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

JUAN DE LOS SANTOS VILLABA, an
individual, on behalf of himself and all others
similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

T&R PAINTING AND DRYWALL, a
California Corporation; and DOES 1 TO 50,

Defendant.

Case No. 22STCV34394

**~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER GRANTING
MOTION TO APPROVE THE
SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO THE
PRIVATE ATTORNEY GENERAL ACT OF
2004**

Hearing Date: February 23, 2026

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Dept.: T

Judge: Hon. Shirley K. Watkins

Reservation ID: 929733928458

FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

02/27/2026

David W. Slayton, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

By: J. Nichols Deputy

1 **~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER AND JUDGMENT**

2 This matter came before the Court on February 23, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in Department T of
3 the above-captioned Court on Plaintiff Juan De Los Santos Villaba's ("Plaintiff") motion for
4 approval of a settlement agreement pursuant to the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General
5 Act ("PAGA") (the "Settlement").

6 Having received and considered the Settlement Agreement, the supporting papers filed by
7 Plaintiff, and the evidence and argument received by the Court, the Court grants approval of the
8 PAGA Settlement and HEREBY ORDERS AND MAKES THE FOLLOWING
9 DETERMINATIONS:

10 1. Except as otherwise defined in this Order and Judgment ("Order"), all capitalized
11 terms have the same meaning as defined in the Settlement Agreement that is attached as Exhibit 1
12 to the Declaration of Meghan N. Higday in Support of Motion to Approve the Settlement Pursuant
13 to the Private Attorney General Act of 2004 ("Higday Decl.").

14 2. The California Labor Workforce and Development Agency ("LWDA") has been
15 provided notice of the Settlement in accordance with PAGA, California Labor Code § 2699(1)(2),
16 (1)(4). Plaintiff's notice of the Settlement to the LWDA complied with the notice requirements of
17 PAGA and is attached as Exhibit 3 to the Higday Decl.

18 3. The Court confirms approval of the Settlement as to the Aggrieved Employees and
19 the State of California.

20 4. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this litigation, over all
21 Aggrieved Employees, and over those persons undertaking affirmative obligations under the
22 Settlement.

23 5. The Settlement is approved under Labor Code § 2699(1)(2).

24 6. The Cover Letter to Aggrieved Employees, attached as Exhibit 5 to the Higday Decl.,
25 fairly and adequately describes the Action, the approved Settlement, and is the best notice
26 practicable under the circumstances.

27 7. The Court finds that each Aggrieved Employee, in accordance with the Settlement,
28 releases all Released Claims against the Released Parties.

1 8. The Gross Settlement Amount, Net Settlement Fund and the methodology used to
2 calculate the LWDA Payment and PAGA Aggrieved Employee Payment (which is comprised of
3 the Individual PAGA Payments), in accordance with the Settlement is approved.

4 9. The Court approves Simpluris, Inc. to act as the Settlement Administrator. The Court
5 awards the Settlement Administrator in this Action its actual fees and costs in accordance with the
6 terms of the Settlement Agreement, not to exceed \$7,600.00.

7 10. The Court approves Jonathan Melmed, Meghan N. Higday, and Emily G. Horrigan
8 of Melmed Law Group P.C. as PAGA Counsel.

9 11. The Court awards PAGA Counsel attorneys' fees in the amount of \$55,000.00 and
10 actual litigation costs of \$15,324.71, both of which the Court finds to be fair and reasonable. The
11 Court authorizes the Settlement Administrator to make these payments, in accordance with the terms
12 of the Settlement Agreement.

13 12. The Court authorizes the Settlement Administrator to calculate the Net Settlement
14 Amount, inclusive of the LWDA Payment and Employee Payment, in accordance with the terms of
15 the Settlement Agreement.

16 13. The Court finds that the LWDA Payment of \$85,306.47 as its share of the settlement
17 of civil penalties is fair and reasonable. The Court authorizes the Settlement Administrator to pay
18 the LWDA Payment, in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

19 14. The Court finds that the Employee Payment of \$28,435.49 as the Aggrieved
20 Employees' share of the settlement of civil penalties is fair and reasonable. The Court authorizes
21 the Settlement Administrator to pay the Employee Payment, in accordance with the terms of the
22 Settlement Agreement.

23 15. Checks for Individual PAGA Payments sent to Aggrieved Employees shall be valid
24 for 180 days after issuance. Funds remaining from any checks for Individual PAGA Payments
25 uncashed after 180 days will be dispersed to State of California Unclaimed Wage or Property Fund,
26 in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

27 16. Upon completion of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will provide
28 written certification of the completion to the Court and counsel for the Parties which shall be filed

1 with the Court on or before August 10, 2026.

2 17. Without affecting the finality of this order and entry of judgment, the Court retains
3 exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over this Action for purposes of supervising, administering,
4 implementing, and enforcement of this Order and the Settlement.

5 18. Nothing in this Order or the Settlement shall be construed as an admission or
6 concession by any party. The Settlement and this resulting Order and entry of judgement simply
7 represent a compromise of disputed allegations.

8 19. The Court enters final judgment in accordance with the terms of the Settlement
9 Agreement and this Order.

10 20. Plaintiff is directed to submit a copy of this Order and entry of judgment to the
11 LWDA within 10 days of the date of this Order and entry of judgment.

12 **IT IS SO ORDERED:**

13
14 DATED: 02/27/2026



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley K. Watkins", is written over a horizontal line.

Shirley K. Watkins / Judge

Honorable Shirley K. Watkins
Judge of the Superior Court, Los Angeles
County