

1 JAMIE K. SERB, ESQ. (SBN 289601)
jamie@crosnerlegal.com
2 ZACHARY M. CROSNER, ESQ. (SBN 272295)
zach@crosnerlegal.com
3 **CROSNER LEGAL, PC**
4 9440 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 301
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
5 Tel: (866) 276-7637
Fax: (310) 510-6429

6 Attorneys for Plaintiff AUSTIN EASLEY, as an individual and on
7 behalf of all others similarly situated

8
9 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
10 **COUNTY OF ORANGE**

11 AUSTIN EASLEY, as an individual on
12 behalf of himself and on behalf of all others
13 similarly situated,

14 Plaintiff,

15 vs.

16 PARADISE DYNASTY LLC, a Delaware
17 limited liability company; PARADISE
GROUP HOLDINGS USA INC., a
18 Delaware corporation; PARADISE RAMEN
LLC, a Delaware limited liability company;
19 DPPA GROUP INC, a California
20 corporation; and DOES 1-100, inclusive,

21 Defendants.
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Case No.: 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC

Assigned for All Purposes to:
Hon. Layne H. Melzer
Dept. CX-102

DECLARATION OF NIKKI TRENNER IN
SUPPORT OF FINAL FOR FINAL
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT AND REQUEST FOR
ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS

**[Filed Concurrently with Notice of Motion
and Motion; Declarations of Austin Easley
and Mary Butler; [Proposed] Order]**

Date: March 14, 2025
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Dept.: CX-102

1 I, NIKKI TRENNER, declare as follows:

2 1. I am an attorney duly licensed to practice in California and before this Court, and I
3 am associated with Crosner Legal, PC, counsel of record for Plaintiff in the above-captioned
4 matter. If called to testify as to the facts within, I would and could competently do so.

5 2. Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of the Parties Second
6 Amended Settlement Agreement and Stipulation to Resolve Class Action and PAGA Claims
7 (“Settlement Agreement”).

8 3. Defendant Paradise operates a Chinese restaurant named Paradise Dynasty located
9 in South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa, California, which first opened in 2021. Paradise Dynasty is
10 the first restaurant location in the United States operated by the parent conglomerate “Paradise
11 Group,” which originated in Singapore and operates a number of restaurants throughout Southeast
12 Asia. Plaintiff Easley worked for Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC as a server and bartender from
13 approximately November 2021 to June 2022.

14 4. Plaintiff filed his class action complaint against Paradise on November 15, 2022,
15 alleging causes of action for (1) recovery of unpaid minimum wages and liquidated damages
16 (2) recovery of unpaid overtime wages; (3) failure to provide meal periods or compensation in lieu
17 thereof; (4) failure to provide rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof; (5) failure to furnish
18 accurate itemized wage statements; 6) failure to timely pay all wages due upon separation of
19 employment; (7) failure to reimburse business expenses; and (8) unfair competition. After notice
20 to the LWDA, on March 8, 2023 Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint alleging a claim under
21 PAGA seeking civil penalties based on the same alleged Labor Code violations.

22 5. Paradise has at all times denied Plaintiff’s allegations and maintained its payroll
23 policies and procedures comply with California law, that it paid the class members all wages due,
24 and that it properly compensated the class members for all hours worked at the correct rates of
25 pay. It further argued its meal and rest break policies are fully compliant and that it provided class
26 members with all required breaks. Likewise, Paradise contended there would be no reason for an
27 employee to use their own phone while working and accordingly it owes no reimbursement.
28 Defendant also strongly contends the case cannot be maintained as any kind of class or

1 representative action, arguing determining the reasons for any off the clock work, missed/non-
2 compliant breaks, or personal cell phone use would result individualized issues predominating and
3 that a trial on a representative basis would be unmanageable.

4 6. After Plaintiff filed his initial complaint, the Parties initiated written discovery and
5 after engaging in meet and confer discussions regarding discovery, potential law and motion, and
6 the merits of the case, and ultimately agreed to attempt early mediation. They also agreed on a
7 protocol for sharing information and undertook significant informal discovery to facilitate an
8 exchange of information necessary to engage in a meaningful mediation. Consequently, Plaintiff's
9 counsel reviewed personnel policies/handbooks, meal and rest break policies, personnel files, and
10 a random of sampling paystubs and time records for about 25% of the class. Plaintiff had those
11 records analyzed by Berger Consulting Group to look for, inter alia, violation rates for missed, late
12 and/or short meal breaks, potential violations, etc.

13 7. The Parties then engaged Steve Cerveris, Esq., a respected mediator with extensive
14 wage and hour class action experience and, in May 2023, participated in a full day mediation with
15 Mr. Cerveris that resulted in the proposed settlement.

16 **THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT TERMS**

17 8. Under the settlement, Paradise will pay \$290,000 into a common fund, the Gross
18 Settlement Amount ("GSA"). Attorney's fees of up to \$96,666.67 (33.33% of the GSA), litigation
19 costs of up to \$17,000 (only \$14,458.40 is requested), settlement administration costs of no more
20 than \$10,500, and a payment of \$20,000 for PAGA civil penalties (to divided 75% to the Labor &
21 Workforce Development Agency and 25% to the Aggrieved Employees), all will be paid from the
22 GSA. The remainder of around \$148,375 will be allocated pro rata among the Class Members based
23 on their total weeks worked during the Class Period. No portion of the GSA will revert to Paradise.

24 9. As noted, the settlement obligates Paradise to pay \$290,000 to resolve the claims of
25 the Settlement, inclusive of attorney's fees and costs. A minimum of approximately \$148,375 from
26 the GSA will be distributed to the Participating Class Members. This is a cash settlement that does
27 not require Participating Class Members to submit a claim form to receive their settlement share.
28 Participating Class Members will receive their settlement checks automatically via First Class U.S.

1 Mail. Twenty percent of each settlement share will be allocated to wages and the remaining eighty
2 percent will be allocated to expenses, penalties and interest, which allocation is consistent with
3 Paradise's potential liability as discussed below. Paradise will pay any and all applicable employer-
4 side payroll taxes separately and in addition to the GSA. Subject to the Court's approval, any
5 amounts not claimed (because a class member does not cash his or her settlement check) will be
6 forwarded to the California State Controller's Unclaimed Property Division.

7 10. Each Participating Class Member will receive a share of the Net Settlement Amount
8 based on his or her total weeks worked for Paradise during the Class Period while employed in a
9 non-exempt service position. Thus, each Class Member's Individual Settlement Payment will be
10 calculated using criteria typically used in determining appropriate amounts of unpaid wages, unpaid
11 premium wages for missed meal and rest breaks, and potential statutory penalties under applicable
12 law. These methods are intended to ensure each Class Member receives a portion of the available
13 settlement funds corresponding to the relative value of his or her potential claims. The proposed
14 allocation provides a reasonable way to compensate Class Members based on the amount of time
15 they worked for Paradise and the number of instances they allegedly missed a meal break and/or
16 rest break, were not provided compensation in lieu of such missed breaks, or lost hours worked due
17 to time rounding.

18 11. All Participating Class Members will release Paradise from all claims alleged in the
19 operative complaint, or that could have been brought based on the factual allegations in the
20 operative complaint, including PAGA claims, during the Class Period. The release is limited to the
21 claims that were actually pleaded or could have been pleaded based on the alleged facts in the
22 operative complaint.

23 12. The Parties allocated \$20,000 to payment of civil penalties under PAGA, and
24 Plaintiff submits that amount is fair, reasonable and adequate, and consistent with PAGA's
25 underlying purposes. As required by Labor Code section 2699(1)(2), my office gave notice of the
26 settlement and the approval hearing to the LWDA via its online portal, and further served the
27 LWDA with the motion papers. A true and correct copy of the LWDA's acknowledgement of
28 receipt is attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

The Proposed Settlement Meets the Dunk/Kullar Factors and is within the Range of Reasonableness, and Merits Final Approval

13. Prior to mediation, the parties engaged in formal and informal discovery to facilitate settlement discussions. Thus, Plaintiff reviewed documents and information regarding Paradise's payroll practices, a random sampling of pay stubs and time records for sampling of class members, applicable compensation plans, etc., and information from Defendant regarding class size and breakdown, work weeks/pay periods, rates of pay, and other relevant information. Plaintiff then had that information analyzed by a consulting expert to assist in determining potential violation rates and other data used to formulate a damages model. Plaintiff's counsel are confident they obtained sufficient information to understand the law and facts of this case and make an informed decision regarding the proposed settlement and whether it is fair and reasonable.

14. Using that data, Plaintiff ran various calculations and estimated Paradise's likely maximum exposure on the class claims at approximately \$2,460,500, including about \$154,500 on the unpaid wage claims, about \$347,600 on the meal period claims, approximately \$761,400 on the rest break claims, about \$57,300 for expense reimbursement, about \$488,200,000 for wage statement violations, and approximately \$651,500 in waiting time penalties.

15. On the unpaid wage claims, Plaintiff alleged Paradise required employees to clock out for meal periods but continue working due to understaffing and the press of business in the busy restaurant. He further alleges management would retroactively adjust employee time punches by, inter alia, pushing time into the following day or work week in order to avoid having to pay daily or weekly overtime. On the other hand, Paradise argued it accurately tracks and pays for all hours worked, that its compensation policies are legal and fully comply with California law, and that any adjustments to employee time simply corrected documented errors. Paradise likewise argued that class certification on this issue would be impossible since determining if any employee worked through a meal period would require individualized proof.

16. On the meal break claim, Plaintiff contends Paradise's written policies were not fully compliant, and inter alia failed to fully apprise employees of their right to a meal period before the end of the fifth hour of work, and further restricting employees from leaving the

1 premises while on a lunch break. Also, as noted, Plaintiff alleges he and other employees were
2 often pressured to work through their meal breaks due to understaffing and a heavy workload
3 involved in keeping the restaurant functioning. Plaintiff's review of the time records produced
4 further suggests numerous "de facto" violations and Plaintiff contends around 43.7% of all shifts
5 have at least one unique meal period violation, and particularly with respect to the failure to
6 provide second meal periods on shifts over 10 hours.

7 17. In response, Paradise argued its break policies are fully compliant with California
8 law, that it provided class members with the opportunity to take all required breaks, and that many
9 class members waived their second meal periods. Defendant further maintained that, in light of its
10 compliant policies, whether a class member missed a meal period, received a late meal period, or
11 missed a rest break would have been aberrational and against company policy. Thus, per Paradise,
12 these issues are not amenable to class or representative treatment since their resolution would
13 require individualized inquiries as to why a break was missed or non-compliant. Paradise further
14 argued that in many instances it paid the required one hour of premium pay for documented
15 violations.

16 18. For rest breaks, Plaintiff again argued that there were numerous "de facto"
17 violations where class members didn't receive a break, or didn't receive a compliant break, due to
18 the press of business and understaffing. As with meal breaks, Defendant argued the applicable
19 rest break policies complied with California law, and that it authorized and permitted employees to
20 take all required breaks. Defendant further contended that, in light of the fact that it is not required
21 to maintain a record of rest periods, any evidence of failure to authorize rest periods and/or
22 discouragement from taking rest periods would be purely anecdotal and individual issues would
23 predominate on liability. This arguably would once again make class certification and a trial
24 unmanageable since the number of instances an employee missed a rest break would have to be
25 tested on a case by case basis to determine compliance.

26 19. For Plaintiff's expense reimbursement claim, he argued Defendant failed to
27 reimburse Plaintiff and the other employees for expenses incurred in using their personal mobile
28 phones and data for business purposes. Of note, Plaintiff and the other employees were frequently

1 contacted by text message and/or phone call with questions and requests regarding their
2 availability for shifts. When employees must use their personal cell phones for work, this statute
3 required an employer to reimburse them for such use. In response, Paradise argued there would be
4 no need for an employee use a phone to perform his or her work duties, and thus any such use
5 would have been unnecessary and purely for personal convenience, and therefore not
6 reimbursable.

