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[Additional Counsel on the Following Page]

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF PLACER**

ADIL ELAMRANI JOUTEY, individually,
and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

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

Defendants.

Case No.: S-CV-0055468

CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION

[Assigned for all purposes to the Hon. Leon
Dixon, Dept. 40]

**JOINT STIPULATION OF CLASS AND
REPRESENTATIVE ACTION
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

Complaint filed: June 4, 2025

FAC Filed: August 12, 2025

Trial date: Not set

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Attorneys for Defendant Ghirardelli Associates, Inc.

1 **CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

2 This Joint Stipulation of Class and Representative Action Settlement Agreement
3 (“Agreement”) is made by and between Plaintiff Adil Elamrani Joutey and Defendant Ghirardelli
4 Associates, Inc. (collectively, “the Parties”).

5 **1. DEFINITIONS.**

6 1.1. “Action” means *Adil Elamrani Joutey v. Ghirardelli Associates, Inc.*, Superior Court
7 of the State of California, County of Placer, Case No. S-CV-0055468.

8 1.2. “Administrator” means Phoenix Class Action Administration Solutions (“Phoenix”),
9 the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement
10 following a competitive bidding process, or such other settlement administrator as may
11 be approved by the Court.

12 1.3. “Administration Expenses Payment” means the amount the Administrator will be paid
13 from the Gross Settlement Amount for its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance
14 with the Administrator’s bid submitted to the Court in connection with seeking the
15 Preliminary Approval Order.

16 1.4. “Aggrieved Employee” means, for purposes of Settlement, all current and former
17 hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of Defendant who worked for Defendant in
18 California at any time during the PAGA Period.

19 1.5. “Class” means, for purposes of Settlement, all current and former non-exempt
20 employees who worked for Defendant in California at any time during the Class Period.
21 The Class will not include any person who previously settled or released all of the
22 claims covered by this Agreement, including those individuals covered by the prior
23 settlement in *Raymond Tunkel v. Ghirardelli Associates, Inc.* with no workweeks that
24 fell outside of the *Tunkel* action. Specifically, the Class shall exclude all workweeks for
25 hourly field staff employed by Defendant in the state of California from June 4, 2021,
26 to April 30, 2023, who were represented in the *Tunkel* action.

27 1.6. “Class Counsel” means Kane Moon, Allen Feghali, Mariam Ghazaryan, and Mitchell
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H. Millet of Moon Law Group, PC.

- 1.7. “Class Counsel Fees Payment” and “Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment” mean the amounts allocated to Class Counsel for payment of reasonable attorneys’ fees and reimbursement of actual expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action.
- 1.8. “Class Data” means Class Member identifying information in Defendant’s possession, including each individual’s full name, last-known mailing and/or e-mail address, Social Security Number, dates of employment, number of Workweeks, and number of PAGA Pay Periods.
- 1.9. “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 and PAGA Action Settlement and Hearing Date for Final Court Approval, to be mailed by the Administrator to Class Members in the form, without material variation, attached as **Exhibit A** and incorporated by reference into this Agreement, along with a Spanish translation thereof.
- 1.12. “Class Period” means, for purposes of Settlement, the period from June 4, 2021, through May 31, 2026.
- 1.13. “Class Representative” means the named Plaintiff in the Action, Adil Elamrani Joutey, seeking Court approval to serve as the Class Representative.
- 1.14. “Class Representative Enhancement Award” means the payment to Plaintiff in exchange for a general release, and in recognition of having initiated the Action, provided services in support thereof, and incurred risks inherent in the role of named

Plaintiff.

1.15. "Court" means the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Placer.

1.16. "Defendant" means the named Defendant, Ghirardelli Associates, Inc.

1.17. "Defense Counsel" means Clark Hill LLP.

1.18. "Effective Date" means the first business date after both of the following have occurred:

(a) the Court enters the Final Approval Order and Judgment; and (b) Judgment is final.

The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (i) if no Participating Class Member objects to the Settlement, the day the Court enters the Final Approval Order and Judgment; (ii) if one or more Participating Class Members objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from Judgment (i.e., 61 calendar days following entry of Judgment); or (iii) if a timely appeal from Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms Judgment and issues a remittitur.

1.19. "Final Approval Order" 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. "Gross Settlement Amount" means \$525,000.00, the total non-reversionary amount Defendant agrees to pay to resolve the Class and PAGA claims in the Action, subject to any increase under the escalator clause provided at Section 7 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Class Counsel Fees and Litigation Costs Payments, the Class Representative Enhancement Award, and the Administration Expenses Payment. Separate and apart from the Gross Settlement Amount, Defendant agrees to pay its employer-share of payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of Individual Class Payments.

1.22. "Individual Class Payment" means a Participating Class Member's pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount as calculated by the Administrator according to the number of

- Workweeks worked by Participating Class Members during the Class Period.
- 1.23. “Individual PAGA Payment” means an Aggrieved Employee’s pro rata share of 35% of the PAGA Penalties as calculated by the Administrator according to the number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period.
- 1.24. “Judgment” means the Judgment entered by the Court upon the Final Approval Order.
- 1.25. “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled to the LWDA PAGA Payment.
- 1.26. “LWDA PAGA Payment” means sixty-five percent (65%) of the PAGA Penalties.
- 1.27. “Net Settlement Amount” means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in amounts as approved by the Court: Individual PAGA Payments, LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Representative Enhancement Award, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment, and Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members through Individual Class Payments.
- 1.28. “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.
- 1.29. “Operative Complaint” means Plaintiff’s First Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint, filed in the Action on August 12, 2025.
- 1.30. “PAGA” means the California Private Attorneys General Act, Lab. Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*
- 1.31. “PAGA Notice” means Plaintiff’s May 26, 2025 Notice of California Labor Code Violations and PAGA Penalties, sent to Defendant and submitted to the LWDA pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699.3(a)(1)(A) (LWDA Case No. LWDA-CM-1101124-25).
- 1.32. “PAGA Pay Period” means any pay period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant in California at least one day during the PAGA Period.
- 1.33. “PAGA Period” means, for purposes of Settlement, the period from May 26, 2024,

through May 31, 2026.

1.34. “PAGA Group” or “Aggrieved Employees” means all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of Defendant in California employed during the PAGA Period.

1.35. “PAGA Penalties” means the total amount of civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount in settlement of the Released PAGA Claims, in an amount to be determined by Class Counsel and approved by the Court, allocated 35% to the Aggrieved Employees and 65% to the LWDA, calculated solely and exclusively to effectuate Settlement of this Action.

1.36. “Participating Class Member” means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.

1.37. “Plaintiff” means Adil Elamrani Joutey, the named Plaintiff in the Action.

1.38. “Preliminary Approval Order” means the Court’s order granting preliminary approval of the Settlement.

1.39. “Qualified Settlement Fund” or “QSF” means a fund within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-1, 26 CFR § 1.468B-1 *et seq.*, that is established by the Administrator.

1.40. “Released Class Claims” means the claims being released as described in Section 5.2 below.

