
		Associate	11	\$238	\$267	\$368	\$301	\$297	\$282
Little Rock AR	Non-Litigation	Partner	11	\$215	\$215	\$308	\$264	\$256	\$298
Los Angeles CA	Litigation	Partner	322	\$516	\$725	\$1,045	\$799	\$739	\$702
		Associate	408	\$400	\$615	\$855	\$642	\$606	\$564
	Non-Litigation	Partner	521	\$596	\$868	\$1,201	\$903	\$902	\$858
		Associate	667	\$441	\$603	\$845	\$653	\$712	\$648

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities

By Matter Type

2022 - Real Rates for Associate and Partner

Trend Analysis - Mean

City	Matter Type	Role	n	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	2022	2021	2020
Minneapolis MN	Non-Litigation	Associate	83	\$340	\$421	\$528	\$425	\$408	\$384
Nashville TN	Litigation	Partner	24	\$275	\$320	\$456	\$363	\$378	\$403
	Non-Litigation	Partner	78	\$412	\$484	\$576	\$505	\$481	\$470
		Associate	59	\$270	\$330	\$384	\$340	\$315	\$285
New Orleans LA	Litigation	Partner	47	\$290	\$332	\$412	\$343	\$330	\$340
		Associate	42	\$231	\$243	\$340	\$278	\$290	\$275
	Non-Litigation	Partner	32	\$295	\$347	\$405	\$419	\$380	\$391
		Associate	21	\$244	\$250	\$278	\$273	\$303	\$258
New York NY	Litigation	Partner	614	\$475	\$675	\$1,088	\$808	\$784	\$746
		Associate	631	\$323	\$460	\$729	\$545	\$527	\$509
	Non-Litigation	Partner	1,376	\$765	\$1,235	\$1,638	\$1,189	\$1,139	\$1,090
		Associate	1,809	\$550	\$776	\$1,050	\$796	\$766	\$716
Oklahoma City OK	Non-Litigation	Partner	14	\$235	\$338	\$393	\$337	\$319	\$311
Omaha NE	Litigation	Partner	12	\$293	\$339	\$353	\$329	\$338	\$341

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities

By Matter Type

2022 - Real Rates for Associate and Partner

Trend Analysis - Mean

City	Matter Type	Role	n	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	2022	2021	2020
Rochester NY	Non-Litigation	Partner	12	\$270	\$360	\$488	\$386	\$341	\$446
		Associate	13	\$220	\$310	\$375	\$314	\$278	\$287
Sacramento CA	Non-Litigation	Partner	11	\$381	\$437	\$682	\$534	\$559	\$516
Salt Lake City UT	Litigation	Partner	14	\$246	\$353	\$468	\$363	\$333	\$379
	Non-Litigation	Partner	42	\$297	\$371	\$447	\$391	\$363	\$353
		Associate	22	\$220	\$240	\$270	\$248	\$247	\$228
San Diego CA	Litigation	Associate	23	\$151	\$225	\$300	\$255	\$258	\$264
	Non-Litigation	Partner	89	\$332	\$540	\$1,066	\$699	\$667	\$649
		Associate	71	\$250	\$325	\$424	\$373	\$378	\$351
San Francisco CA	Litigation	Partner	143	\$423	\$675	\$995	\$742	\$711	\$691
		Associate	98	\$325	\$430	\$731	\$525	\$517	\$470
	Non-Litigation	Partner	221	\$475	\$750	\$950	\$758	\$746	\$741
		Associate	151	\$338	\$486	\$702	\$545	\$563	\$507
San Jose CA	Litigation	Partner	33	\$654	\$921	\$1,133	\$916	\$907	\$864