7 20. Plaintiff also alleged derivative claims under Labor Code § 226 (alleged inaccurate
8 wage statement violations) and §§ 201-203 (waiting time penalties), both based on the failure to
9 properly record and pay for all hours worked, and will rise or fall along with that primary claim, in
10 addition to being subject to “good faith” and other defenses available to Defendant. Accordingly,
11 Plaintiff discounted the derivative claims significantly in light of these multiple potential defenses.

12 21. As far as potential PAGA liability, the theoretical penalties totaled over \$2.2
13 million should Plaintiff prevail on all claims and establish violations of the multiple Labor Code
14 sections at issue for every single eligible pay period. As with the class claims, Plaintiff discounted
15 the potential PAGA penalties for the multi-layered defenses proffered by Defendant on the merits,
16 and further discounted these claims since the Court possesses wide discretion to reduce such
17 penalties even if Plaintiff ultimately prevailed. Accordingly, the Parties allocated \$20,000 to
18 PAGA penalties, which amount is reasonable and in line with comparable settlements in other
19 class actions in California. Additionally, the LWDA has been informed of the terms of the PAGA
20 portion of the settlement, and will be able to weigh in as necessary.

21 22. Overall, Defendant raised various defenses to Plaintiff’s claims on both class
22 certification and the merits that, if successful, could have negatively impacted Plaintiff’s claims or
23 potentially reduced potential damages. Accordingly, Plaintiff faced significant risks going forward
24 with this litigation, and given the need to secure and maintain class certification, prevail at trial,
25 and deal with post-trial appeals. The settlement obviates the significant risk that this Court may
26 find any kind of class or representative resolution unachievable or deny certification of all or some
27 of Plaintiff’s claims. Furthermore, even if Plaintiff obtained certification of all or some of the
28 claims, continued litigation would be lengthy and expensive as the parties pursued merits

1 discovery, a probable motion to decertify, as well as trial and possible appeals, and would
2 substantially delay any recovery by the class with no assurance of recovering significantly more
3 than the proposed settlement. While Plaintiff and I are confident in the merits of these claims,
4 legitimate controversies exist regarding each one of them. We also recognize proving the amount
5 of wages and penalties due each Class Member would be an expensive, time-consuming, and
6 uncertain proposition.

7 23. Plaintiff and I discounted the value of the class claims consistent with the risks
8 discussed above, and carefully weighed the likelihood of the class receiving substantially greater
9 benefit if the litigation continued. We concluded – in light of these very real and substantial risks
10 – settlement on the proposed terms and without prolonged and costly litigation was in the best
11 interests of the class. The overall \$290,000 recovery represents a significant percentage of
12 Defendant’s potential exposure and, given the multiple litigation risks addressed above, a total
13 recovery for the class of \$290,000, with an average award of some \$396 per class member, is a
14 fair result within the range of reasonableness considering all potential outcomes.

15 **SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION COSTS**

16 24. The settlement provides for a payment to Simpluris of no more than \$10,500 for its
17 services as the Settlement Administrator. As set forth in the Declaration of Mary Butler,
18 Simpluris has performed and will continue to perform its required duties through final distribution
19 of the settlement funds, and incurred \$10,500.00 in fees and expenses. I respectfully requests the
20 Court approve payment of \$10,500 to Simpluris from the GSA.

21 **ATTORNEY’S FEES AND COSTS**

22 25. Per the terms of the settlement, up to one-third of the gross settlement amount is
23 allocated to payment of reasonable attorney’s fees. Here, the parties did not negotiate the
24 inclusion of attorney's fees until after extensive arms-length bargaining regarding relief to
25 the Class was completed. The requested fee and cost award was a product of these arms-
26 length negotiations and fairly reflects the marketplace value of the services rendered by
27 Crosner Legal in this case for the reasons addressed herein.

1 26. As is fully detailed in the Trenner Declaration, Class Counsel's efforts
2 included: (1) extensive pre-lawsuit investigation of the claims of Plaintiff and the putative class,
3 including legal research, research into similar claims and claims against other employers in the
4 same industry, and attempts to locate and contact other Paradise employees; (2) drafting a PAGA
5 notice letter; (3) drafting the initial complaint and related documents; (4) case management,
6 including communications with defense counsel, meeting and conferring/preparing case
7 management statements, etc.; (5) drafting an amended complaint; (6) propounding initial written
8 discovery, (7) lengthy discussions with defense counsel regarding settlement/mediation and
9 informal discovery needed for meaningful settlement discussions; (8) engaging in substantial
10 informal discovery, including propounding informal discovery "requests" and reviewing
11 documents and other information produced; (9) drafting a mediation brief and accompanying
12 damages model after review and analysis of Paradise's informal discovery production; (10)
13 attending an all-day mediation; (11) negotiating and drafting the settlement agreement and related
14 documents; (12) drafting the motion for preliminary approval, and supplemental materials
15 requested by the Court; (13) administration of the settlement, including communications with the
16 Settlement Administrator and settlement class members; (14) drafting the motion for final
17 approval and request for attorney's fees, and attending the final approval hearing; and (15)
18 extensive communications with the Plaintiff regarding case status, case investigation and
19 document review, mediation, and settlement terms. Additionally, Class Counsel will incur
20 additional time following final approval to, inter alia, respond to class member inquiries, work
21 with the Settlement Administrator on the distribution of settlement funds, and on the compliance
22 hearing and amended judgment. A true and correct summary of Crosner Legal's tasks performed
23 and time expended on the matter is attached as Exhibit 3.

24 27. I graduated from Trinity Law School in 2017 and joined Mara Law Firm, PC
25 (formerly The Turley and Mara Law Firm, APLC) that same year. I later joined Crosner Legal in
26 2020 and am currently employed as a senior associate in the wage and hour department. I have
27 solely handled wage and hour class actions and PAGA lawsuits for six (6) years. I routinely
28 write and oppose motions, draft complaints, appear before the Court at law and motion and

1 settlement hearings, engage in the discovery process, including drafting Belaire-West notices
2 and meet and confer letters.

3 28. I have obtained class certification in the following matters: *Hernandez v. Aviation*
4 *Port Services, LLC*, Kern County Superior Court Case No. BCV-18-100141. I have also assisted
5 in obtaining millions of dollars for employees in the following court-approved class action
6 and/or representative PAGA settlements: *Michael Campbell, et al. v. Symons Emergency*
7 *Specialities, Inc.*, San Bernardino County Superior Court Case No. CIVDS1903158; *Amber*
8 *Collins v. Danbarb, Inc., et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 20STCV44190;
9 *Michael Elridge v. LA Downtown Medical Center, LLC, et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior
10 Court Case No. 20STCV05951; *Anthony Leon, et al. v. Sierra Aluminum Company, et al.*, San
11 Bernardino County Superior Court Case No. CIVDS2010856; *Elaine Moyal v. Cabinets To Go,*
12 *LLC*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 20STCV32477; *Genevieve Rangel v. Bassett*
13 *Direct NC, LLC*, Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2018-01040101-CU-OE-CXC;
14 *Jacob Buys v. Sizewise Rentals, Inc., et al.*, Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 34-
15 2018-00225848-CU-OE-GDS; *Alejandro Valencia v. VM Tree Service, Inc., et al.*, Riverside
16 County Superior Court Case No. RIC1819395; *Joshua Rael v. Intercontinental Hotels Group*
17 *Resources, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 19STCV16010; *Angel Cervantez*
18 *v. Valley Pallet, Inc.*, Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 34-2018-00234334-CU-OE-
19 GDS; *Tonja Edwards-Bloodsaw v. Sandburst Convalescent Group, LTD, et al.*, Los Angeles
20 Superior Court Case No. 19STCV15797; *Moriah Holtegaard, et al. v. Howroyd-Wright*
21 *Employment Agency, Inc. dba AppleOne Corporation Services, et al.*, Central District Court of
22 California, Eastern Division, Case No. 5:20-cv-00509 JGB (KKx); *Jade Findley, et al. v.*
23 *Avenue5 Residential, LLC, et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 20STCV34633;
24 *Keivan Keyhanzad v. Ryan Cars, LLC dba Pomona Kia, et al.*, Riverside County Superior Court
25 Case No. RIC1905276; *Luis Bolanos v. FSC Corporation dba Il Pastaio Restaurant, et al.*, Los
26 Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC722758; *Loretta Cannon v. Pasadena Hospital*
27 *Association, LTD dba Huntington Hospital*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No.
28 19STCV14554; *Nathan Kapusta v. Cardinale Motors SLO, Inc., et al.*, Kern County Superior

1 Court Case No. BCV-20-101593; and *Jesse McCauley v. Mullahey Ford, Inc., et al.*, San Luis
2 Obispo County Superior Court Case No. 21CV0001.

3 29. Zach Crosner is a 2010 graduate of University San Diego School of Law and he
4 has approximately thirteen years of experience as a practicing attorney. For nearly his entire
5 career, his practice has focused on litigation of wage & hour, consumer, and privacy class action
6 and representative action claims. Following graduation he immediately began working for a
7 nationally recognized plaintiff's complex litigation firm, CaseyGerry, where he worked directly
8 with past presidents of the consumer attorneys and recipients of trial attorneys of the year
9 awards. He also worked for other firms that included former CAALA and CLAY trial attorney
10 of the year recipients. While with these firms, he advocated for the rights of consumers and
11 employees in class action litigation, civil rights and employment litigation, catastrophic injuries,
12 insurance bad faith and appellate litigation.

13 30. In 2013, he founded the law firm of Crosner Legal, P.C. which since its inception
14 has focused almost exclusively on plaintiff-side class actions lawsuits representing employees,
15 consumers and other victims. Currently, over ninety percent (95%) of his practice is dedicated
16 exclusively to the prosecution of class actions and representative action lawsuits, and his law
17 firm is currently responsible as lead counsel or co-lead counsel for prosecuting over one hundred
18 (100) active wage and hour class actions and/or PAGA representative actions, as well as a
19 multitude of consumer and privacy class actions, in both federal and state courts throughout
20 California. He has been a direct participant in over one hundred (100) class action and/or
21 representative action settlements where he has been approved as adequate lead counsel.

22 31. Mr. Crosner has been selected by Super Lawyers as a "Southern California Rising
23 Star" for employment and labor law consecutively from 2018 through 2023. Super Lawyers has
24 also named me on their "Up-and-Coming 100" Southern California Rising Stars List for
25 consecutive years from 2021 through 2023. Only 2.5% of lawyers within California are named a
26 Super Lawyer Rising Star and even less are added to their Top Lists. Additionally, he has been
27 selected as a Top 40 Under 40 Civil Plaintiff Attorney by the National Trial Lawyers, invitation-
28 only organization composed of the premier trial lawyers, from 2019 through 2023. He is an

1 active participant in advocacy groups, including as an executive board member of the Wage and
2 Hour Committee and the Legislative Committee for the California Employment Lawyers
3 Association; a member of the Grassroots Advocacy Team for the National Employment Lawyers
4 Association; Wage and Hour Committee member and Class Action Committee member for the
5 National Trial Lawyers; a member of the American Association for Justice; and a member of the
6 Pound Civil Justice Institute.

7 32. Jamie Serb is a partner with Crosner Legal and head of the firms' Wage & Hour
8 practice group. She graduated from the University of California, San Diego in 2004, graduated from
9 California Western School of Law in 2013, and has been a member of the California Bar since 2013.
10 She gained extensive experience in wage and hour litigation, beginning work as a class action
11 attorney in 2015 at the Mara Law Firm, PC (previously Turley & Mara Law Firm, APLC; Turley
12 Law Firm, APLC). She joined Crosner Legal on January 4, 2021 as an associate attorney. She has
13 handled wage and hour class actions and PAGA lawsuits for the past several years and has assisted
14 in obtaining millions of dollars for employees during her years of practice.

15 33. Branden Hamilton obtained her undergraduate degree from UCLA in 2004, and her
16 law degree from George Washington University in 2007. She has been affiliated with my firm since
17 2017 and became Of Counsel with Crosner Legal in 2019, and her practice focuses almost
18 exclusively on wage and hour class and representative actions. She has spent her entire career
19 representing plaintiffs in employment litigation, including several years as an associate at well-
20 known plaintiff's firm Carlin & Buchsbaum.