1.41. “Released PAGA Claims” means the claims being released as described in Section 5.3 below.

1.42. “Released Parties” means Defendant Ghirardelli Associates, Inc., and each of its former, present, and/or future directors, officers, shareholders, owners, members, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, and any other entities or persons acting by, through, under, or in concert with any of them.

1.43. “Request for Exclusion” means a Class Member’s submission to the Administrator of

a signed, written request to be excluded from the Class portion of the Settlement. Class Members and Aggrieved Employees cannot request exclusion from the PAGA portion of the Settlement.

1.44. “Response Deadline” means sixty (60) calendar days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice to Class Members and shall be the last date on which Class Members may email or postmark any (a) Requests for Exclusion, (b) written Objections, or (c) disputes regarding the calculation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods. Class Members to whom their initial Class Notice is resent after having been returned as undeliverable to the Administrator shall have an additional fourteen (14) calendar days beyond the Response Deadline.

1.45. “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and entry of the Final Approval Order and Judgment. “Class Settlement” means the non-PAGA portion of the Settlement resolving the Released Class Claims, including the Individual Class Payments. “PAGA Settlement” means the portion of the Settlement resolving the Released PAGA Claims, including the LWDA PAGA Payment and Individual PAGA Payments.

1.46. “Workweek” means any workweek during which a Class Member worked for Defendant in California at least one day during the Class Period.

2. RECITALS.

2.1. On June 4, 2025, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a Complaint against Defendant alleging causes of action for: (1) Failure to Pay Minimum Wages [Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, and 1197]; (2) Failure to Pay Overtime Compensation [Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194 and 1198]; (3) Failure to Provide Meal Periods [Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512]; (4) Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Breaks [Cal. Lab. Code § 226.7]; (5) Failure to Indemnify Necessary Business Expenses [Cal. Lab. Code § 2802]; (6) Failure to Timely Pay Final Wages at Termination [Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-203]; (7) Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements [Cal. Lab. Code § 226]; and (8)

Unfair Business Practices [Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*].

2.2. On May 26, 2025, pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3(a)(1)(A), Plaintiff provided written notice to the LWDA and Defendant by sending the PAGA Notice (LWDA Case No. LWDA-CM-1101124-25). The administrative exhaustion period under PAGA expired without any notice from the LWDA of intent to investigate the allegations.

2.3. On August 12, 2025, Plaintiff filed the First Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint against Defendant adding a cause of action for civil penalties under PAGA (Cal. Lab. Code § 2698, *et seq.*) [Amended As of Right Pursuant to Labor Code Section 2699.3(2)(C)], which is the Operative Complaint in the Action.

2.4. On May 26, 2026, the Parties participated in a mediation presided over by experienced wage-and-hour mediator Jason Marsili of Marsili Mediation, which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.

2.5. For mediation, Plaintiff obtained from Defendant, through informal discovery, information sufficient to meaningfully evaluate the claims at issue in the Action, including time and pay data, records related to Defendant's wage-and-hour policies and practices in effect during the Class Period, and data permitting Plaintiff to understand the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods. The Parties' investigation was sufficient to satisfy the criteria for court approval of the Settlement.

2.6. The Court has not granted class certification.

2.7. Defendant denies the allegations in the Operative Complaint, denies any failure to comply with any laws, including, but not limited to, the laws identified in the Operative Complaint, and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged in the Operative Complaint.

2.8. 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, other than the individual action styled *Joutey v. Ghirardelli Associates, Inc.*, Case No. S-CV-0056316, which is being resolved separately and

independently from this Agreement.

3. MONETARY TERMS.

3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Subject to entry of the Court's Final Approval Order, Defendant agrees to pay \$525,000.00, subject to any increase under the escalator clause in Section 7 below, as the Gross Settlement Amount, and to separately pay its employer-share of payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount (or any payroll taxes) prior to the deadlines stated in Section 4 of this Agreement. The Administrator shall disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring any Class Member to submit a claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount shall revert to Defendant.

3.2. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator shall make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in amounts as approved by the Court and specified in the Final Approval Order:

3.2.1. To Plaintiff: A Class Representative Enhancement Award in the amount of \$10,000.00 to Plaintiff as the Class Representative, and approved by the Court, in addition to the Individual Class Payment and Individual PAGA Payment that Plaintiff is eligible to receive. Defendant will not oppose Plaintiff's request for a Class Representative Enhancement Award. Plaintiff will seek Court approval for the Class Representative Enhancement Award no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Representative Enhancement Award less than the amount requested, the Administrator shall allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator shall pay the Class Representative Enhancement Award using an IRS Form 1099. Plaintiff assumes full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on the Class Representative Enhancement Award.

3.2.2. To Class Counsel: A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than thirty-five

percent (35%) of the Gross Settlement Amount, currently estimated to be \$183,750.00 and subject to potential increase under the escalator clause, and a Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment in the amount of actual costs incurred and approved by the Court in the amount of \$30,000.00. Defendant will not oppose requests for the Class Counsel Fees Payment provided it does not exceed thirty-five percent (35%) of the Gross Settlement Amount. Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will file a motion for Class Counsel Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs Payments no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves payments less than the amounts requested, the Administrator shall 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 of any Class Counsel Attorneys' Fees Payment and/or Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment. The Administrator shall pay the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. Class Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on the Class Counsel Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs Payments, 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 Administration Expenses Payment in an amount not to exceed \$8,250.00 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent actual expenses are less and/or the Court approves payment less than the requested amount, the Administrator shall allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount.

3.2.4. To Each Participating Class Member: Each Individual Class Payment shall be calculated by the Administrator 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 the number of Workweeks worked by each individual Participating Class Member.

3.2.4.1. Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. Twenty percent (20%) of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment shall be allocated to settlement of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portion is subject to tax withholding and shall be reported on IRS W-2 Forms by the Administrator. The remaining eighty percent (80%) of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment shall be allocated to settlement of claims for penalties and interest (the "Non-Wage Portion"). The Non-Wage Portion is not subject to withholdings and shall be reported on IRS 1099 Forms by the Administrator. Participating Class Members assume full responsibility and liability for any employee taxes owed on their Individual Class Payment.

3.2.4.2. Effect of Non-Participating Class Members on Calculation of Individual Class Payments. Non-Participating Class Members shall not receive any Individual Class Payment. The Administrator shall 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 a total amount of \$50,000.00 and approved by the Court, to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, distributed as sixty-five percent (65%) to the LWDA through a LWDA PAGA Payment and thirty-five percent (35%) to Aggrieved Employees through Individual PAGA Payments.

3.2.5.1. The Administrator shall calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' thirty-five percent (35%) share of PAGA Penalties by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period

and (b) multiplying the result by the number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by each individual Aggrieved Employee. Individual PAGA Payments shall be treated as one hundred percent (100%) penalties for tax purposes. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment. Individual PAGA Payments are not subject to withholdings and shall be reported on IRS 1099 Forms by the Administrator.