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities

By Matter Type

2022 - Real Rates for Associate and Partner

Trend Analysis - Mean

City	Matter Type	Role	n	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	2022	2021	2020
San Jose CA	Litigation	Associate	22	\$461	\$580	\$745	\$608	\$593	\$498
	Non-Litigation	Partner	50	\$660	\$864	\$1,303	\$969	\$985	\$887
		Associate	46	\$380	\$460	\$775	\$616	\$639	\$567
Seattle WA	Litigation	Partner	76	\$497	\$655	\$760	\$635	\$567	\$510
		Associate	61	\$394	\$468	\$530	\$447	\$453	\$395
	Non-Litigation	Partner	148	\$410	\$526	\$760	\$571	\$547	\$547
		Associate	113	\$310	\$395	\$502	\$422	\$401	\$377
St. Louis MO	Litigation	Partner	46	\$260	\$350	\$435	\$376	\$373	\$388
		Associate	17	\$197	\$225	\$250	\$228	\$237	\$232
	Non-Litigation	Partner	57	\$352	\$419	\$540	\$451	\$446	\$473
Tampa FL	Litigation	Partner	31	\$369	\$508	\$595	\$490	\$467	\$452
		Associate	15	\$269	\$298	\$368	\$316	\$302	\$306
Trenton NJ	Non-Litigation	Partner	21	\$408	\$600	\$700	\$569	\$620	\$581
		Associate	12	\$480	\$495	\$500	\$448	\$376	\$387

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities

By Years of Experience

2022 - Real Rates for Associate

Trend Analysis - Mean

City	Years of Experience	n	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	2022	2021	2020
Kansas City MO	3 to Fewer Than 7 Years	15	\$270	\$325	\$360	\$318	\$295	\$283
	7 or More Years	28	\$292	\$334	\$391	\$333	\$312	\$302
Los Angeles CA	Fewer Than 3 Years	63	\$429	\$595	\$654	\$556	\$524	\$488
	3 to Fewer Than 7 Years	144	\$486	\$688	\$838	\$662	\$626	\$530
	7 or More Years	171	\$351	\$550	\$840	\$600	\$634	\$586
Miami FL	3 to Fewer Than 7 Years	19	\$300	\$360	\$457	\$380	\$331	\$313
	7 or More Years	36	\$295	\$450	\$595	\$460	\$433	\$385
Minneapolis MN	Fewer Than 3 Years	11	\$374	\$405	\$446	\$408		\$230
	3 to Fewer Than 7 Years	27	\$340	\$451	\$510	\$421	\$358	\$356
	7 or More Years	27	\$423	\$468	\$585	\$478	\$438	\$392
Nashville TN	7 or More Years	12	\$219	\$245	\$345	\$282	\$266	\$262
New Orleans LA	3 to Fewer Than 7 Years	12	\$232	\$243	\$265	\$261	\$242	\$245
	7 or More Years	18	\$243	\$312	\$343	\$306	\$318	\$294
New York NY	Fewer Than 3 Years	142	\$443	\$622	\$775	\$629	\$600	\$652

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities

By Years of Experience

2022 - Real Rates for Partner

Trend Analysis - Mean

City	Years of Experience	n	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	2022	2021	2020
Kansas City MO	Fewer Than 21 Years	46	\$400	\$450	\$537	\$473	\$411	\$397
	21 or More Years	68	\$440	\$553	\$658	\$539	\$497	\$491
Las Vegas NV	Fewer Than 21 Years	12	\$284	\$381	\$495	\$389	\$349	\$343
	21 or More Years	13	\$350	\$425	\$515	\$468	\$456	\$472
Los Angeles CA	Fewer Than 21 Years	183	\$533	\$801	\$1,075	\$804	\$797	\$682
	21 or More Years	333	\$550	\$765	\$1,133	\$863	\$842	\$808
Memphis TN	Fewer Than 21 Years	14	\$288	\$331	\$380	\$345	\$317	\$328
	21 or More Years	15	\$355	\$415	\$425	\$394	\$382	\$375
Miami FL	Fewer Than 21 Years	57	\$370	\$450	\$598	\$490	\$498	\$443
	21 or More Years	104	\$388	\$581	\$749	\$584	\$580	\$536
Milwaukee WI	21 or More Years	16	\$302	\$454	\$613	\$589	\$515	\$530
Minneapolis MN	Fewer Than 21 Years	36	\$470	\$530	\$607	\$532	\$486	\$499
	21 or More Years	84	\$507	\$675	\$796	\$656	\$620	\$589
Nashville TN	Fewer Than 21 Years	28	\$375	\$405	\$535	\$449	\$405	\$397