21 34. Kiara Bramasco received her undergraduate degree, magna cum laude, from
22 Loyola Marymount University in Political Science, and then received her JD from Loyola Law
23 School in 2018. She then spent several years with well-known plaintiff's firm Moss Bollinger,
24 first as a law clerk and then as an associate, where her practice focused on employment law,
25 particularly wage and hour class action and PAGA litigation. She joined Crosner Legal in 2021.

26 35. Michael Jones received his bachelor's degree from UC Santa Barbara in 2012,
27 and his J.D. from the USC Gould School of Law in 2016. He has practiced civil litigation for
28 over six years and previously worked as a litigation attorney at Reisner & King LLP and Weston

1 & Mclevain LLP. He was a litigation associate with Crosner Legal from 2022-24.

2 36. Crosner Legal, P.C. has obtained several multi-million dollar wage and hour class
3 action settlements while serving as lead class counsel in recent years, including but not limited to a
4 \$1.9 million wage and hour class action settlement in 2015 (*Smith v. Lux Retail North America, Inc.*,
5 Case No. 3:13-cv-01579-WHA (N.D. Cal.)); a \$4.1 million wage and hour class action settlement
6 in 2016 (*Aguirre v. Mariani Nut Company, Inc. et al.*, Case No. 34- 2016-00190252 (Sacramento
7 Cty. Super Ct.)); a \$1.35 million wage and hour class action settlement in 2017 (*Montelone v. Ocean*
8 *Cities Pizza, Inc.*, Case No. 56-2014-00458249 (Ventura Cty. Super. Ct.)), a \$1.8 million wage and
9 hour class action settlement in 2018 (*Latham v. K.W.P.H. Enterprises, Inc. dba American*
10 *Ambulance*, Case No. 17C-0162 (Kings Cty. Super Ct.)), a \$1.3 million wage and hour class action
11 settlement in 2019 (*Means, et al. v. AirGas USA, LLC*, Case No. 17-CV-2160 JGB (C.D. Cal.)), a
12 \$1.5 million wage and hour settlement in 2020 (*Babouchian, et al. v. Wyndham Vacation*
13 *Ownership, et al.*, Case No. CV18-14601 (San Diego Cty. Super. Ct.)), a \$1.15 million wage and
14 hour class action settlement in 2020 (*Buford v. Medical Solutions LLC*, Case No. 4:18-CV-04864-
15 YGR (N.D.Cal.)); a \$7.25 million wage and hour class action settlement in 2020 in *Avina, et al. v.*
16 *First Alarm Security & Patrol, Inc.*, Case No. 18CV323753 (Santa Clara Cty. Super Ct.); a \$2.2
17 million wage and hour class action settlement in 2021 (*Ghorchian, et al. v. West Hills Hospital, et*
18 *al.*, Case No. LS029737 (Los Angeles Cty. Super. Ct.)); a \$2.85 million dollar wage and hour
19 settlement in 2021 (*Valencia v. The Original Mowbray's Tree Service, Inc.*, Case No.
20 CIVDS1825518 (San Bernardino Cty. Super. Ct.)); a \$1 million wage and hour class action
21 settlement in 2022 (*Duong v. Loan Factory, Inc.*, Case No. 21CV382467 (Santa Clara Cty. Super.
22 Ct.)), a \$1.4 million wage and hour class action settlement in 2023 in *Correa, et al. v. FedEx Supply*
23 *Chain, Inc.*, Case No. CIVDS2023369 (San Bernardino Cty. Super. Ct.)), a \$2.38 million wage and
24 hour class action settlement in 2023 in *Michel, et al. v. Valley Thrift Store, Inc.*, Case No.
25 21STCV00925 (Los Angeles Cty. Super. Ct.); a \$2.5 million wage and hour class action settlement
26 in 2023 in *Jajuga v. Pilot Travel Centers*, Case No. CIVDS1931464 (San Bernardino Cty. Super.
27 Ct.); \$1.015 million wage and hour class action settlement in 2023 in *Gotishan v. Kyo Autism*
28 *Therapy*, Case No. CGC-21-596378 (San Francisco Cty. Super. Ct); and a \$1.15 million wage and

1 hour PAGA settlement in 2023 in *Vaughn v. Public Health Foundation Enters., Inc.*, Case No.
2 21STCV18512 (Los Angeles Cty. Super. Ct.).

3 37. Based upon the qualifications and experience set forth above, the following hourly
4 rates are reasonable: Zach Crosner \$800/hour; Jamie Serb \$750/hour; Nikki Trenner \$700/hour;
5 Kiara Bramasco \$650/hour; and Branden Hamilton and Michael Jones \$600/hour.

6 38. I request the Court apply the above hourly billing rates in this case, as they
7 reasonable in the California legal market for attorneys handling wage and hour class and PAGA
8 actions. I have personal knowledge of the hourly rates charged by a number of plaintiff-side wage
9 and hour class action firms in the Bay Area, Los Angeles and San Diego markets, for partner-level
10 attorneys with experience comparable to mine. These rates have range from \$650 to \$850 per
11 hour for calendar years 2017-2023. Some examples include attorney Matthew Matern of Matern
12 Law Group in Los Angeles, with approximately 26 years of experience \$850/hour (2018); Craig
13 Ackermann of Ackermann & Tilajef, PC with approximately 25 years of experience \$850/hour
14 (2021), Michael Malk of Malk APC in Los Angeles, with approximately 16 years of experience
15 \$650/hour (2018), Michael Singer and Isam Khoury of Cohelan Khoury & Singer in San Diego,
16 35 years and 45 years of experience respectively, both \$825/hour (2018), and James Kawahito of
17 Kawahito Law Group in Los Angeles, with approximately 16 years of experience \$750/hour
18 (2020).

19 39. The requested rates also comport with the adjusted Laffey Matrix, which provides
20 that reasonable hourly rates for attorneys with 10+ years of experience, such as Mr. Crosner and
21 myself. The adjusted Laffey Matrix may be found at <http://www.laffeymatrix.com/see.html>.

22 40. After the analysis above, Crosner Legal's lodestar is \$113,780.00, based on 152.1
23 attorney hours spent litigating this case through the filing of this motion. Further, we will almost
24 certainly spend additional time addressing settlement administration matters, responding to class
25 member questions, submitting the compliance report and amended judgment, etc. On a lodestar
26 basis, the fee request of \$96,666.67 is lower than the base lodestar and accordingly there is no
27 request to apply a lodestar enhancement.

28 41. As noted, Crosner Legal has represented Plaintiff for over a two years with respect

1 to this matter and has expended a significant amount of time and resources in that representation.
2 My firm agreed to litigate this case on a purely contingent basis and in so doing assumed
3 considerable risk of non-payment for its fees and costs, as discussed above, and as is the case with
4 these cases in general. Under all relevant factors (as outlined herein and in the accompanying
5 memorandum), Plaintiff respectfully requests the Court award his counsel the requested fees of
6 \$96,666,67 based on the common fund theory with a corresponding lodestar cross-check and no
7 lodestar modifier.

8 42. This case posed considerable contingent risk, for the reasons addressed above; if
9 there had been recovery then my firm would not have received any fees for the time invested
10 litigating the case. Throughout the pendency of this case, my firm has received no compensation
11 or reimbursement for its efforts representing Plaintiff and the Class.

12 43. Crosner Legal assumes a great deal of contingent risk in every wage and hour class
13 action it undertakes. Attorneys at the firm been involved in a number of cases where plaintiffs and
14 their counsel invested hundreds of hours to time and tens of thousands in costs with no return. For
15 example, in a matter alleging misclassification on behalf of a putative class of assistant managers
16 at major restaurant chain, after three years of exceptionally adversarial litigation and the
17 investment of over 1,000 hours of attorney time and over \$100,000 in costs, the trial court denied
18 plaintiffs' motion for class certification. In another misclassification case on behalf of assistant
19 managers at large restaurant chain, the parties reached a settlement after three years of litigation,
20 secured preliminary approval and completed the notice process to the settlement class, only to
21 have the defendant file for bankruptcy a few days before the final approval hearing. Lastly, in a
22 matter against a large regional bank seeking expense reimbursement of behalf of outside
23 salespersons, after more than a year of combative litigation and shortly before plaintiff's class
24 certification motion was due, the defendant was taken over by federal regulators. In each of these
25 instances the plaintiff's firm received nothing despite the investment of hundreds of hours of
26 attorney time and thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs.

27 44. Reimbursement for litigation costs and expenses is capped at \$17,000 under the
28 terms of Settlement Agreement. A true and correct itemization of the costs and expenses incurred

by Crosner Legal is set forth below:

Expense Category	Amount
Court Filing Fees/Service of Process/Attorney Service	\$2,023.40
Mediation Fees	\$7,500.00
PAGA Filing Fees	\$75.00
Expert Witness Fees	\$4,860.00
Postage/Delivery	(waived)
Legal/Financial Research	(waived)
Photocopies	(waived)
Total Costs and Expenses	\$14,458.40

45. These costs and expenses are reasonable in amount and were necessary to the successful resolution of the case. I respectfully request the Court approve payment of \$14,458.60 in litigation costs and expenses to Crosner Legal.

46. For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully request the Court grant this motion and grant final approval to the proposed settlement.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on February 24, 2025, at Los Angeles, California.



Nikki Trenner

EXHIBIT

1

Jamie K. Serb (SBN 289601)
jamie@crosnerlegal.com
Zachary M. Crosner (SBN 272295)
zach@crosnerlegal.com
CROSNER LEGAL, PC
9440 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 301
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Tel: (866) 276-7637
Fax: (310) 510-6429

Attorneys for Plaintiff
AUSTIN EASLEY, as an individual and on
behalf of all others similarly situated

RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP
Edson K. McClellan (State Bar No. 199541)
emcclellan@rutan.com
Noell C. Rice (State Bar No. 321855)
nrice@rutan.com
18575 Jamboree Road, 9th Floor
Irvine, CA 92612
Telephone: 714-641-5100
Facsimile: 714-546-9035

Attorneys for Defendants
PARADISE DYNASTY LLC; PARADISE
GROUP HOLDINGS USA INC.; PARADISE
RAMEN LLC; and DPPA GROUP INC.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE

AUSTIN EASLEY, as an individual on behalf
of himself and on behalf of all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

PARADISE DYNASTY LLC, a Delaware
limited liability company; PARADISE GROUP
HOLDINGS USA INC., a Delaware
corporation; PARADISE RAMEN LLC, a
Delaware limited liability company; DPPA
GROUP INC, a California corporation; and
DOES 1-100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC

ASSIGNED FOR ALL PURPOSES TO:
JUDICIAL OFFICER: LON F. HURWITZ
DEPARTMENT: CX-103

**SECOND AMENDED SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT AND STIPULATION TO
RESOLVE CLASS ACTION AND PAGA
CLAIMS**

Date Action Filed: November 15, 2022
Trial Date: None

1 This Second Amended Settlement Agreement and Stipulation To Resolve Class Action and
2 PAGA Claims (the “**Settlement Agreement**,” “**Agreement**,” or “**Settlement**”) is entered into to
3 resolve the action entitled *Easley, et al., v. Paradise Dynasty LLC, et al.*, Orange County Superior
4 Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC.

5 **DEFINITIONS**

6 1. Action. “**Action**” means *Easley, et al., v. Paradise Dynasty LLC, et al.*, Orange
7 County Superior Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC.

8 2. Agreement or Settlement or Settlement Agreement. “**Agreement**” or “**Settlement**”
9 or “**Settlement Agreement**” means this Amended Settlement Agreement and Stipulation To
10 Resolve Class Action and PAGA Claims, entered into by the Parties to resolve the Action.

11 3. Aggrieved Employees. “**Aggrieved Employees**” means all non-exempt, hourly-paid
12 employees of Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC employed in California at any time during the
13 PAGA Period.

14 4. Attorneys’ Fees and Costs. “**Attorneys’ Fees and Costs**” means the amount
15 authorized by the Court for: (i) an award of attorneys’ fees to Class Counsel for litigation and
16 resolution of the matter, in the amount that does not exceed 33.33% percent of the Gross Settlement
17 Amount; and (ii) reimbursement of actual costs incurred by Class Counsel in connection with this
18 Action, in an amount to not to exceed \$17,000.00.