3.2.5.2.If the Court approves an amount for PAGA Penalties less than the amount requested, the Administrator shall allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount.

4. **SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.**

4.1. Class Workweeks. Based on a review of Defendant's records, the Parties have established that there are approximately 275 Class Members who collectively worked approximately 25,089 Workweeks during the Class Period. These figures are net of the workweeks excluded from the Class pursuant to the prior *Tunkel* settlement.

4.2. Class Data. Not later than fourteen (14) calendar days after entry of the Court's Preliminary Approval Order, Defendant shall deliver the Class Data to the Administrator in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, or such other form requested by the Administrator. To protect Class Members' privacy rights, the Administrator shall 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 employees of the Administrator who need access to effect and perform under this Agreement. If Defendant discovers that Class Data is incorrect, Defendant will provide corrected or updated Class Data to the Administrator as soon as reasonably feasible. The Parties and their respective counsel shall expeditiously use best efforts, and in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Class Data.

4.3. Settlement Funding. Defendant shall fund the Gross Settlement Amount, and separately pay its employer-share of payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments, pursuant to the following payment schedule:

4.3.1. First payment in the amount of \$75,000.00, payable within five (5) business days after entry of the Preliminary Approval Order;

4.3.2. Second payment in the amount of \$150,000.00, payable within fifteen (15) calendar days after entry of the Final Approval Order;

4.3.3. Third payment in the amount of \$150,000.00, payable within sixty (60) calendar days after the second payment described in Section 4.3.2; and

4.3.4. Fourth payment in the amount of \$150,000.00, payable within sixty (60) calendar days after the third payment described in Section 4.3.3.

All payments shall be transmitted by Defendant into the Qualified Settlement Fund established and maintained by the Administrator. The Administrator shall provide Defendant with wiring and/or mailing instructions within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of notice of each triggering event.

4.4. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator shall disburse payments to Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, the LWDA, Class Counsel, and Plaintiff following Defendant's full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, in the following manner:

4.4.1. The Administrator shall issue checks for the Individual Class Payments and/or Individual PAGA Payments and send them via First Class United States Postal Service ("USPS") Mail with 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 "Void Date"). The Administrator shall send checks for Individual Class Payments to all Participating Class Members and checks for Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees (including Non-Participating Class Members who qualify as Aggrieved Employees),

including to those for whom their Class Notice was returned undelivered. The Administrator may send Participating Class Members a single check combining their Individual Class and PAGA Payments. Before mailing any checks, the Administrator must update recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.

4.4.2. The Administrator must conduct a Class Member Address Search for all Class Members whose checks are returned undelivered without a forwarding address. Within seven (7) calendar days of receiving a returned check, the Administrator must re-mail checks to the forwarding address provided or, if none was provided, to an updated 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 a second time. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Class Member whose original check was lost or misplaced, or as requested by the Class Member prior to the Void Date.

4.4.3. For any Class Member whose Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment is uncashed after the Void Date, the Administrator shall cancel those checks and transmit the funds represented by such checks to the California State Controller's Office to be held pursuant to the Unclaimed Property Law, California Civil Code section 1500, *et seq.*, in the name of each individual who failed to timely cash his or her check, in accordance with the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure section 384(b).

4.4.4. 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.

4.4.5. Disbursement of the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation

Costs Payment, and Class Representative Enhancement Award shall not precede disbursement of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments.

5. RELEASES OF CLAIMS.

5.1. Plaintiff's General Release. Plaintiff will release any and all claims that Plaintiff has or may have against the Released Parties related to or arising from Plaintiff's employment with Defendant ("Plaintiff's General Release"). Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts and/or law different from, and/or in addition to, the facts and/or law that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff's General Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding the existence of such different and/or additional facts and/or law or Plaintiff's discovery of them. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Plaintiff's General Release excludes any claims or actions to enforce the Settlement, any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits or workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time, any claims that are not releasable as a matter of law or public policy, and any claims arising after the date Plaintiff signs this Agreement.

5.1.1. Plaintiff's Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542. For purposes of Plaintiff's General Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of California Civil Code section 1542, 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. Released Class Claims. All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release the Released Parties from all claims that

were alleged in the Operative Complaint or that reasonably could have been alleged based solely on the facts asserted therein including but not limited to (1) failure to pay minimum wages; (2) failure to pay overtime compensation; (3) failure to provide meal periods; (4) failure to authorize and permit rest breaks; (5) failure to timely pay final wages at termination; (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (7) failure to indemnify necessary business expenses; (8) unfair business practices; (9) statutory penalties of any nature; (10) interest; (11) attorneys' fees and costs; and (12) any other claims arising out of or related to the Operative Complaint during the Class Period ("Released Class Claims"). The Released Class Claims exclude any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits or workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time, any claims that are not releasable as a matter of law or public policy, and any claims arising outside the Class Period.

5.3. Released PAGA Claims. Plaintiff and the LWDA are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, in Plaintiff's PAGA Notice to the LWDA and in the Operative Complaint, including Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 510, 512, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2699, and 2802 ("Released PAGA Claims"). The Released PAGA Claims include only claims for penalties under PAGA that arose during the PAGA Period.

5.4. Date Releases Become Effective. The released claims described in Sections 5.1 through 5.3 above shall become effective upon entry of the Court's Final Approval Order and Defendant's full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount and its employer-share of payroll taxes.

6. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

6.1. Selection of Administrator. The Parties shall jointly select a neutral Administrator to

serve as the Settlement Administrator and verify that, as a condition of appointment, the Administrator agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for the Administration Expenses Payment. The Parties and their respective 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.

6.2. Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports to state and federal tax authorities.

6.3. 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, 26. The Parties agree that the QSF is intended to be a “Qualified Settlement Fund” under Section 468B of the Code and Treasury Regulations section 1.468B-1, 26 C.F.R. sections 1.468B-1, *et seq.*, and shall be administered by the Administrator as such.

6.4. Notice to Class Members.

6.4.1. No later than three (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 PAGA Pay Periods contained in the Class Data.

6.4.2. Using its best efforts to perform as soon as possible, and in no event later than fourteen (14) calendar days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator shall send to all Class Members identified in the Class Data, via first-class USPS mail, with an accurate Spanish translation thereof, the Class Notice, in the form, without material variation, attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. 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 any Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods used to calculate these amounts. Before mailing the Class Notice, the Administrator shall update Class Member addresses using the National Change of Address database.

6.4.3. Not later than three (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 shall 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 Notices to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned as undelivered by the USPS a second time.

6.4.4. For all Class Members whose initial Class Notice is re-mailed, the deadline for submitting Objection Forms, Workweek and/or PAGA Pay Periods challenges, and Request for Exclusion Forms shall be extended an additional fourteen (14) calendar days beyond the sixty (60) calendar days otherwise provided in the Class Notice. The Administrator shall inform the Class Member of the extended Response Deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.

6.4.5. If the Administrator, Defendant, Defense Counsel, 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 a Class Notice, the Parties will expeditiously meet and confer 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 e-mail or overnight delivery, a Class Notice requiring them to exercise options under this Agreement not later than fourteen (14) calendar days after receipt of Class Notice, or the Response Deadline, whichever date is later.