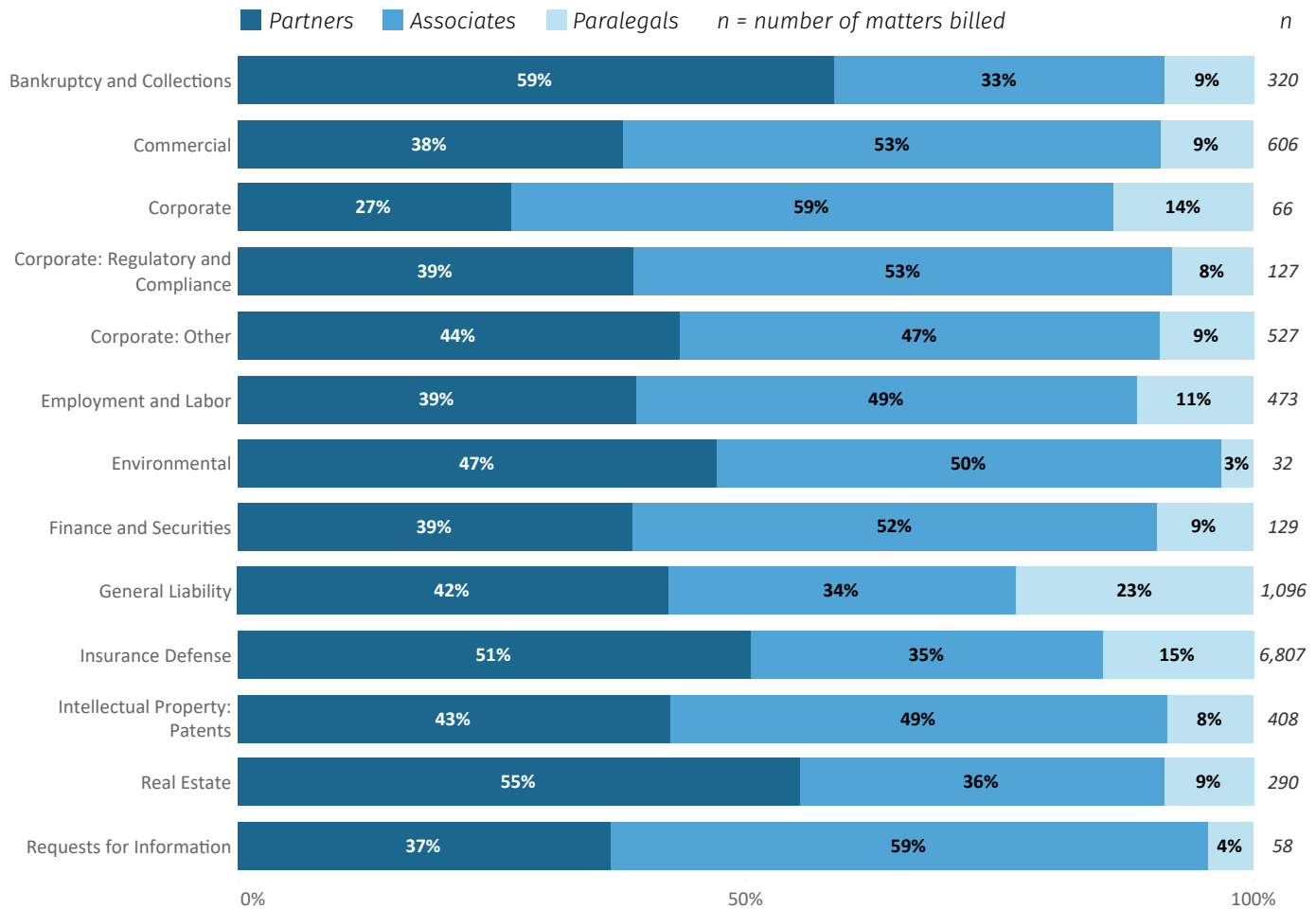
Section VI: Matter Staffing Analysis

All data and analysis based on
data collected thru Q2 2022

Section VI: Matter Staffing Analysis

Long Litigation Matters, More Than 100 Total Hours Billed

2019 to 2022 -- Percentage of Hours Billed per Matter



Section VII: Data Methodology

All data and analysis based on
data collected thru Q2 2022

Appendix: Data Methodology

Invoice Information

Data in Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions' reference database and the 2022 Real Rate Report were taken from invoice line-item entries contained in invoices received and approved by participating companies.