19 5. Class or Class Members. “**Class**” or “**Class Members**” means all non-exempt,
20 hourly-paid employees of Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC employed in California at any time
21 during the Class Period.

22 6. Class Counsel. “**Class Counsel**” means Zachary M. Crosner and Jamie K. Serb of
23 Crosner Legal, PC.

24 7. Class Notice. “**Class Notice**” means the Notice of Class Action Settlement, attached
25 as **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, or a substantially similar notice approved by the Court.

26 8. Class Period. “**Class Period**” means the period from July 12, 2021, through July 2,
27 2023.

1 9. Court. “**Court**” means Orange County Superior Court, where the Action is currently
2 pending.

3 10. Defendants. “**Defendants**” means defendants Paradise Dynasty LLC; Paradise
4 Group Holdings USA, Inc.; and DPPA Group, Inc.

5 11. Defendants’ Counsel. “**Defendants’ Counsel**” means Edson K. McClellan and
6 Noell C. Rice of Rutan & Tucker, LLP.

7 12. Effective Date. The “**Effective Date**” of this Agreement will be the later of (i) the
8 65th day after service of notice of entry of the Final Order and Final Judgment, if no appeal, review,
9 or writ has been filed; or (ii) if an appeal, review, or writ is sought from the Final Order or Final
10 Judgment, the day after the Final Order and Final Judgment are affirmed or the appeal, review, or
11 writ is dismissed or denied, and the Final Order and Final Judgment are no longer subject to further
12 judicial review. The Effective Date is conditioned upon the Court’s having entered a Final Order
13 and Judgment as set forth in this Agreement.

14 13. Employer Payroll Taxes. “**Employer Payroll Taxes**” means Defendant Paradise
15 Dynasty LLC’s share of the payroll taxes associated with the wage portion of the Individual
16 Settlement Payments, which Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC will pay separately from the Gross
17 Settlement Amount.

18 14. Final Hearing Date. “**Final Hearing Date**” means the date set by the Court for the
19 hearing on final approval of the Settlement.

20 15. Final Order and Judgment. “**Final Order and Judgment**” means the proposed order
21 granting final approval of the Settlement and the separate proposed judgment, which Plaintiff will
22 submit to the Court with the motion for final approval of the Settlement.

23 16. Gross Settlement Amount. “**Gross Settlement Amount**” means the total settlement
24 payment Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC has agreed to make under this Agreement, with the
25 exception of Employer Payroll Taxes. The Gross Settlement Amount is \$290,000.00, unless
26 escalated pursuant to Paragraph 47.

27 17. Individual PAGA Payment. “**Individual PAGA Payment**” means a payment to an
28 Aggrieved Employee of the employee’s share of the PAGA Payment as set forth in this Agreement.

1 18. Individual Settlement Payment. “**Individual Settlement Payment**” means the
2 individual settlement payment allocated to each Participating Class Member and/or Aggrieved
3 Employee as set forth in this Agreement, and consists of the Participating Class Member Payment
4 and the Individual PAGA Payment to the extent an employee is eligible.

5 19. Named Plaintiff or Plaintiff. “**Named Plaintiff**” or “**Plaintiff**” means plaintiff
6 Austin Easley.

7 20. Notice Period. “**Notice Period**” means the time period commencing on the date the
8 Class Notice is mailed to Class Members and ending 60 days thereafter unless a notice is remailed
9 to a Class Member, in which case, the Notice Period shall end either 60 days after mailing or 45
10 days after remailing, whichever is later.

11 21. Net Class Settlement Amount. “**Net Class Settlement Amount**” means the
12 settlement amount to be distributed to Participating Class Members, which is the Gross Settlement
13 Amount less Attorneys’ Fees and Costs, the Enhancement Award, the PAGA Amount, and
14 Settlement Administration Costs.

15 22. PAGA Claims. “**PAGA Claims**” means, for the duration of the PAGA Period,
16 claims for penalties under the California Private Attorneys’ General Act (California Labor Code §
17 2698, *et seq.*) (“**PAGA**”) that arise from the facts, matters, transactions or occurrences alleged in
18 the Action or that could have been alleged in the Action based on such facts. Without limiting the
19 foregoing, and in addition to the foregoing, the PAGA Claims include claims premised on the
20 alleged: failure to provide meal periods or compensation in lieu thereof; failure to provide rest
21 periods or compensation in lieu thereof; failure to pay minimum wages; failure to pay overtime
22 wages; failure to maintain accurate records; standard conditions of labor violations; refusal to make
23 payments; statutory wage violations; unreimbursed business expenses; inaccurate itemized wage
24 statements; failure to provide paid sick leave and supplemental sick leave; failure to provide proper
25 notice of paid sick leave rights; failure to timely pay all wages upon separation of employment;
26 failure to produce records; failure to provide suitable resting facilities; seating violations; unlawful
27 deductions; failure to pay vested vacation wages; unlawful tip pooling; and unlawful criminal
28 inquiries; violations of California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 216, 218.5, 221-223,

225.5, 226, 226.6, 226.7, 227.3, 233, 234, 246, 247.5, 245, 248.5, 256, 351-353, 432, 432.5, 432.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1024.5, 1174, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, 2810.5; and related violations of the applicable California Wage Orders. The PAGA Claims excludes claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation claims, FEHA-related claims for retaliation, discrimination or harassment, and any claims outside of the PAGA Period.

23. PAGA Amount. "**PAGA Amount**" means the amount of \$20,000.00, which represents the portion of the Gross Settlement Amount allocated to the settlement of the PAGA Claims. The PAGA Amount is paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, and will be allocated as set forth in this Agreement. The Parties agree that 75% of the PAGA Amount (\$15,000.00) will be paid to the LWDA as the "**LWDA Payment**," and the remaining 25% (\$5,000.00) will be allocated to the Aggrieved Employees as the "**PAGA Payment**."

24. PAGA Period. "**PAGA Period**" means January 2, 2022, through July 2, 2023.

25. Parties. "**Parties**" means Defendants and the Named Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. Each of the Parties may be referred to in the singular as a "**Party**."

26. Participating Class Member. "**Participating Class Member**" means each Class Member who has not timely opted out of the Settlement pursuant to this Agreement, and "**Settlement Class**" means a class of all Participating Class Members.

27. Preliminary Approval Order. "**Preliminary Approval Order**" means an order from the Court preliminarily approving this Settlement.

28. Released Parties. "**Released Parties**" means and includes Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC and its current and former parents (including, but not limited to, Paradise Group Holdings USA, Inc. and DPPA Group, Inc.), predecessors or successors, holding companies, affiliated companies or entities (including, but not limited to, owners, shareholders, members, partners, officers, directors, managers, employees, insurers, attorneys, and agents).

29. Released Claims. "**Released Claims**" means: For the duration of the Class Period, any and all claims, known or unknown, contingent or accrued, against Defendant Paradise Dynasty

1 LLC and the other Released Parties that have been, or reasonably could have been, asserted against
2 Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC or any of the other Released Parties based on the facts, matters,
3 transactions or occurrences alleged in the Action and arising during the Class Period, including,
4 without limiting the foregoing, claims for: failure to pay minimum wages and liquidated damages;
5 failure to pay overtime; failure to provide meal periods or premium pay in lieu thereof; failure to
6 provide rest breaks or premium pay in lieu thereof; inaccurate itemized wage statements; failure to
7 timely pay wages upon separation; unreimbursed business expenses; and unfair competition in
8 relation to the foregoing claims; violations of California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210,
9 218.5, 226, 226.6, 226.7, 256, 510, 512, 1024.5, 1174, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 2802; the
10 applicable California Wage Orders, and all related or corresponding federal laws; violation of
11 California Business and Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*; related violations of the applicable
12 California Wage Orders; and violations of all related or corresponding federal laws in connection
13 with the alleged Labor Code violations alleged (or that could be alleged based on the facts pled) in
14 the Action. The Released Claims excludes claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination,
15 unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation claims, FEHA-related
16 claims for retaliation, discrimination or harassment, and any claims outside of the Class Period.

17 30. Settlement Administration Costs. “**Settlement Administration Costs**” means the
18 costs of settlement administration, including costs of notice to Class Members, distributing
19 settlement payments, and any other fees and costs incurred or charged by the Settlement
20 Administrator in connection with the execution of its duties under this Settlement.

21 31. Settlement Administrator. “**Settlement Administrator**” means Simpluris or such
22 other third-party administrator chosen by the Parties and approved by the Court.

23 32. Settlement Hearing. “**Settlement Hearing**” means the hearing on the Final Hearing
24 Date at which the Court will determine whether to fully and finally approve the fairness and
25 reasonableness of this Agreement.

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

RECITALS

33. On November 15, 2022, the Named Plaintiff filed a Class Action Complaint (the “**Complaint**”) against Defendants in a case entitled *Easley, et al., v. Paradise Dynasty LLC, et al.*, Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC. The Complaint alleges that Defendants violated various wage-and-hour laws and includes claims for: (1) Recovery of Unpaid Minimum Wages and Liquidated Damages; (2) Recovery of Unpaid Overtime Wages; (3) Failure to Provide Meal Periods or Compensation in Lieu Thereof; (4) Failure to Provide Rest Periods or Compensation in Lieu Thereof; (5) Failure to Furnish Accurate Itemized Wage Statements; (6) Failure to Timely Pay All Wages Due Upon Separation of Employment; (7) Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses; and (8) Unfair Competition.

34. On November 16, 2022, the Named Plaintiff submitted a PAGA Notice to the LWDA.

35. On March 8, 2023, the Named Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint (“FAC”) asserting, in addition to the claims alleged in the Complaint, claims for civil penalties pursuant to PAGA, based on the same claims alleged in the Named Plaintiff’s PAGA Notice, including all class claims already alleged, as well as record keeping violations, failure to produce records, suitable resting and seating violations, violation of standard conditions of labor, refusal to make payment, unlawful deductions, statutory wage violations, sick leave and supplemental sick leave violations, vacation wages, tip pooling, and unlawful agreements.

36. On May 3, 2023, the Parties participated in a mediation with Steve Cerveris of Cerveris Mediation serving as the mediator. The Parties were unable to settle at mediation; however, Mr. Cerveris continued to work with the Parties after the mediation. Ultimately, Mr. Cerveris submitted a mediator’s proposal to the Parties, which the Parties accepted.

37. Defendants deny that any of them engaged in any misconduct in connection with the wage-and-hour practices associated with the Class Members (inclusive of the Aggrieved Employees). Defendants further deny that any of them have any liability of any kind associated with the claims alleged in the Action. Defendants contend that they all have fully complied with

1 both federal and state wage-and-hour laws, and all other laws regulating its relationship with the
2 Named Plaintiff, the Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees.

3 38. Class Counsel has investigated the facts relating to the Action. Settlement
4 discussions were conducted at arm's-length, and the Settlement is the result of an informed and
5 detailed analysis of Defendants' potential liability and exposure in relation to the costs and risks
6 associated with continued litigation. Based on the documents and records produced, as well as Class
7 Counsel's own independent investigation and evaluation, Class Counsel believes that the Settlement
8 documented by this Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in the best
9 interest of the Class in light of all known facts and circumstances, including the risk of significant
10 delay and defenses asserted to the merits of the Action. While Defendants specifically deny any
11 liability in the Action, Defendants have agreed to enter into this Settlement to avoid the costs
12 associated with defending the Action.

13 39. The Parties, Class Counsel, and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of
14 any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by the
15 Settlement Agreement.

16
17 **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

18 NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the recitals listed above and the promises and
19 warranties set forth below, and intending to be legally bound and acknowledging the sufficiency of
20 the consideration and undertakings set forth below, the Named Plaintiff, individually and on behalf
21 of the Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, and, to the extent permitted by law, the State of
22 California, and Defendants agree that the Action shall be and is finally and fully compromised and
23 settled on the following terms and conditions:

24 40. Dismissal of Paradise Ramen, LLC. As part of the settlement and within ten (10)
25 calendar days after the Parties have executed this Agreement, Plaintiff will file an application
26 requesting dismissal, without prejudice, of Paradise Ramen, LLC from the Action.