6.5. Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs).

6.5.1. Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) the Class Settlement may opt-out by sending the Administrator a Request for Exclusion, which reasonably communicates the Class Member's desire to opt-out of the Settlement and includes the Class Member's full name, current mailing address, last four digits of their Social Security Number (for verification of identity purposes), and identifies the Action as *Adil Elamrani Joutey v. Ghirardelli Associates, Inc.* (Placer County Superior Court Case No. S-CV-0055468). The Request for Exclusion must be signed and dated by the Class Member or his/her legal representative. To be timely, a Request for Exclusion must be emailed or mailed, and transmitted or postmarked by the Response Deadline.

6.5.2. 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.

6.5.3. Every Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion shall be 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 Released Class Claims under Section 5.2 above, regardless of whether the Participating Class Member actually receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.

6.5.4. Every Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion shall be deemed a Non-Participating Class Member and not entitled to an Individual Class Payment or have the right to object to the class action

components of the Settlement.

6.5.5. Because future PAGA claims are subject to claim preclusion upon entry of the Final Approval Order and Judgment, Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are subject to and bound by the Released PAGA Claims identified in Section 5.3 above and shall receive an Individual PAGA Payment.

6.6. Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods. Each Class Member shall have the opportunity to challenge the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods allocated to that Class Member as reported in the Class Notice. The Class Member may challenge the allocation by communicating with the Administrator. Any challenges must be emailed or mailed, and transmitted or postmarked by the Response Deadline. 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 and/or PAGA Pay Periods reported 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 PAGA Pay Periods shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.

6.7. Objections to Settlement.

6.7.1. Participating Class Members may object to the class action components of the Settlement, including, without limitation, contesting the fairness of the Settlement and/or amounts requested for the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment, and/or Class Representative Enhancement Award.

6.7.2. Participating Class Members may object by sending the Administrator a written Objection, which reasonably communicates the Class Member's basis for objecting and includes the Class Member's full name, current mailing address,

last four digits of their Social Security Number (for verification of identity), and identifies the Action as *Adil Elamrani Joutey v. Ghirardelli Associates, Inc.* (Placer County Superior Court Case No. S-CV-0055468). The written Objection must also be signed and dated by the Class Member or his/her legal representative. To be valid, the written Objection must be timely emailed or mailed, and transmitted or postmarked by the Response Deadline.

6.7.3. In the alternative and/or in addition to submitting a written objection, Participating Class Members may appear, either personally or hire an attorney to appear on his or her behalf, in Court to present verbal objections at the Final Approval Hearing.

6.7.4. Non-Participating Class Members have no right to object to any of the class action components of the Settlement.

6.8. Administrator Duties.

6.8.1. Website, Toll-Free Number and Email. The Administrator will establish, maintain, and monitor a toll-free telephone number and email address to receive Class Member inquiries 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 how to obtain copies of the Settlement Agreement, motion for preliminary approval, the Preliminary Approval Order, the Class Notice, motion for final approval, and the Final Approval Order and Judgment.

6.8.2. Exclusion List and Objections. The Administrator shall promptly review, on a rolling basis, Requests for Exclusion and written Objections to ascertain their validity and timeliness. No later than five (5) business days after the Response Deadline, the Administrator shall email a list to Defense Counsel containing (a) the names of Class Members who have submitted valid and timely Requests for Exclusion or written Objections; (b) the names of Class Members who have submitted invalid and/or untimely Requests for Exclusion or written

Objections; and (c) copies of all Requests for Exclusion or written Objections submitted, with Class Members' Social Security numbers and other contact information appropriately redacted.

6.8.3. Weekly Reports. The Administrator shall, on a weekly basis, provide written reports to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel that, among other things, tally the number of: Class Notices mailed, re-mailed, or returned undelivered; Requests for Exclusion (whether valid or invalid, timely or untimely) received; written Objections received; challenges to Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods received and/or resolved; and checks mailed for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments.

6.8.4. Administrator's Declaration. No later than fourteen (14) calendar days before the date by which Plaintiff is required to file the motion for final approval of the Settlement, the Administrator shall 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, without limitation, its mailing of the Class Notice, the Class Notices returned as undelivered, the re-mailing of Class Notices, attempts to locate Class Members, the Response Deadline and any extended deadline for re-mailed Class Notices, the total number of Requests for Exclusion Forms received, and the number of Objection Forms received. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration(s) in Court.

6.8.5. Final Report by Settlement Administrator. Within ten (10) business days after the Administrator disburses all funds in the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator shall 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 fourteen (14) calendar days before any deadline set by the Court, the Administrator shall 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.

7. CLASS SIZE ESTIMATES AND ESCALATOR CLAUSE.

The Gross Settlement Amount was negotiated based on Defendant's estimate that there are approximately 25,089 Workweeks during the Class Period. If the actual number of Workweeks is more than ten percent (10%) greater than this figure (i.e., if the actual number of Workweeks exceeds 27,598), then Defendant agrees, at its sole option, to either (a) make a proportional increase to the Gross Settlement Amount by the same number of percentage points (above 10%) by which the actual number of Workweeks exceeds 27,598 (for example, if the actual number of Workweeks is 2% higher than 27,598, the Gross Settlement Amount would be increased by \$10,500.00), or (b) end the Class Period and PAGA Period early as of the date upon which the actual number of Workweeks totals 27,598. Defendant agrees to inform Plaintiffs' Counsel of its election prior to the Preliminary Approval Hearing.

8. DEFENDANT'S RIGHT TO WITHDRAW.

If the number of valid Requests for Exclusion exceeds five percent (5%) 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 fourteen (14) calendar days after the deadline to opt-out has expired.

9. MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL.

9.1. Defendant's Declarations in Support of Preliminary Approval. Within seven (7) calendar days of the full execution of this Agreement, Defense Counsel shall prepare and deliver to Class Counsel a signed declaration from Defense Counsel regarding any

pending actions asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement. Additionally, within seven (7) calendar days of the full execution of this Agreement, Defendant shall prepare and deliver to Class Counsel a signed declaration from Defendant on personal knowledge concerning the likely age, education, and experience of Class Members, and of their ability to read and comprehend English, in order to assist the Court in determining whether the exhibits attached hereto are likely to be readily understood by members of the Class.