Invoice data were received in the Legal Electronic Data Exchange Standard (LEDES) format (LEDES.org). The following information was extracted from those invoices and their line items:

- Law firm (which exists as a random number in the ELM Solutions reference database)
- Timekeeper ID (which exists as a random number in the ELM Solutions reference database)
- Matter ID (which exists as a random number in the ELM Solutions reference database)
- Timekeeper's position (role) within the law firm (partner, associate, paralegal, etc.)
- Uniform Task-Based Management System Code Set, Task Codes, and Activity Codes (UTBMS.com)
- Date of service
- Hours billed
- Hourly rate billed
- Fees billed

Non-Invoice Information

To capture practice area details, the matter ID within each invoice was associated with matter profiles containing areas of work in the systems of each company. The areas of work were then systematically categorized into legal practice areas. Normalization of practice areas was done based on company mappings to system-level practice areas available in the ELM Solutions system and by naming convention.

The majority of analyses included in this report have been mapped to one of 11 practice areas, further divided into sub-areas and litigation/non-litigation (for more information on practice areas and sub-areas, please refer to pages 232-234).

To capture location and jurisdiction details, law firms and timekeepers were systematically mapped to the existing profiles within ELM Solutions systems, as well as with publicly available data sources for further validation and normalization. Where city location information is provided, it includes any address within that city's defined Core-Based Statistical Area (CBSA) as defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The CBSAs are urban centers with populations of 10,000 or more and include all adjacent counties that are economically integrated with that urban center.

Where the analyses focus on partners, associates, and paralegals, the underlying data occasionally included some sub-roles, such as "senior partner" or "junior associate." In such instances, those timekeeper sub-roles were placed within the broader partner, associate, and paralegal segments.

Demographics regarding law firm size, location, and lawyer years of experience were augmented by incorporating publicly available information.

Appendix: Data Methodology

A Note on US Cities

Principal City	CBSA Name
Hartford, CT	Hartford-East Hartford-Middletown, CT
Honolulu, HI	Urban Honolulu HI
Houston, TX	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX
Indianapolis, IN	Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson, IN
Jackson, MS	Jackson, MS
Jacksonville, FL	Jacksonville, FL
Kansas City, MO	Kansas City, MO-KS
Lafayette, LA	Lafayette, LA
Las Vegas, NV	Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV
Lexington, KY	Lexington-Fayette, KY
Little Rock, AR	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, AR
Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA
Louisville, KY	Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN
Madison, WI	Madison, WI
Memphis, TN	Memphis-Forrest City, TN-MS-AR
Miami, FL	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL
Milwaukee, WI	Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI
Minneapolis, MN	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI
Nashville, TN	Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN
New Haven, CT	New Haven-Milford, CT
New Orleans, LA	New Orleans-Metairie, LA
New York, NY	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA
Oklahoma City, OK	Oklahoma City, OK
Omaha, NE	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA
Orlando, FL	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD
Phoenix, AZ	Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ
Pittsburgh, PA	Pittsburgh, PA
Portland, ME	Portland-South Portland, ME
Portland, OR	Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA
Providence, RI	Providence-Warwick, RI-MA
Raleigh, NC	Raleigh-Cary, NC
Reno, NV	Reno-Carson City-Fernley, NV

Appendix: Data Methodology

Bankruptcy and Collections

Chapter 11
Collections

General/Other
Workouts and Restructuring

Commercial (Commercial Transactions and Agreements)

Contract Breach or Dispute
General, Drafting, and Review
General/Other

Corporate¹

Antitrust and Competition
Corporate Development
General/Other
Governance
Information and Technology
Mergers, Acquisitions, and Divestitures