27 41. Non-Admission Of Liability. The Parties enter into this Agreement to resolve the
28 dispute that has arisen between them and to avoid the burden, expense and risk of continued

1 litigation. In entering into this Agreement, Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC and the other Released
2 Parties do not admit, and specifically deny, that they have violated any federal, state, or local law;
3 violated any regulations or guidelines promulgated pursuant to any statute or any other applicable
4 laws, regulations or legal requirements; breached any contract; violated or breached any duty;
5 engaged in any misrepresentation or deception; or engaged in any other unlawful conduct with
6 respect to the Class or the Aggrieved Employees. Neither this Agreement, nor any of its terms or
7 provisions, nor any of the negotiations connected with it, shall be construed as an admission or
8 concession by Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC or any of the other Released Parties of any such
9 violations or failures to comply with any applicable law. Except as necessary in a proceeding to
10 enforce the terms of this Agreement, this Agreement and its terms and provisions shall not be offered
11 or received as evidence in any action or proceeding to establish any liability or admission on the
12 part of any of the Defendants or to establish the existence of any condition constituting a violation
13 of, or non-compliance with, any federal, state, local or other applicable law.

14 42. Conditional Nature Of Settlement. For settlement purposes *only*, the Parties agree
15 that (a) a class may be certified in the Action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section
16 382, and (b) the Action may proceed as a PAGA representative action.

17 a. The Parties intend their settlement to be contingent upon the preliminary and
18 final approval of each and every term of this Agreement, without material modification. The Parties
19 and their respective counsel shall use their respective best efforts to obtain Court approval and
20 implement this Agreement in accordance with its terms. If the Court does not so approve this
21 Agreement, the Parties agree to meet and confer to address the Court's concerns. If the Parties are
22 unable to agree upon a resolution, the Parties intend this Agreement to become null and void, and
23 unenforceable, in which event the settlement terms set forth in this Agreement, including any
24 modifications made with the consent of the Parties, and any action taken or to be taken in connection
25 with this Agreement shall be terminated and shall become null and void and have no further force
26 or effect, and the class certified for settlement purposes pursuant to this Agreement will be
27 decertified for all purposes. In such an event, the Parties shall be jointly responsible for payment of
28 the Settlement Administrator's fees, if any, in an equal amount.

1 b. In the event the Court does not grant preliminary or final approval of the
2 Parties' settlement, or in the event that this Agreement shall terminate or the settlement embodied
3 in this Agreement does not become effective for any reason, the Agreement and all negotiations,
4 court orders, and proceedings relating to the Agreement shall be without prejudice to the rights of
5 the Named Plaintiff, Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, and Defendants, each of whom shall
6 be restored to their respective positions existing prior to the execution of this Agreement, and
7 evidence relating to the Agreement and all negotiations shall not be discoverable or admissible in
8 the Action or any other litigation. Defendants do not waive, and instead expressly reserve, all of
9 their rights to challenge the propriety of class certification and/or the Action proceeding on a
10 representative basis for any purpose should the Court not grant preliminary or final approval of the
11 Parties' settlement.

12 43. Participating Class Members' Release Of Claims. Upon the funding of the Gross
13 Settlement Amount and the Employer's Taxes necessary to effectuate the Settlement to the
14 Settlement Administrator, the Named Plaintiff and all Participating Class Members shall be deemed
15 to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished and discharged any
16 and all of the Released Parties from the Released Claims that arose during the Class Period.

17 a. This release by the Named Plaintiff and each Participating Class Member is
18 intended to settle any and all of the Released Claims that any of them may have against Defendant
19 Paradise Dynasty LLC or any of the Released Parties during the Class Period.

20 b. Because it is impossible or impracticable to have each Class Member execute
21 this Agreement, the Class Notice will advise all Class Members of the binding nature of the release
22 and such notice will have the same force and effect as if the Agreement were executed by each Class
23 Member.

24 44. Aggrieved Employees' Release of PAGA Claims. In exchange for the PAGA
25 Amount recited in this Agreement, the Named Plaintiff, as the representative for the State of
26 California and all Aggrieved Employees (to the maximum extent permitted by law), and on behalf
27 of their current, former, and future heirs, executors, administrators, attorneys, agents, and assigns
28 will, upon payment of the Gross Settlement Amount and the Employer's Taxes necessary to

1 effectuate the Settlement to the Settlement Administrator, forever completely release and
2 discharge Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC and each of the Released Parties from the PAGA
3 Claims that arose during the PAGA Period. The Aggrieved Employees and the State of California
4 will be deemed by operation of the Final Order and Judgment to have agreed not to sue or
5 otherwise make a claim against Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC and any of the Released Parties
6 for the PAGA Claims that arose during the PAGA Period, to the extent permissible by law. The
7 Aggrieved Employees will have no right to opt-out of the PAGA portion of this Settlement.

8 45. No Prior Assignments. The Named Plaintiff represents and warrants that he has not
9 directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber
10 to any person or entity any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or rights
11 released and discharged by this Agreement.

12 46. Settlement Payments And Calculation Of Claims. Subject to final Court approval
13 and the conditions specified in this Agreement, and in consideration of the mutual covenants and
14 promises set forth in this Agreement, Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC agrees to pay the Gross
15 Settlement Amount, which is \$290,000.00 unless escalated pursuant to Paragraph 47, in three
16 installments. The Gross Settlement Amount includes payments to be made to Participating Class
17 Members, Class Counsel's Attorneys' Fees and Costs, an Enhancement Award to the Named
18 Plaintiff, the PAGA Amount, and Settlement Administration Fees and Costs. The Parties agree that
19 if the Settlement is not approved, in whole or in part, because a court determines that the amount
20 allocated to the PAGA Settlement (\$20,000.00) should increase, the portion of the Settlement Fund
21 allocated for payment to the Class shall decrease to account for any increase required for the PAGA
22 Amount such that the Gross Settlement Amount does not exceed \$290,000.00, unless escalated
23 pursuant to Paragraph 47. For the avoidance of doubt, subject to the conditions set forth in this
24 Agreement, Defendants collectively shall not be required to pay any amount over \$290,000.00 for
25 this Settlement, unless escalated pursuant to Paragraph 47, apart from the Employer Payroll Taxes,
26 which Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC will pay in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount. The
27 following table summarizes the allocation of the Gross Settlement Amount:

Gross Settlement Amount of \$290,000.00, Allocated As Follows:

- **\$20,000.00** for the PAGA Payment
 - **\$15,000.00** for the LWDA Payment
 - **\$5,000.00** for payments to Aggrieved Employees on a *pro rata* basis (i.e., Individual PAGA Payment)
- Class Counsel Attorneys' Fees not to exceed **\$96,666.67**
- Class Counsel Costs not to exceed **\$17,000.00**
- Settlement Administration Costs, not to exceed **\$10,500.00**
- Approximately **\$145,833.33** paid to Class Members on a *pro rata* basis (i.e., Participating Class Member Payment)

47. Settlement Escalator. The Settlement is based on the representation that there were no more than 12,151 workweeks worked by the Class Members during the period from July 12, 2021 to July 2, 2023. If that number of workweeks worked by all Class Members during the Class Period is ultimately determined to exceed 13,336 (i.e., increases by more than 10%), Defendants will pay a proportional increase in the Gross Settlement Amount for each additional workweek over 13,336.

48. Apportionment of Gross Settlement Amount. The Parties agree, subject to Court approval and the conditions specified in this Agreement, that the Gross Settlement Amount shall be apportioned as follows:

a. Class Counsel Attorneys' Fees and Costs: At the final approval hearing, Class Counsel will apply to the Court for an award of Attorneys' Fees of no more than one-third percent (33.33%) of the Gross Settlement Amount, which, unless escalated pursuant to Paragraph 47, equals \$96,666.67. Class Counsel will also apply to the Court for an award of actual costs incurred by Class Counsel not to exceed the amount of \$17,000.00. These fees and costs are included in, and shall come from, the Gross Settlement Amount. Class Counsel will be issued an IRS Form 1099 for any fees and costs awarded by the Court pursuant to this Paragraph 48.a. Except as provided in this Paragraph 48.a, each Party will bear its or his own attorneys' fees, costs, and

1 expenses incurred in the prosecution, defense, or settlement of the Action. If the Court awards a
2 lower amount of Attorneys' Fees and Costs than the amount requested, any amount not awarded
3 will be part of the distribution to the Participating Class Members as set forth in this Agreement and
4 shall not be a reason to invalidate/terminate this Agreement.

5 b. Settlement Administrator Costs: At the final approval hearing, Class Counsel
6 will apply to the Court for approval of Settlement Administration Costs not to exceed the amount
7 of \$10,500.00. These costs are included in, and shall come from, the Gross Settlement Amount. If
8 the actual amount of the Settlement Administration Costs is less than \$10,500.00, the difference
9 between \$10,500.00 and the actual Settlement Administration Costs shall be a part of the Net Class
10 Settlement Amount. If the Settlement Administration Costs exceed \$10,500.00 then such excess
11 will be paid solely from the Gross Settlement Amount, subject to the Court's approval, and none of
12 the Defendants will be responsible for paying any additional funds in order to pay these additional
13 costs.

14 c. PAGA Amount: At the final approval hearing, Class Counsel will apply to
15 the Court for approval of the PAGA Amount of \$20,000.00 for claims for civil penalties asserted
16 under PAGA. Class Counsel will submit notice of this Settlement to the LWDA, as required by
17 Labor Code § 2699(l)(2). The Parties agree that 75% of the PAGA Amount (\$15,000.00) will be
18 paid to the LWDA as the "**LWDA Payment**," and the remaining 25% (\$5,000.00) will be allocated
19 to the Aggrieved Employees as the "**PAGA Payment**." The portion of the PAGA Payment
20 allocated to each of the Aggrieved Employees will be calculated using the same formula as set forth
21 in Paragraph 48.d, but will be limited to weeks worked during the PAGA Period. Any Class
22 Members who worked during the PAGA Period and who opt out of the Settlement will still be
23 considered Aggrieved Employees for purposes of this Paragraph 48.c and, therefore, will (i) receive
24 their portion of the PAGA Payment (the Individual PAGA Payment); and (ii) release all PAGA
25 Claims against the Released Parties.

26 d. Individual Settlement Payments. The Individual Settlement Payments shall
27 consist of: (i) each Participating Class Member's *pro rata* portion of the Net Class Settlement
28

1 Amount (the “**Participating Class Member Payment**”); and (ii) if applicable, each Aggrieved
2 Employee’s *pro rata* portion of the PAGA Payment (*i.e.*, the Individual PAGA Payment).

3 i) Participating Class Member Payment: After deducting the approved
4 amounts specified in Paragraphs 48.a-c above, each Participating Class Member will be entitled to
5 a *pro rata* portion of the remaining amount. Participating Class Member Payments will be
6 calculated from the Net Class Settlement Amount based on the respective number of weeks worked
7 by each Participating Class Member in a non-exempt position during the Class Period, rounded up.
8 Each Participating Class Member’s share of the Net Class Settlement Amount will be calculated by
9 dividing the Participating Class Member’s weeks worked in a non-exempt position by the total
10 number of weeks worked by all Class Members in a non-exempt position during the Class Period
11 and multiplying this figure by the Net Class Settlement Amount. The Class Notice will include the
12 number of weeks that the Class Member worked during the Class Period and the amount the Class
13 Member is estimated to receive under the terms of the Settlement.

14 ii) Individual PAGA Payment: For each Aggrieved Employee, the
15 Individual Settlement Payment will also include the Class Member’s *pro rata* share of the PAGA
16 Payment, as set forth in Paragraph 48.c (the Individual PAGA Payment).

17 e. The Parties acknowledge and agree that the formula used to calculate the
18 Individual Settlement Payments (including the Participating Class Member Payments and Individual
19 PAGA Payments) does not mean that all of the elements of damages, restitutionary relief, and
20 penalties alleged in the Action are not being taken into account. The above formula was devised as
21 a practical and logistical method to simplify the participation process.