9.2. Plaintiff's Responsibilities. Plaintiff shall prepare, and deliver to Defense Counsel for review, and file all documents necessary for obtaining a Preliminary Approval Order, including: (i) a notice and memorandum in support of the motion for preliminary approval that includes an analysis of the Settlement and a request for approval of the PAGA portion of the Settlement under California Labor Code section 2699(s)(2); (ii) a proposed order granting preliminary settlement approval and approving the proposed Class Notice; (iii) a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its 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; (iv) a signed declaration from Plaintiff confirming willingness and competency to serve as the Class Representative, and disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members and/or the Administrator; (v) signed declarations from Class Counsel attesting to competency to represent Class Members and transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (Plaintiff's PAGA Notice [Lab. Code § 2699.3(a)], the Operative Complaint [Lab. Code § 2699(s)(1)], and this Agreement [Lab. Code § 2699(s)(2)]); and (vi) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members and/or the

1 Administrator.

2 9.3. Responsibilities of Counsel. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible
3 for expeditiously finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later
4 than thirty (30) days after the full execution of this Agreement (with Class Counsel
5 giving all documents to Defense Counsel for review at least fourteen (14) days prior to
6 the filing date); obtaining a prompt hearing date for the Motion for Preliminary
7 Approval; and appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the Motion for Preliminary
8 Approval. Class Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Preliminary Approval
9 Order to the Administrator.

10 9.4. Duty to Cooperate. If the Court does not grant preliminary approval outright, or
11 conditions a preliminary approval on any material change to this Agreement, Class
12 Counsel and Defense Counsel shall expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties
13 by meeting, in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and
14 otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

15 9.5. Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant, and
16 Defense Counsel separately agree that until the Motion for Preliminary Approval of
17 Settlement is filed, they and each of them will not disclose, disseminate, or publicize,
18 or cause or permit another person to disclose, disseminate, or publicize, any of the terms
19 of the Agreement or Settlement, directly or indirectly, specifically or generally, to any
20 person, corporation, association, government agency, or other entity. In response to any
21 inquiries, Plaintiff and Class Counsel will state that "the case was resolved," or similar
22 words to that effect. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this Paragraph is
23 intended to prohibit: (i) Plaintiff from disclosing the Settlement with immediate family
24 members, attorneys, tax advisors, or taxing authorities; (ii) Class Counsel from
25 disclosing the Settlement to tax advisors or taxing authorities; (iii) Class Counsel from
26 meeting any ethical and fiduciary duties owed to Plaintiff or other Class Members; or
27 (iv) Class Counsel from making a limited disclosure to the Court and the LWDA for
28

purposes of obtaining settlement approval or enforcing the Settlement.

10. MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.

10.1. Motion for Final Approval. No later than sixteen (16) court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff will file in Court a notice and motion for final approval of the Settlement that includes a request for approval of the PAGA portion of the Settlement under California Labor Code section 2699(s)(2) and a proposed order granting final approval and judgment. 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. Class Counsel is responsible for timely delivering the Final Approval Order and Judgment to the Administrator and LWDA.

10.2. 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 five (5) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered or accepted by the Court.

10.3. Duty to Cooperate. If the Court does not grant settlement approval outright, or if the Court conditions approval on any material change to the Settlement, the Parties agree to expeditiously work together, and in good faith, to modify the terms of the Settlement and/or otherwise address the Court's concerns. The Court's decision to award less than the amounts requested for the Class Representative Enhancement Award, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment, and/or Administration Expenses Payment shall not constitute a material modification to the Agreement within the meaning of this Paragraph.

10.4. Enforceability and Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court. The Parties agree that this Agreement will be final, binding, and enforceable pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6. The Parties further agree that the Placer County Superior Court will have continuing jurisdiction over the Parties, the Action, this Agreement,

and the Settlement, including following any entry of Judgment for purposes of enforcement, interpretation, settlement administration, and any post-Judgment issues that arise. The prevailing party in any litigation for enforcement of settlement shall be entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and litigation costs as determined by the Court.

10.5. Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Final Approval Order and Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Participating Class Members waive all rights to appeal from the Final Approval Order and 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 Final Approval Order and Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the Net Settlement Amount.

10.6. Appellate Court Orders to Vacate, Reverse, or Materially Modify Judgment. If the reviewing Court vacates, reverses, or modifies 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, and in good faith, to address the appellate court's concerns and to obtain final approval of the Settlement 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 Enhancement Award or any payments to Class Counsel shall not constitute a material modification of Judgment within the meaning of this Paragraph, so long as the Gross Settlement Amount is not reduced.

10.7. Amended Judgment. If any amended judgment is required under California Code of

Civil Procedure section 384, the Parties will work together, and in good faith, to jointly prepare and submit a proposed amended judgment.

11. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

11.1. No Admission of Liability, Class Certification, or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Settlement 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 Action, the Operative Complaint, and the PAGA Notice 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 affirmative defenses in the Action have any merit. The Parties agree that class certification and representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason, the Court does not grant preliminary and/or final approval of the Settlement, or enter Judgment, Defendant reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reason and 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 affirmative defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement, and the 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).

11.2. 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 Final Approval Order and Judgment. Nothing in this Paragraph shall be construed to restrict Class Counsel's ability to communicate with Class Members in accordance with any ethical and fiduciary obligations owed to Class Members.

11.3. Integrated Agreement. Upon execution by all Parties and their respective counsel, this Agreement, together with its attached exhibits, shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the alleged class and PAGA claims in the Action,

superseding any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements made to or by any Party.

11.4. 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 the Settlement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of Settlement, including any amendments to this Agreement.

11.5. Cooperation. The Parties and their respective counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts, and in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying this Agreement and/or submitting supplemental evidence and supplemental 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 the mediator and/or the Court for resolution.

11.6. 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 any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged by the Parties in this Settlement.

11.7. 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.

11.8. 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 and their legal representatives, and as approved by the Court.

- 1 11.9. Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to
2 the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 3 11.10. Applicable Law. The Parties agree that this Agreement will be governed by and
4 interpreted according to the laws of the State of California, without regard to conflict
5 of law principles.
- 6 11.11. Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of
7 this Agreement, and therefore, the Agreement will not be construed against any Party
8 on the basis that the Party was a drafter and participated in the preparation of this
9 Agreement.
- 10 11.12. Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made and orders entered
11 during the Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information
12 shall survive the execution of this Agreement.
- 13 11.13. Use of Class Data. Information provided to Class Counsel pursuant to California
14 Evidence Code section 1152 and all copies and summaries of the Class Data provided
15 to Class Counsel by Defendant or Defense Counsel in connection with the mediation,
16 other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement may be used only
17 with respect to the Action and the Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be
18 used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of
19 court. Not later than ninety (90) days after the date when the Court discharges the
20 Administrator's obligation to provide a Declaration confirming the final pay out of all
21 Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy all paper and electronic versions of Class Data
22 received from Defendant unless, prior to the Court's discharge of the Administrator's
23 obligation, Defendant makes a written request to Class Counsel for the return, rather
24 than the destruction, of Class Data.
- 25 11.14. Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is
26 inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this
27 Agreement.
28

11.15. 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 legal court holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.