Partnerships and Joint Ventures
Regulatory and Compliance
Tax
Treasury
White Collar/Fraud/Abuse

Employment and Labor

ADA
Agreements
Compensation and Benefits
Discrimination, Retaliation, and Harassment/EEO
Employee Dishonesty/Misconduct
ERISA

General/Other
Immigration
Union Relations and Negotiations/NLRB
Wages, Tips, and Overtime
Wrongful Termination

Environmental

General/Other
Health and Safety

Superfund
Waste/Remediation

Finance and Securities

Commercial Loans and Financing
Debt/Equity Offerings
Fiduciary Services
General/Other

Investments and Other Financial Instruments
Loans and Financing
SEC Filings and Financial Reporting
Securities and Banking Regulations

General Liability

Asbestos/Mesothelioma
Auto and Transportation
Consumer Related Claims
Crime, Dishonesty and Fraud
General/Other

Personal Injury/Wrongful Death
Premises
Product and Product Liability
Property Damage
Toxic Tort

¹ All references to “Corporate: General/Other” in the Real Rate Report are the aggregation of all Corporate sub-areas excluding the Mergers, Acquisitions, and Divestitures sub-area and the Regulatory and Compliance sub-area.

Exhibit 5

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Business & Practice

Big Law Rates Topping \$2,000 Leave Value ‘In Eye of Beholder’

By Roy Strom

Column

June 9, 2022, 2:30 AM

Welcome back to the Big Law Business column on the changing legal marketplace written by me, Roy Strom. Today, we look at a new threshold for lawyers' billing rates and why it's so difficult to put a price on high-powered attorneys. Sign up to receive this column in your inbox on Thursday mornings. Programming note: Big Law Business will be off next week.

Some of the nation's top law firms are charging more than \$2,000 an hour, setting a new pinnacle after a two-year burst in demand.

Partners at Hogan Lovells and Latham & Watkins have crossed the threshold, according to court documents in bankruptcy cases filed within the past year.

Other firms came close to the mark, billing more than \$1,900, according to the documents. They include Kirkland & Ellis, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, Boies Schiller Flexner, and Sidley Austin.

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett litigator Bryce Friedman, who helps big-name clients out of jams, especially when they're accused of fraud, charges \$1,965 every 60 minutes, according to a court document.

In need of a former acting US Solicitor General? Hogan Lovells partner Neal Katyal bills time at \$2,465 an hour. Want to hire famous litigator David Boies? That'll cost \$1,950 an hour (at least). Reuters was first to report their fees.

Eye-watering rates are nothing new for Big Law firms, which typically ask clients to pay higher prices at least once a year, regardless of broader market conditions.

"Value is in the eye of the beholder," said John O'Connor, a San Francisco-based expert on legal fees. "The perceived value of a good lawyer can reach into the multi-billions of dollars."

Kirkland & Ellis declined to comment on its billing rates. None of the other firms responded to requests to comment.

Charge It Up

Big Law firms are crossing the \$2,000-an-hour threshold after two years of surging rates driven by an increase in demand for lawyers.

Firm	Highest Billing Rate
Hogan Lovells	\$2,465
Latham & Watkins	\$2,075
Kirkland & Ellis	\$1,995
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett	\$1,965
Boies Schiller Flexner	\$1,950
Sidley Austin	\$1,900

Source: Court documents

Bloomberg Law

Law firms have been more successful raising rates than most other businesses over the past 15 years.

Law firm rates rose by roughly 40 percent from 2007 to 2020, or just short of 3 percent per year, Thomson Reuters Peer Monitor data show. US inflation rose by about 28% during that time.

The 100 largest law firms in the past two years achieved their largest rate increases in more than a decade, Peer Monitor says. The rates surged more than 6% in 2020 and grew another 5.6% through November of last year. Neither level had been breached since 2008.

The price hikes occurred during a once-in-a-decade surge in demand for law services, which propelled profits at firms to new levels. Fourteen law firms reported average profits per equity partner in 2021 over \$5 million, according to data from The American Lawyer. That was up from six the previous year.