22 f. Participating Class Member Payments shall be distributed only to
23 Participating Class Members. The portion of the Net Class Settlement Amount allocated to Class
24 Members who opt out of the Settlement will be distributed to Participating Class Members on a *pro*
25 *rata* basis based on the formula set forth in Paragraph 48.d. Individual PAGA Payments will be
26 distributed to all Aggrieved Employees.

27 g. The Parties agree that under no circumstances shall any of the Defendants be
28 obligated to pay any amount under this Agreement to any Class Member other than Participating

1 Class Members, with the exception of the Individual PAGA Payments which are not affected by a
2 Class Member opting-out of the Settlement. In addition, the Parties agree that under no
3 circumstances shall Defendants be obligated to pay more than the Gross Settlement Amount in full
4 settlement of the Action, other than any applicable Employer Taxes.

5 49. No Credit Toward Benefit Plans. The Individual Settlement Payments made to
6 Participating Class Members under this Agreement, including the Individual PAGA Payments made
7 to Aggrieved Employees, will not be utilized to calculate any additional benefits under any benefit
8 plans to which any Participating Class Member or Aggrieved Employees may be eligible for,
9 including, but not limited to: profit-sharing plans, bonus plans, 401(k) plans, stock purchase plans,
10 vacation plans, sick leave plans, PTO plans, and any other benefit plan. Rather, it is the Parties'
11 intention that this Agreement will not affect any rights, contributions, or amounts which any
12 Participating Class Member or Aggrieved Employee may be entitled to under any benefit plans.

13 50. Taxation Of Settlement Proceeds. All settlement payments paid to Participating
14 Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, and the Named Plaintiff, will be paid in a net amount after
15 applicable state and federal tax withholdings, including payroll taxes, have been deducted.

16 a. The Participating Class Member Payments shall be reported as follows:
17 (i) 20% of the amount distributed to each Participating Class Member will be considered wages, and
18 will be reported as such to each Participating Class Member on a W-2 Form; (ii) 40% of the amount
19 distributed to each Participating Class Member will be considered interest on the unpaid wages, and
20 will be reported as such to each Participating Class Member on an IRS Form 1099; and (iii) 40% of
21 the amount distributed to each Participating Class Member will be considered statutory penalties,
22 and will be reported as such to each Participating Class Member on an IRS Form 1099. The PAGA
23 Payments distributed to each Aggrieved Employee will be considered penalties and will be reported
24 on an IRS Form 1099.

25 b. Prior to mailing the Individual Settlement Payments, the Settlement
26 Administrator will calculate, withhold from the Individual Settlement Payment, and remit to
27 applicable governmental agencies sufficient amounts as may be owed by Participating Class
28 Members for required withholdings and taxes, including all payroll taxes. The Settlement

1 Administrator will issue appropriate tax forms to each Participating Class Member and Aggrieved
2 Employee consistent with the foregoing breakdown. The Parties understand that the Named
3 Plaintiff, Participating Class Members, and Aggrieved Employees who receive an Individual
4 Settlement Payment, including an Individual PAGA Payment, pursuant to this Agreement shall be
5 solely responsible for any and all tax obligations associated with such receipt.

6 c. The Parties stipulate that the Settlement Fund (as defined under
7 Paragraph 55) will qualify as a settlement fund pursuant to the requirements of Section 468(B)(g)
8 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and Section 1.468B-1 *et seq.* of the federal
9 income tax regulations. Furthermore, the Settlement Administrator is designated as the
10 “**Administrator**” of the qualified settlement funds for purposes of Section 1.468B-2(k) of the
11 income tax regulations. Accordingly, all taxes imposed on the gross income of the Settlement Fund
12 and any tax-related expenses arising from any income tax return or other reporting document that
13 may be required by the Internal Revenue Service or any state or local taxing body will be paid from
14 the Settlement Fund.

15 d. All Parties represent and acknowledge that nothing in this Agreement
16 constitutes tax advice regarding the tax treatment of payments under federal, state, or local law. The
17 Named Plaintiff, Participating Class Members, and Aggrieved Employees will assume any such tax
18 obligations or consequences that may arise from this Agreement and Class Members shall not seek
19 any indemnification from the Parties or any of the Released Parties in this regard. In the event that
20 any taxing body determines that additional taxes are due from any Class Member or Aggrieved
21 Employee, including the Named Plaintiff, such Class Member or Aggrieved Employee assumes all
22 responsibility for the payment of such taxes.

23 51. Notice Procedure. Within 14 calendar days after entry of the Preliminary Approval
24 Order, Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC will provide to the Settlement Administrator a list of Class
25 Members that identifies each Class Member by name, Social Security Number, and last known
26 address; and specifies the number of weeks worked by each Class Member in a non-exempt position
27 during the Class Period and the PAGA Period (the “**Class List**”). Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC
28 will provide the Class List in an Excel file or other format reasonably acceptable to the Settlement

1 Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will keep the list confidential, except it shall be
2 provided to Class Counsel upon request with Social Security Numbers and address information
3 redacted, and Class Counsel agrees to use such information only for the purposes described in this
4 Agreement.

5 a. Upon receipt of the Class List, the Settlement Administrator shall perform a
6 search based upon the National Change of Address Database to update and correct any known or
7 identifiable address changes. The Settlement Administrator shall exercise its best judgment to
8 determine the current mailing address for each Class Member. Within 14 calendar days after receipt
9 of the Class List from Defendant, the Settlement Administrator will send the Class Notice to each
10 Class Member via First Class U.S. Mail. Receipt of the Class Notice shall be presumed as to each
11 and every Class Member whose Class Notice is not returned to the Settlement Administrator as
12 undeliverable within 14 calendar days after mailing.

13 b. The Settlement Administrator will re-mail any notice packet returned by the
14 United States Postal Service with a forwarding address on or before the expiration of the Notice
15 Period. It shall be conclusively presumed that those Class Members whose re-mailed Class Notice
16 is not returned to the Settlement Administrator as undeliverable within 14 calendar days after re-
17 mailing received the Class Notice. Class Members who receive a re-mailed Class Notice shall have
18 45 days from the date of the re-mailing, to object, opt out, or dispute the workweeks attributed to
19 him or her.

20 c. The Settlement Administrator will use the appropriate skip tracing and
21 National Change of Address searches to increase the likelihood of delivery of the Class Notice to
22 Class Members, and to re-mail the notice packets returned by the Postal Service without a
23 forwarding address upon locating new or alternate addresses after a reasonable search.

24 d. Class Counsel will provide to the Court, in connection with seeking final
25 approval of the Settlement, a declaration from the Settlement Administrator confirming that the
26 Class Notice was mailed to all Class Members as required by this Agreement.

27 e. The Administrator will establish and maintain and use an internet website to
28 post information of interest to Class Members including the date, time and location for the Final

1 Approval Hearing and copies of the Complaint, Settlement Agreement, Motion for Preliminary
2 Approval, the Preliminary Approval Order, the Class Notice, the Motion for Final Approval, the
3 Final Approval Order and the Judgment.

4 52. Dispute Procedure. The Class Notice will include a procedure by which a Class
5 Member may dispute the number of workweeks allocated to the Class Member by submitting a
6 written dispute sent via U.S. Mail to the Settlement Administrator postmarked no later than the
7 expiration of the Notice Period (“**Workweek Dispute**”). To be valid, a Workweek Dispute must
8 contain the following: (i) the Class Member’s full name, current address, and signature; (ii) the
9 Action name and case number; (iii) the number of workweeks the Class Member maintains is
10 correct; and (iv) any documentary evidence sufficient to prove that Defendants’ calculation of the
11 workweeks for the Class Member is incorrect. Upon receipt of notice of a Workweek Dispute, the
12 Settlement Administrator shall promptly serve Defendants’ counsel with a copy of the Workweek
13 Dispute and any accompanying papers. Defendants’ counsel will inform Class Counsel of any such
14 dispute. No Workweek Dispute shall be effective or considered for any purpose unless it is timely
15 mailed by U.S. mail to and received by the Settlement Administrator as provided above. Defendants
16 shall have the right to respond to the Workweek Dispute by any Class Member. The Settlement
17 Administrator will resolve the Workweek Dispute and make a final and binding determination
18 without hearing or right of appeal. The Settlement Administrator’s determination will be subject to
19 review by the Court at the time of the Final Approval Hearing so long as the Participating Class
20 Member submits an objection to the Settlement Administrator’s determination at or before the Final
21 Approval Hearing.

22 a. Within 14 calendar days after the close of the Notice Period, the Settlement
23 Administrator will provide Class Counsel and Defendants’ counsel with a report listing the amount
24 of all Individual Settlement Payments, including Individual PAGA Payments, to be made to the
25 Participating Class Members and the Aggrieved Employees. The report to Class Counsel will not
26 include the names or contact information of Participating Class Members and Aggrieved
27 Employees.

1 53. Opt-Out Procedure. Unless a Class Member timely opts out of the settlement
2 described in this Agreement, the Class Member will be bound by the terms and conditions of this
3 Agreement, including the release of the Released Claims that arose during the Class Period. A Class
4 Member will not be entitled to opt out of the settlement established by this Agreement unless the
5 Class Member submits a valid opt-out request (“**Opt-Out Request**”). A valid Opt-Out Request
6 must: (i) contain the Class Member’s full name and current address; (ii) a clear reference to the
7 Action, such as by name or case number; (iii) a statement clearly expressing the Class Member’s
8 desire to be excluded from (or opt out of) the Settlement; and (iv) be returned so that it is postmarked
9 on or before the expiration of the Notice Period. Any Class Members who worked during the PAGA
10 Period and who opt out of the Settlement will still be considered Aggrieved Employees for purposes
11 of this Agreement.

12 a. Upon receipt of any Opt-Out Request within the Notice Period, the
13 Settlement Administrator shall review the Opt-Out Request to confirm that it complies with the opt-
14 out requirements of this Agreement.

15 b. Any Class Member who fails to submit a timely, complete, and valid Opt-
16 Out Request will be barred from opting out of this Agreement or the settlement, unless otherwise
17 ordered by the Court. If the Settlement Administrator receives a timely Opt-Out Request that is
18 incomplete, it will make reasonable attempts to contact the Class Member to cure the defect. The
19 Settlement Administrator will not consider any Opt-Out Request postmarked after the end of the
20 Notice Period, but will report its receipt of any such requests to Class Counsel and Defendants’
21 counsel. It shall be presumed that if an Opt-Out Request is not postmarked on or before the end of
22 the Notice Period, the Class Member did not make the request in a timely manner. Absent good
23 cause found by the Court, a declaration submitted by any Class Member attesting to the mailing of
24 an Opt-Out Request on or before the expiration of the Notice Period shall be insufficient to overcome
25 the conclusive presumption that the Opt-Out Request was untimely. Under no circumstances shall
26 the Settlement Administrator have the authority to extend the deadline for Class Members to submit
27 a request to opt out of the settlement without the Parties’ joint written consent.

28

1 c. At the close of the Notice Period, the Settlement Administrator shall report
2 the names of all individuals who opted out of the Agreement to the Parties and include this
3 information in a declaration regarding the distribution of the notice that will be provided in support
4 of Plaintiff's motion for final approval.

5 d. If 5% or more Class Members timely opt out of the settlement, Defendants
6 will have the sole and absolute discretion to withdraw from this Agreement within ten (10) calendar
7 days after Defendants receive notice of the number of opt outs. Defendants will provide written
8 notice to Class Counsel if they intend to withdraw from this Agreement. In the event that Defendants
9 elect to so withdraw, the withdrawal shall have the same effect as a termination of this Agreement
10 for failure to satisfy a condition of settlement, and the Agreement shall become null and void and
11 have no further force or effect, and the class certified pursuant to this Agreement will be decertified
12 for all purposes. If Defendants choose to terminate this Settlement Agreement under this provision,
13 it shall be responsible for paying the Settlement Administrator's fees and costs. If the Settlement
14 Agreement is terminated for any other reason, including the Court's failure to grant final approval
15 of the Parties' settlement, then Class Counsel and Defendants will be jointly responsible for the
16 Settlement Administrator's fees and costs.