11.16. Notice. All notices, demands, or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement shall be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by USPS mail, or the day sent by e-mail or messenger, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff:

Kane Moon | E-mail: kmoon@moonlawgroup.com
 Allen Feghali | E-mail: afeghali@moonlawgroup.com
 Mariam Ghazaryan | E-mail: mghazaryan@moonlawgroup.com
 Mitchell H. Millet | E-mail: mmillet@moonlawgroup.com
MOON LAW GROUP, PC
 725 S. Figueroa Street, 31st Floor
 Los Angeles, California 90017

To Defendant:

Lisa Reimbold | E-mail: LReimbold@ClarkHill.com
 Hiba Hammad | E-mail: hhammad@clarkhill.com
CLARK HILL LLP
 555 South Flower Street, 24th Floor
 Los Angeles, CA 90071

11.17. Severability. The Parties agree if any provision of this Agreement is held to be illegal, invalid, or unenforceable, that provision will be severed from and no longer be a part of this Agreement. The legality of the Settlement and the remaining provisions will not be affected by a finding that any provision of this Agreement is illegal, invalid, or unenforceable.

11.18. Advice of Counsel. The Parties to this Agreement are represented by competent counsel and have had an opportunity to consult with said counsel. The Parties further agree that this Agreement reflects a good faith compromise of claims raised in the Action based

upon their independent assessment of the mutual risks regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the claims and the inherent costs and delay that would be involved in continued litigation.

11.19. Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, and electronic signatures (e.g., DocuSign, Adobe) 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.

11.20. Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree to stay the Action following the full execution of this Agreement. Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 583.330, the Parties further agree that the date to bring a case to trial under California Code of Civil Procedure section 583.310 will be extended for the duration of the settlement approval process.

[Signatures on the following page.]

1 **AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY:**

2 **Plaintiff and Settlement Representative:**

DocuSigned by:

Adil Elamrani Joutey

0F66E976A5EF475...

3 Dated: 7/16/2026

4 By: _____

Adil Elamrani Joutey

5
6 **Plaintiff's Counsel:**

7 Dated: 7/16/2026

MOON LAW GROUP, PC

8
9 By: _____

Kane Moon

Allen Feghali

Mariam Ghazaryan

Mitchell H. Millet

Attorneys for Plaintiff Adil Elamrani Joutey

10
11
12
13 **Defendant:**

14 Dated: 7/28/2026

By: _____

Ghirardelli Associates, Inc.

15
16 Name: Randall Bruner

17
18 Title: President/CEO

19
20 **APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY BY:**

21 **Defendant's Counsel:**

22
23 Dated: July 29, 2027

CLARK HILL LLP

24
25 By: _____

Lisa Reimbold

Hiba Hammad

Attorneys for Defendant Ghirardelli Associates, Inc.

Exhibit A

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

Adil Elamrani Joutey v. Ghirardelli Associates, Inc.
Superior Court of California, County of Placer, Case No. S-CV-0055468

NOTICE: All current and former non-exempt employees of Ghirardelli Associates, Inc. who worked in California at any time from June 4, 2021, to May 31, 2026 (excluding all hourly field staff employed by Ghirardelli Associates, Inc. in the state of California from June 4, 2021, to April 30, 2023).

A court approved this Notice. This is not an advertisement, and you are not being sued. However, your legal rights are affected whether or not you act. Read this Notice carefully.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT	
DO NOTHING	You will receive a payment from the Settlement, if finally approved, and you will release all claims covered by the Settlement. No action is required for you to receive a share of this Settlement.
EXCLUDE YOURSELF	You will <u>not</u> receive a payment from the Settlement.¹ If you exclude yourself from this Settlement, you will not be permitted to submit an objection to the Settlement. You may not exclude yourself from the PAGA portion of the Settlement.
DISPUTE WORKWEEKS AND/OR PAGA PAY PERIODS	If you do not exclude yourself from this Settlement, you may dispute the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods credited to you if you believe the below-reported number is incorrect.
OBJECT	You may object to this Settlement, and the Court may or may not agree with your objection. Submitting an objection will not exclude you from receiving a payment from the Settlement.

Read this Notice carefully. This Notice explains the Action, the proposed Settlement, your legal rights, what payments may be available to you, and how to get them.

1. Why have I received this Notice?

The California Superior Court of Placer County has granted preliminary approval of a proposed Class and PAGA Action Settlement Agreement ("Settlement") reached between Plaintiff Adil Elamrani Joutey ("Plaintiff") and Defendant Ghirardelli Associates, Inc. ("Defendant"), which may affect your legal rights. This Notice explains the key terms of the Settlement and your rights and options with respect to the Settlement.

You have received this Notice because Defendant's records indicate that you are a member of the Settlement Class. For purposes of Settlement, the "Class" is comprised of "all current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant in California during the period of June 4, 2021, to May 31, 2026" ("Class Members"), excluding all hourly field staff employed by Ghirardelli Associates, Inc. in the state of

^[1] Regardless of whether you exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will still receive a portion of the Settlement for release of the civil penalties claim under the California Private Attorneys General Act, Labor Code sections 2698 through 2699.8 ("PAGA"), if the Settlement is finally approved and if you are an Aggrieved Employee.

California from June 4, 2021, to April 30, 2023, who were represented in the *Tunkel* action. The "Class Period" is June 4, 2021, through May 31, 2026.

In addition, Defendant's records indicate that you are a member of the PAGA Group ("Aggrieved Employee"). For purposes of Settlement, "Aggrieved Employee" means all current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant in California at any time during the applicable PAGA Period. The "PAGA Period" is May 26, 2024, through May 31, 2026.

2. *What is the case about?*

On June 4, 2025, Plaintiff Adil Elamrani Joutey initiated a lawsuit against Defendant entitled *Adil Elamrani Joutey v. Ghirardelli Associates, Inc.*, Placer County Superior Court Case No. S-CV-0055468. On July 31, 2025, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint in the same action. The lawsuit is referred to herein as the "Action."

Plaintiff alleges the following claims against Defendant: (1) failure to pay minimum wages, (2) failure to pay overtime compensation, (3) failure to provide meal periods or meal period premiums for non-compliant meals, (4) failure to authorize and permit rest periods or pay rest period premiums for non-compliant breaks, (5) failure to indemnify necessary business expenses, (6) failure to timely pay all wages when due during employment or final wages at termination, (7) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, (8) unfair business practices, and (9) civil penalties based on the foregoing allegations under PAGA.

Defendant denies each and every allegation raised in the Action and believes it has treated, and continues to treat, Class Members in accordance with all applicable laws. The Court has not made any decision regarding whether the claims or defenses in the Action have any merit. The Court has only preliminarily determined the proposed Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate as to all Class Members. Defendant reserves the right to object to and defend itself against any claim if, for any reason, the Settlement does not become effective.

Plaintiff and Defendant (the "Parties") reached a Settlement that is subject to the Court's final approval. By settling the Action, Defendant does not admit, concede, or imply that it has done any wrongdoing, and Plaintiff does not concede that any of Defendant's affirmative defenses have merit.

3. *Who are the attorneys representing the Parties?*

The Court has appointed Plaintiff's attorneys as "Class Counsel" to represent all Class Members. You will not be charged for this legal representation.