The highest-performing firms, where lawyers charge the highest prices, have outperformed their smaller peers. Firms with leading practices in markets such as mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, and real estate were forced to turn away work at some points during the pandemic-fueled surge.

Firms receive relatively tepid pushback from their giant corporate clients, especially when advising on bet-the-company litigation or billion-dollar deals.

The portion of bills law firms collected—a sign of how willingly clients pay full-freight—rose during the previous two years after drifting lower following the Great Financial Crisis. Collection rates last year breached 90% for the first time since 2009, Peer Monitor data show.

Professional rules prohibit lawyers from charging “unconscionable” or “unreasonable” rates. But that doesn’t preclude clients from paying any price they perceive as valuable, said Jacqueline Vinaccia, a San Diego-based lawyer who testifies on lawyer fee disputes.

Lawyers’ fees are usually only contested when they will be paid by a third party.

That happened recently with Hogan Lovells’ Katyal, whose nearly \$2,500 an hour fee was contested in May by a US trustee overseeing a bankruptcy case involving a Johnson & Johnson unit facing claims its talc-based powders caused cancer.

The trustee, who protects the financial interests of bankruptcy estates, argued Katyal’s fee was more than \$1,000 an hour higher than rates charged by lawyers in the same case at Jones Day and Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom.

A hearing on the trustee’s objection is scheduled for next week. Hogan Lovells did not respond to a request for comment on the objection.

Vinaccia said the firm’s options will be to reduce its fee, withdraw from the case, or argue the levy is reasonable, most likely based on Katyal’s extensive experience arguing appeals.

Still, the hourly rate shows just how valuable the most prestigious lawyers’ time can be—even compared to their highly compensated competitors.

“If the argument is that Jones Day and Skadden Arps are less expensive, then you’re already talking about the cream of the crop, the top-of-the-barrel law firms,” Vinaccia said. “I can’t imagine a case in which I might argue those two firms are more reasonable than the rates I’m dealing with.”

Worth Your Time

On Cravath: Cravath Swaine & Moore is heading to Washington, opening its first new office since 1973 by hiring former heads of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Meghan Tribe reports the move comes as Big Law firms are looking to add federal government expertise as clients face more regulatory scrutiny.

On Big Law Promotions: It’s rare that associates get promotions to partner in June, but Camille Vasquez is now a Brown Rudnick partner after she shot to fame representing Johnny Depp in his defamation trial against ex-wife Amber Heard.

On Working From Home: I spoke this week with Quinn Emanuel’s John Quinn about why he thinks law firm life is never going back to the office-first culture that was upset by the pandemic. Listen to the podcast [here](#).



That's it for this week! Thanks for reading and please send me your thoughts, critiques, and tips.

To contact the reporter on this story: Roy Strom in Chicago at rstrom@bloomberglaw.com

To contact the editors responsible for this story: Chris Opfer at copfer@bloomberglaw.com; John Hughes at jhughes@bloombergindustry.com

Documents

[Trustee's Objection](#)

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Law Firms

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PROOF OF SERVICE

Yopez v. East Los Angeles Remarkable Citizen's Association, Inc., et al.
22STCV31819

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I, Coley Hayes, state that I am employed in the aforesaid County, State of California; I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within action; my business address is 660 S. Figueroa Street, Sky Lobby, Los Angeles, California 90017. My electronic service address is coley.hayes@wilshirelawfirm.com.

On August 15, 2025, I served the foregoing **DECLARATION OF ALAN WILCOX IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**, on the interested parties by placing a true copy thereof, enclosed in a sealed envelope by following one of the methods of service as follows:

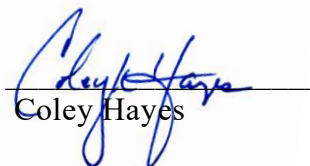
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Attorneys for Defendant

(X) **BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE:** Based on a court order or an agreement of the parties to accept electronic service, I caused the documents to be sent to the persons at the electronic service addresses listed above via third-party cloud service **CASEANYWHERE**.

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

Executed on August 15, 2025, at Los Angeles, California.


Coley Hayes