17 54. Objections To Settlement. Any Class Member may object to the Settlement. Any
18 written objection must be mailed to the Settlement Administrator (who shall promptly provide a
19 copy to Class Counsel and counsel for Defendant) by the close of the Notice Period. Class Counsel
20 will ensure that any written objections get filed with the Court concurrently with the final approval
21 documents by having it attached to the Settlement Administrator's declaration. Class Members who
22 have not objected in writing may still appear and be heard at the Settlement Hearing.

23 a. Written objections to the Settlement must contain at least the following: (i)
24 the objecting Class Member's full name and current address; (ii) a clear reference to the Action,
25 such as by name or case number; and (iii) a statement of the specific reasons why the objector
26 believes the Settlement is unfair or objects to the Settlement. Though not required, the Parties ask
27 that any objecting Class Member also include a statement of whether the objector intends to appear
28 at the final approval hearing, either in person or through counsel and, if through counsel, a statement

1 identifying that counsel by name, bar number, address, and telephone number. All objections,
2 whether deemed valid or invalid for failure to follow this format, will be submitted to the Court for
3 the Court's review at the Final Fairness Hearing.

4 b. Class Counsel or Defendants' counsel may, up to five (5) court days before
5 the Final Hearing Date, file responses to any written objections submitted to the Court.

6 c. Unless they opt out of the Settlement as specified in Paragraph 53, Class
7 Members who object to the proposed settlement or the Agreement will remain Participating Class
8 Members, and shall be deemed to have voluntarily waived their right to pursue an independent
9 remedy against Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC and the other Released Parties. To the extent any
10 Participating Class Member objects to the proposed settlement or Agreement and such objection is
11 overruled in whole or in part, such individuals will be bound by the Court's Final Order and
12 Judgment.

13 d. In the event that any person objects to or opposes this proposed settlement or
14 the Agreement, or attempts to intervene in or otherwise enter the Action, the Parties and Class
15 Counsel will use their best efforts to defend the Settlement.

16 e. A Class Member cannot both opt out and object to the Settlement. If a Class
17 Member both objects and opts out of the Settlement, the opt-out will control and the objection will
18 be deemed invalid.

19 55. Funding And Distribution Of Settlement.

20 a. Within ten (10) calendar days of the close of the Notice Period, the Settlement
21 Administrator will provide a draft declaration to Class Counsel and Defendants' counsel setting
22 forth the number of Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees; the identity of those
23 individuals who opted out of the Settlement; the total amount payable to all Participating Class
24 Members and Aggrieved Employees; and the total PAGA Amount, Attorneys' Fees and Costs,
25 Enhancement Award, Settlement Administration Costs, Net Class Settlement Amount, and the
26 appropriate applicable employer's taxes for any portion of the Individual Settlement Payments
27 designated as wages, as well as any other information requested by the Parties.
28

1 b. Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC shall remit to the Settlement
2 Administrator: (i) the Gross Settlement Amount, which is \$290,000.00 unless escalated pursuant to
3 Paragraph 47, in three installments; and (ii) the employer's taxes for any portion of the Individual
4 Settlement Payments designated as wages (collectively, the "**Settlement Fund**"). The first
5 installment of \$90,000.00 (the "First Installment") shall be paid to the Settlement Administrator
6 within 65 days of the Court's entry of an order granting final approval of the Settlement. The second
7 installment of \$100,000.00 (the "Second Installment") shall be paid to the Settlement Administrator
8 no later than three (3) months after the First Installment. The Third Installment of \$100,000.00 (the
9 "Third Installment") shall be paid to the settlement administrator no later than two (2) months after
10 the Second Installment. Employer Payroll Taxes shall be paid at the same time as the Third
11 Installment. If the Court does not approve the Parties' funding timeline, the Parties will work
12 together in good faith to address the Court's concerns.

13 c. The delivery by Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC of the Third Installment of
14 the Settlement Fund to the Settlement Administrator will constitute the full and complete discharge
15 of the entire obligation of Defendants under this Agreement, unless anything reasonably further is
16 requested by the Settlement Administrator to ensure timely and proper disbursement. No Released
17 Party will have any further obligation or liability to the Named Plaintiff, Participating Class
18 Members, Aggrieved Employees, or Class Counsel under this Agreement, in connection with the
19 claims released under this Agreement, regardless of whether the Named Plaintiff, Participating Class
20 Members, Aggrieved Employees, or Class Counsel receive the payments from the Settlement
21 Administrator set forth in this Agreement.

22 d. The distribution of Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class
23 Members and Aggrieved Employees will occur no later than seven (7) business days after receipt of
24 the entire Settlement Fund from Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC ("**Settlement Proceeds
25 Distribution Deadline**"). The Settlement Administrator shall be deemed to have timely distributed
26 Individual Settlement Payments, including the Individual PAGA Payments, if it places in the mail
27 the Individual Settlement Payments for all Participating Class Members and the Individual PAGA
28 Payments for all Aggrieved Employees by the Settlement Proceeds Distribution Deadline. No

1 person will have any claim against the Settlement Administrator, Defendants, Class Counsel,
2 Defendants' counsel, or any other agent designated by the Named Plaintiff or Class Counsel based
3 upon the distribution of Individual Settlement Payments made substantially in accordance with this
4 Agreement or further orders of the Court.

5 e. The distribution of the LWDA Payment, Attorneys' Fees and Costs and the
6 Enhancement Award shall occur no later than seven (7) business days after the Settlement
7 Administrator receives the entire Settlement Fund from Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC.

8 f. If a Participating Class Member's or Aggrieved Employee's check is returned
9 to the Settlement Administrator, the Settlement Administrator will make reasonable efforts to re-
10 mail it to the Participating Class Member or Aggrieved Employee at the correct address. It is
11 expressly understood and agreed that the checks for the Individual Settlement Payments, including
12 the Individual PAGA Payments, will become void and no longer available if not cashed within 180
13 calendar days after mailing. The funds from uncashed and voided checks will be transferred to the
14 State of California's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Participating Class
15 Member/Aggrieved Employee.

16 g. Defendants will not be obligated to make any payments contemplated by this
17 Agreement unless and until the Court enters the Final Order and Judgment. After the Court enters
18 the Final Order and Judgment, Defendants' obligation to make payments contemplated by this
19 Agreement will proceed in accordance with subparagraph b. of this Paragraph.

20 h. Within sixty (60) calendar days of the Settlement Proceeds Distribution
21 Deadline, the Settlement Administrator will provide written certification of completion of settlement
22 administration to Class Counsel and to Defendants' Counsel.

23 56. Binding Effect Of Agreement On Class Members. Subject to final Court approval
24 and the occurrence of the Effective Date, and unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, all
25 Participating Class Members will be bound by this Agreement.

26 57. Binding Effect Of Agreement On Aggrieved Employees And State Of California.
27 The Aggrieved Employees and the State of California, to the maximum extent permitted by law,
28 shall be deemed by operation of the Final Order and Judgment to have agreed not to sue or otherwise

1 make a claim against Defendant Paradise Dynasty LLC or any of the Released Parties for any of the
2 PAGA Claims and to be bound by the release of the PAGA Released Claims as set forth in this
3 Agreement.

4 58. Provisional Approval Of Settlement. The Named Plaintiff will file a motion in the
5 Action requesting that the Court preliminarily approve the Settlement shortly after complete
6 execution of this Agreement. Defendants will not oppose Class Counsel's motion for preliminary
7 approval of the settlement so long as the motion and supporting papers are consistent with the terms
8 of this Agreement. Class Counsel will provide Defendants' counsel with a reasonable opportunity
9 to review, and provide comments to, the motion for preliminary approval of the settlement before
10 the motion and supporting papers are filed with the Court. Notwithstanding the foregoing,
11 Defendants may, without opposing the preliminary approval motion, advise the Court if any of the
12 Defendants disagree with any of the factual statements included by the Named Plaintiff in the motion
13 and supporting papers. Defendants' counsel will meet and confer with Class Counsel regarding any
14 disputed factual statements before notifying the Court of any disputes.

15 59. Non-Interference With Claims Procedure. The Parties and their counsel agree that
16 they will not advise, solicit, or otherwise encourage any Class Members to submit requests for
17 exclusion or objections to the settlement or to appeal from the Final Order and Judgment.

18 60. Final Order And Judgment. The Named Plaintiff will request that the Court enter,
19 after the hearing finally approving this Agreement, a Final Order and Judgment. The Named
20 Plaintiff will request that the Final Order and Judgment certify the Participating Class; find that this
21 Agreement is fair, just, equitable, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Class and the
22 Aggrieved Employees; list the employees (if any) who opted-out of the settlement; order that the
23 Participating Class Members release the Released Parties from the Released Claims; order that the
24 Aggrieved Employees and the State of California release the Released Parties from the PAGA
25 Claims as set forth in this Agreement (to the maximum extent permitted by law); and require the
26 Parties to carry out the provisions of this Agreement.

27 61. Automatic Voiding Of Agreement If Settlement Not Finalized. If for any reason the
28 settlement set forth in this Agreement does not become final, the settlement will be null and void

1 and the orders, judgment, and dismissal to be entered pursuant to this Agreement shall be vacated,
2 and the Parties will be returned to the status quo prior to entering this Agreement with respect to the
3 Action, as if the Parties had never entered into this Agreement, and the class certified pursuant to
4 this Agreement will be decertified for all purposes. In addition, in such event, the Agreement and
5 all negotiations, court orders, and proceedings relating to this Agreement shall be without prejudice
6 to the rights of any and all parties to this Agreement, and evidence relating to the Agreement and all
7 negotiations shall not be admissible or discoverable in the Action or otherwise.

8 62. No Double Recovery. No person who has already released, assigned, or otherwise
9 forfeited the claims asserted in the Action will be considered a Class Member or be entitled to
10 recover under this Agreement.

11 63. No Publicity. The Named Plaintiff and Class Counsel agree that they shall not
12 publicize the filing of the Action, the Parties' settlement, this Agreement and its terms, or the
13 negotiations leading to this Agreement with anyone other than to the Court, Class Members, or those
14 individuals necessary to effectuate the terms of the Agreement. The prohibition set forth in this
15 Paragraph 63 includes, but is not limited to: (i) publication by the Named Plaintiff or Class Counsel
16 on any website (including, without limitation, publishing on any Twitter account, Facebook, other
17 social media, or blog, or business website) of the amount or terms of the settlement, with or without
18 identifying information; and (ii) the submission of information to Verdicts & Settlements or any
19 other publication that summarizes the results of jury verdicts and settlements. This provision will
20 not prohibit Class Counsel from referring to this Settlement in other matters to support adequacy of
21 Counsel.

22 a. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Class Counsel may respond to questions
23 received from, and discuss any aspect of this Agreement with the Class Members or their legal
24 representatives, the Settlement Administrator, the Court, and representatives of the LWDA.

25 b. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this Paragraph shall prohibit the
26 filing of information with the Court or the LWDA relating to the Settlement that is necessary to
27 effectuate this Agreement, or the online posting of documents relating to the Action by the
28 Settlement Administrator as permitted by this Agreement, including the Judgment entered by the

1 Court.

2 c. The Named Plaintiff and Class Counsel agree that all data and information
3 informally produced by Defendants in connection with the settlement of this Action will be
4 maintained in confidence, and will not be shared with any other persons or entities.

5 64. Invalidation Of Agreement For Failure To Satisfy Conditions. If the Court makes
6 material changes to the material terms or conditions of Paragraphs 1 through 63 of this Agreement
7 that are not agreed to by the Parties, either Party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement, in
8 which case Defendants would not be obligated to make any payments to any Class Member, to Class
9 Counsel, or to the Named Plaintiff. The Parties shall meet and confer in good faith before exercising
10 such right.

11 65. Modification In Writing. This Agreement may be altered, amended, modified or
12 waived, in whole or in part, only in a writing signed by all signatories to this Agreement. This
13 Agreement may not be amended, altered, modified or waived, in whole or in part, orally.

14 66. Ongoing Cooperation. The Named Plaintiff and Defendants will execute all
15 documents and perform all acts necessary and proper to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. In
16 the event the Parties are unable to reach an agreement on the form or content of any document
17 needed to implement the Settlement, or any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to
18 effectuate the terms of the Settlement, the Parties agree to seek the assistance of the Court.