Class Counsel's contact information is as follows:

<u>Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class:</u>	<u>Attorneys for Defendant:</u>
Kane Moon (SBN 249834) Allen Feghali (SBN 301080) Mariam Ghazaryan (SBN 341119) Mitchell H. Millet (SBN 356250) MOON LAW GROUP, PC 725 S. Figueroa Street, 31st Floor Los Angeles, California 90017 Phone: (213) 232-3128 Fax: (213) 232-3125	Lisa Reimbold (SBN 261321) CLARK HILL LLP 555 South Flower Street, 24th Floor Los Angeles, California 90071 Phone: (213) 891-9100 Fax: (213) 488-1178

4. *How much is the Settlement for and how can I expect to receive?*

Defendant has agreed to pay a Gross Settlement Amount ("GSA") of \$525,000.00, which will be used to pay the Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members, Individual PAGA Payments to Aggrieved Employees, Plaintiff's Class Representative Enhancement Award, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Costs Payment, Settlement Administrator's Administration Expenses Payment, and payment under PAGA to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA"). Defendant will separately pay its employer-side payroll taxes owed for Individual Class Payments.

Class Counsel will apply to the Court for an award of attorneys' fees of up to thirty-five percent (35%) of the Gross Settlement Amount ("GSA"), as well as reimbursement of actual litigation costs in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00. Plaintiff will also seek a Class Representative Enhancement Award of \$10,000.00 for her service on behalf of the Class, subject to Court approval. In addition, Class Counsel will request approval of a \$50,000.00 PAGA allocation from the GSA, of which the portion payable to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") will be distributed as required by law. The Settlement Administrator will be paid from the GSA for the costs of administering the Settlement in an amount estimated at **\$XXX**, subject to Court approval.

After the above payments are deducted from the GSA, in the amounts finally approved by the Court, the remainder will be distributed to Participating Class Members through Individual Class Payments. Individual Class Payments will be paid on a pro rata basis to Participating Class Members and calculated by the Administrator based on each individual's number of Workweeks. "Participating Class Members" are Class Members who do not send the Administrator a timely and valid Request for Exclusion from the Settlement. A "Workweek" refers to any week during which a Participating Class Member worked for Defendant in California for at least one day within the Class Period.

Defendant's records indicate that you worked approximately [] **Workweeks**. Accordingly, your Individual Class Payment is estimated to be \$[]. The actual amount of your Individual Class Payment may vary and is subject to standard wage withholdings. A portion of your Individual Class Payment will be treated as wages for tax purposes, subject to all tax withholdings customarily made from an employee's wages and all other authorized and required withholdings and reported on an IRS Form W-2. The remaining portion will be treated as penalties and interest for tax purposes and reported on an IRS Form 1099. The specific allocation between wages and penalties will be set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

Individual PAGA Payments will be paid to Aggrieved Employees on a pro rata basis and calculated by the Administrator based on each individual's number of PAGA Pay Periods. A "PAGA Pay Period" refers to any pay period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant in California for at least one day within the PAGA Period.

Defendant's records indicate that you worked approximately [] **PAGA Pay Periods**. Accordingly, your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$[]. The actual amount may vary. Your Individual PAGA Payment will be treated as penalties for tax purposes and reported on an IRS Form 1099.

5. *What if I disagree with the number of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods credited to me?*

If you believe the workweek or pay period information shown above is correct, you do not need to do anything to receive a payment. However, if you believe the information is not correct, you may challenge it by submitting a written dispute stating why you believe the listed Workweeks or PAGA Pay Periods are not correct and providing supporting records (for example, pay stubs) showing the number of Workweeks or PAGA Pay Periods you worked.

The dispute must be sent to the Administrator (whose contact information is listed below) by email or mail if postmarked no later than [DISPUTE DEADLINE]. The Administrator will review the information you provide and will make a determination. Defendant's records will be presumed correct absent credible evidence to rebut the Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods credited to you.

6. *What are my rights regarding this Settlement?*

OPTION 1: Do Nothing

If you do nothing, you will receive a check if the Court finally approves the Settlement and you will release the claims covered by the Settlement (as described below). You do not have to do anything to receive a payment. You are responsible for paying applicable federal, state, or local taxes on your settlement payment.

The front of every check issued to you will show the date when the check expires ("Void Date"). If you do not cash your check by the Void Date, your check will be automatically canceled, and the money will be transmitted to the California State Controller's Office for Unclaimed Property to be held in your name until you can claim your property.

Note: It is your responsibility to keep a current mailing address on file with the Administrator to ensure receipt of your payment under the Settlement. You should immediately notify the Administrator if you move or otherwise change your mailing address.

OPTION 2: Object to the Settlement

Any Participating Class Member may object to the Class portion of the Settlement. (You do not have standing to object to the PAGA portion of the Settlement.) Submitting an Objection means that you do not want the Settlement, or any particular terms of the Settlement, to be approved by the Court. If you wish to object to the Settlement, you can submit a written Objection stating why you object to the Settlement, and you may use the **Objection Form** enclosed with this Notice.

Any Objection must be in writing and contain: (1) your full name, current mailing address, last four digits of your Social Security Number (for verification of identity purposes and for the Administrator to contact you, if necessary, to clarify your objection); (2) the case name and number (*Adil Elamrani Joutey v. Ghirardelli Associates, Inc.* (Placer Case No. S-CV-0055468)); (3) a clear statement that you object to the Settlement and the factual and legal basis, with supporting documents, if any, on which your objection is based; (4) your signature; and (5) the date of signature. The Administrator will not disclose your contact information or Social Security Number to anyone, including the Parties, and your information will be securely held and will not be used for any purpose except to ascertain your identity for administration of this Settlement. Your written Objection must be sent to the Administrator (whose contact information is listed below) by email or mail, if transmitted or postmarked no later than [OBJECTION DEADLINE], [YEAR]. A copy of any Objection will be submitted to the Court (with your private information redacted) for the Court's consideration in relation to whether to finally approve the Settlement.

You are not required to appear at the Final Approval Hearing for your written Objection to be considered. However, if you do not submit a timely and valid written Objection in the manner specified above, you may still appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf) and state your objection at the Final Approval Hearing set for [DATE], at [TIME] a.m./p.m. in Department 1 of the Placer County Superior Court, located at 101 Maple Street, Auburn, California 95603. If you intend to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, you are not required to file or serve a notice of intention to appear.

If the Final Approval Hearing is continued to another date or time, the Administrator will give notice to any Participating Class Member who submitted an Objection.

Participating Class Members who fail to object in either of the manners specified above shall be deemed to have waived any objection and shall be foreclosed from making any objection (whether by appeal or otherwise) to the Settlement. If a Participating Class Member objects to this Settlement, the Participating Class Member will remain a member of the Class, and if the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, he or she will be bound by the terms of the Settlement and any Final Approval Order and Judgment, including the Released Class Claims defined further below.

Note: If you object to the Settlement, you are expected to receive your individual share of the Settlement if the Court approves the Settlement over your Objection.

OPTION 3: Exclude Yourself from The Settlement

If you wish to be excluded from participating in the Class portion of the Settlement, you must submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion to the Administrator. To submit a Request for Exclusion, you may use the **Request for Exclusion Form** enclosed with this Notice.

The Request for Exclusion must be in writing and include: (1) your full name, current mailing address, last four digits of your Social Security Number (for verification of identity purposes and for the Administrator to contact you, if necessary, to clarify your Request for Exclusion); (2) the case name and number (*Adil Elamrani Joutey v. Ghirardelli Associates, Inc.* (Placer Case No. S-CV-0055468)); (3) a clear statement that you wish to be excluded from the Settlement; (4) your signature; and (5) the date of signature. The Administrator will not disclose your contact information or Social Security Number to anyone, including the Parties, and your information will be securely held and will not be used for any purpose except to ascertain your identity for administration of this Settlement. Your Request for Exclusion must be sent to the Administrator (whose contact information is listed below) by email or mail if postmarked no later than **[OPT-OUT DEADLINE]**. Untimely Requests for Exclusion will not be considered. A copy of any Request for Exclusion will be submitted to the Court (with your private information redacted).

If you submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion following the above instructions, you will not be considered a Participating Class Member, will not receive any Individual Class Payment, and you will not be eligible to object to the terms of the Settlement.

Note: You cannot opt out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. You are an Aggrieved Employee and when the Court finally approves the Settlement, you will receive an Individual PAGA Payment and be bound by the Released PAGA Claims (as defined below) even if you submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion.

7. *When is the Final Approval Hearing?*

The Court has determined only that there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the proposed Settlement might be fair, adequate, and reasonable. The Court's final determination of those issues will be made at the Final Approval Hearing.

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing on **[DATE]**, at **[TIME]** a.m./p.m. in Department 1 of the Placer County Superior Court, located at 101 Maple Street, Auburn, California 95603.

The Final Approval Hearing may be continued to another date or time without further notice to you. However, the Administrator will give notice of continuance to any Participating Class Member who submitted an Objection.

You do not need to appear at the hearing. If you plan to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf), you should contact the court clerk for Department 1 or visit the court's website at www.placer.courts.ca.gov for instructions on how to remotely appear or verify the hearing date and time.

8. *Can I be retaliated against for participating in the Settlement?*

The law prohibits Defendant from retaliating against employees for exercising their rights under the law. Therefore, Defendant cannot and will not fire you, demote you, harass you, classify you as ineligible for rehire, or retaliate against you in any other way because you choose to participate, or not participate, in the Settlement, in whole or in part.

9. *What claims are being released as part of the Settlement?*

Plaintiff's General Release: Plaintiff will release any and all claims that Plaintiff has or may have against the Released Parties related to or arising from Plaintiff's employment with Defendant ("Plaintiff's General Release"). Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts and/or law different from, and/or in addition to, the facts and/or law that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff's General Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding the existence of such different and/or additional facts and/or law or Plaintiff's discovery of them. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Plaintiff's General Release excludes any claims or actions to enforce the Settlement, any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits or workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time, and any claims that are not releasable as a matter of law or public policy.

Released Class Claims by Participating Class Members: Plaintiff will release, on behalf of himself and all other Participating Class Members, all claims against the Released Parties that were alleged in Plaintiff's operative First Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint or that reasonably could have been alleged based solely on the facts asserted therein, including but not limited to (1) failure to pay minimum wages, (2) failure to pay overtime compensation, (3) failure to provide meal periods or pay meal period premiums, (4) failure to authorize and permit rest periods or pay rest period premiums, (5) failure to indemnify necessary business expenses, (6) failure to timely pay final wages at termination, (7) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, (8) unfair business practices, (9) statutory penalties of any nature, (10) interest, (11) attorneys' fees and costs, and (12) any other claims arising out of or related to the Complaint filed in the Action during the Class Period ("Released Class Claims"). The Released Class Claims exclude any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits or workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time, any claims that are not releasable as a matter of law or public policy, and any claims arising outside the Class Period.

Released PAGA Claims by Aggrieved Employees: Plaintiff will release, on behalf of himself and the LWDA, all claims against the Released Parties for civil penalties pursuant to the California Private Attorney's General Act of 2004, which were alleged or could have been alleged in Plaintiff's PAGA Notice to the LWDA (LWDA Case No. LWDA-CM-1101124-25) and in Plaintiff's operative First Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint, including California Labor Code sections 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 510, 512, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802, 2699, and 2699(f)(2) ("Released PAGA Claims"). The Released PAGA Claims include only claims for penalties under PAGA that arose during the PAGA Period.

Effective Date of Releases: The released claims described above will become effective upon entry of the Court's Final Approval Order and Defendant's full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount and its employer-share of payroll taxes.

Released Parties: The "Released Parties" are defined in the Settlement Agreement and include Defendant Ghirardelli Associates, Inc. and its related entities and individuals as set forth therein.

10. *What if I lose my Settlement check or tax forms?*

If you lose or misplace your check before cashing it, the Administrator will replace it as long as you request a replacement before the Void Date that is stated on the face of the original check. The Administrator will also replace any tax forms that you have lost. After the Void Date, the Administrator will cancel your check and transmit the funds in accordance with the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure section 384(b). Specifically, uncashed funds will be transmitted to the California State Controller's Office for Unclaimed Property to be held in your name until you can claim your property.

If your check has been voided, you should contact the Settlement Administrator or consult the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund at ucpi.sco.ca.gov for instructions on how to retrieve the funds.

11. *How can I get more information?*

The *Class and PAGA Action Settlement Agreement* ("Settlement") is on file with the Court as an exhibit to the Declaration of Class Counsel in Support of Motion for Preliminary Settlement Approval, filed on [DATE].

This Notice contains a summary of the basic terms of the Settlement and description of the Action. For more detail, you may examine a copy of the Settlement as well as the pleadings and other records in the Action, free of charge, during regular business hours at the Court Clerk's office of the Placer County Superior Court, located at 10820 Justice Center Drive, Roseville, CA 95678. You may also access the records online at www.placer.courts.ca.gov.

If you need more information or have any questions, you may contact the attorneys representing the Parties at the contact information provided above.

You may also contact the Settlement Administrator at the following contact information:

Adil Elamrani Joutey v. Ghirardelli Associates, Inc.
c/o [Settlement Administrator Name]
[ADDRESS]
[ADDRESS]
[PHONE NUMBER] | [EMAIL]

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT FOR LEGAL ADVICE OR FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS NOTICE.

REQUEST FOR EXCLUSION FORM

I, _____, wish to be excluded from the Settlement of Class claims in *Adil Elamrani Joutey v. Ghirardelli Associates, Inc.*, Placer County Superior Court, Case No. S-CV-0055468.

Full Name (Printed)

Address City State and Zip Code

Telephone Number

Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (for verification purposes only)

Signature

Date

[Note: (1) This Request for Exclusion Form *does not* exclude you from the Settlement of PAGA claims, and (2) this Request for Exclusion Form *must* be mailed to the following address of the Administrator on or before [OPT-OUT DEADLINE]]:

Administrator
[Settlement Administrator Name]
[ADDRESS]
[PHONE NUMBER] | [EMAIL]