19 67. Notices. All notices, requests, demands, and other communications required or
20 permitted to be given pursuant to this Agreement shall be in writing, and shall be delivered
21 personally or by first class mail to the Settlement Administrator approved by the Court and the
22 undersigned persons at their respective addresses as set forth below:

23 CLASS COUNSEL

24 CROSNER LEGAL, PC
25 Zachary M. Crosner, Esq.
26 Jamie K. Serb, Esq.

26 9440 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 301
27 Beverly Hills, CA 90210
28 Telephone: (866) 276-7697

1 **COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANTS**

2 RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP
3 Edson K. McClellan, Esq.
4 Noell C. Rice, Esq.
5 18575 Jamboree Road, 9th Floor
6 Irvine, California 92612
7 Telephone: (714) 641-5100

8 68. Binding On Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon and will inure to the
9 benefit of the Parties and their respective successors, assigns, executors, administrators, heirs and
10 legal representatives.

11 69. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the full, complete, and entire
12 understanding, agreement, and arrangement between the Named Plaintiff, the Class Members, and
13 the Aggrieved Employees, on the one hand, and Defendants, on the other hand, with respect to the
14 settlement of the Action. This Agreement supersedes any and all prior oral or written
15 understandings, agreements, and arrangements between the Parties with respect to the settlement of
16 the Action. Except for those set forth expressly in this Agreement, there are no other agreements,
17 covenants, promises, representations or arrangements between the Parties with respect to the
18 settlement of the Action, the PAGA Claims, and the Released Claims against Defendants and the
19 Released Parties. The Parties explicitly recognize California Civil Code section 1625 and California
20 Code of Civil Procedure section 1856(a), which provide that a written agreement is to be construed
21 according to its terms, and may not be varied or contradicted by extrinsic evidence, and agree that
22 no such extrinsic oral or written representations or terms shall modify, vary, or contradict the terms
23 of this Agreement.

24 70. Execution In Counterparts. This Agreement may be signed in one or more
25 counterparts. All executed copies of this Settlement Agreement, and photocopies of the Agreement
26 (including DocuSign, facsimile and e-mail copies of the signature pages), shall have the same force
27 and effect and shall be as legally binding and enforceable as the original.
28

1 71. Captions. The captions, section numbers, and paragraph numbers in this Agreement
2 are inserted for the reader's convenience, and in no way define, limit, construe, or describe the scope
3 or intent of the provisions of this Agreement.

4 72. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, enforced, and
5 administered in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without regard to conflict of law
6 rules.

7 73. Reservation Of Jurisdiction. Notwithstanding the dismissal of the Action and entry
8 of the Final Order and Judgment, the Court shall retain jurisdiction for purposes of interpreting and
9 enforcing the terms of this Agreement pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6
10 and California Rules of Court, Rule 3.769(h).

11 74. Mutual Preparation. The Parties have had the full opportunity to negotiate the terms
12 and conditions of this Agreement. Accordingly, this Agreement will not be construed more strictly
13 against one Party than another merely by virtue of the fact that it may have been prepared by counsel
14 for one of the Parties, it being recognized that, because of the arms-length negotiations between the
15 Parties, all Parties have contributed to the preparation of this Agreement.

16 75. Representation And Warranties. Class Counsel and the Named Plaintiff represent
17 and warrant to Defendants that they are not aware of any attorneys beyond those named as Class
18 Counsel who have claims for fees arising out of the Action or the Settlement contemplated by this
19 Agreement.

20 76. Authorization To Act. Each Party to this Agreement covenants and warrants that (a)
21 such Party has full power and authority to enter into and consummate all transactions contemplated
22 by this Agreement and have duly authorized the execution, delivery, and performance of this
23 Agreement; and (b) the person executing this Agreement for such Party has the full right, power,
24 and authority to enter into this Agreement on behalf of such Party, and the full right, power, and
25 authority to execute any and all necessary instruments in connection with the Settlement, and to
26 fully bind such Party to the terms and obligations of this Agreement.

27 77. Representation By Counsel. The Parties acknowledge that each of them has been
28 represented by their respective counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of

1 this Agreement, and that this Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of their
2 respective counsel. Further, the Named Plaintiff and Class Counsel warrant and represent that there
3 are no liens on the Settlement Agreement, and that after entry by the Court of the Final Order and
4 Judgment, the Settlement Administrator may distribute funds to Participating Class Members,
5 Aggrieved Employees, Class Counsel, the LWDA, the Settlement Administrator, and the Named
6 Plaintiff as provided by this Agreement.

7 78. Representation By The Named Plaintiff. The Named Plaintiff agrees not to request
8 to be excluded from the Class and not to object to any terms of this Agreement. Any such request
9 by the Named Plaintiff for exclusion or objection shall be void and of no force or effect.

10 79. Additional Attorneys' Fees And Costs. No Participating Class Member, Aggrieved
11 Employee, or Class Counsel, or any other attorney acting for any Participating Class Member or
12 Aggrieved Employee may recover or seek to recover any amounts for fees, costs, or disbursements
13 arising from the Action or the Gross Settlement Amount from the Released Parties except as
14 expressly provided for in this Agreement.

15 80. No Reliance On Representations. The Parties have made such investigations of the
16 facts and the law pertaining to the matters described in this Agreement as they deem necessary, and
17 have not relied, and do not rely, on any statement, promise, or representation of fact or law, made
18 by any other Party, or any of their agents, employees, attorneys, or representatives, with regard to
19 any of their rights or asserted rights, or with regard to the advisability of making and executing this
20 Agreement, or with respect to any such matters. No representations, warranties, or inducements
21 have been made to any Party concerning this Agreement.

22 81. No Collateral Attack. This Agreement will not be subject to collateral attack by any
23 Class Member or any recipient of the Class Notice after the Final Order and Judgment. Such
24 prohibited collateral attacks shall include but not be limited to claims that the Class Member failed
25 for any reason to receive timely notice of the procedure for disputing the calculation of their
26 Individual Settlement Payment, or for opting out of the Settlement.

27
28

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

IT IS SO AGREED:

Dated: 09 / 06 / 2024

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

PLAINTIFF AUSTIN EASLEY

By: Austin Easley
Austin Easley
Named Plaintiff

DEFENDANT PARADISE DYNASTY LLC

By: _____
Title: _____

DEFENDANT PARADISE GROUP
HOLDINGS USA, INC.

By: _____
Title: _____

DEFENDANT DPPA GROUP, INC.

By: _____
Title: _____

1 IT IS SO AGREED:

3 PLAINTIFF AUSTIN EASLEY

4 Dated: _____

4 By: _____

5 Austin Easley
6 Named Plaintiff

7 Dated: Sep 09, 24

7 DEFENDANT PARADISE DYNASTY LLC

9
10 
11 By: _____

12 Title: HR Manager

14 Dated: 09/09/24

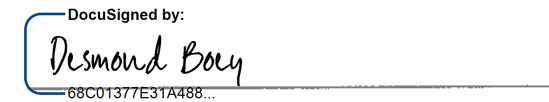
14 DEFENDANT PARADISE GROUP
15 HOLDINGS USA, INC.

16
17 
18 By: Yew Keng

19 Title: Legal Counsel

23 Dated: 9/9/2024

23 DEFENDANT DPPA GROUP, INC.

25 DocuSigned by:
26 
26 68C01377E31A488...

27 By: Desmond Boey

28 Title: Director

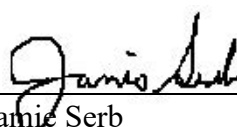
-30-

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY AND AGREE TO BE
BOUND BY PARAGRAPH 63:

Dated: September 6, 2024

CROSNER LEGAL, PC

By: 

Jamie Serb
Zachary Crosner
Attorneys for Plaintiff

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

Dated: September 9, 2024

RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP

By: 

Edson K. McClellan
Attorneys for Defendants

EXHIBIT

2

EXHIBIT

3

Austin Easley v. Paradise Group Holdings USA, LLC, et al
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC

SUMMARY OF ATTORNEY TIME / LODESTAR FEES

Total Attorneys' Hours: 152.1
Total Lodestar Fees: \$113,780.00

FIRM/ATTORNEYS	YEAR ADMITTED	HOURS	HOURLY RATE	TOTAL
CROSNER LEGAL, PC				
Nikki Trenner	2017	9.6	\$700	\$6,720.00
Zachary Crosner	2010	40.5	\$800	\$34,425.00
Jamie Serb	2013	75.1	\$750	\$56,325.00
Kiara Bramasco	2018	3.4	\$650	\$2,210.00
Branden Hamilton	2011	11.4	\$600	\$6,840.00
Michael Jones	2016	12.1	\$600	\$7,260.00
TOTAL**	--	152.1	--	\$113,780.00

***** This does not include anticipated attorney time to take the case through the approval process, attend the hearing and any supplemental hearings, provide supplemental briefings or declarations, work with defense counsel and settlement administrator regarding funding, distribution, tax forms, answer settlement group member questions, etc.***

Austin Easley v. Paradise Group Holdings USA, LLC, et al
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC

Crosner Legal Time Report Detailed
Nikki Trenner

Attorney	Hourly Rate	Time Spent	Fee	Description of Work Performed
Nikki Trenner	\$700	1.3	\$900.00	Review and revise discovery requests
Nikki Trenner	\$700	0.5	\$350.00	Review Court Order and NOE
Nikki Trenner	\$700	0.6	\$420.00	Emails with OC re revisions to settlement agreement and notice
Nikki Trenner	\$700	5.4	\$3,780.00	Draft, review, and revise amended settlement agreement
Nikki Trenner	\$700	1.1	\$770.00	Draft, review, and revise amended settlement notice
Nikki Trenner	\$700	0.4	\$280.00	Call with client
Nikki Trenner	\$700	0.3	\$210.00	Review ROA
TOTAL:	--	9.6	\$6,720.00	--

Austin Easley v. Paradise Group Holdings USA, LLC, et al
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC

Crosner Legal Time Report Detailed
Zachary Crosner

Attorney	Hourly Rate	Time Spent	Fee	Description of Work Performed
Branden Hamilton	\$600	1.8	\$1,080.00	Review intake notes, review file/employer-produced records, draft records review
Branden Hamilton	\$600	1.4	\$840.00	Research defendants, preexisting case search, draft prelit case analysis
Branden Hamilton	\$600	3.7	\$2,220.00	Draft paga notice, draft/review internal correspondence re filing, service, calendaring exhaustion of notice
Branden Hamilton	\$600	2.9	\$1740.00	Draft class complaint, draft/review internal correspondence re filing, service of complaint
Branden Hamilton	\$600	1.6	\$960.00	Draft FAC adding PAGA to Class Complaint
TOTAL:	--	11.4	\$6,840.00	--

Austin Easley v. Paradise Group Holdings USA, LLC, et al
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC

Crosner Legal Time Report Detailed
Jamie Serb

Attorney	Hourly Rate	Time Spent	Fee	Description of Work Performed
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.4	\$300.00	Review complaint
Jamie Serb	\$750	1.1	\$825.00	Review intake, client documents
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.3	\$225.00	Review pre-lit analysis of case
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Em associate and assign case
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	r/r email re: filing of complaint
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	r/r em re: service and judicial assignment
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	r/r em fr OC re: service
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	r/r em fr OC re: service on DPPA
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Review NAR for DPPA
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	r/r em re: NAR status
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Review NARs fr OC; interoffice em re same
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.3	\$225.00	em exchange w/OC re various matters in case
Jamie Serb	\$750	5.2	\$3,900.00	Review file and draft initial discovery
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Call w/OC re case and mediation
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Em OC re discovery stay pending mediation
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	r/r em fr OC re mediators;
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Research mediators, costs, reputations
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.3	\$225.00	r/r ems w/mediators re availability

Austin Easley v. Paradise Group Holdings USA, LLC, et al
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC

Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Interoffice em exchange re FAC
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Em OC w/mediator availability
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	r/r em fr OC re scheduling mediation
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Em mediator re scheduling mediation
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Review confirmation of mediation
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Review answer
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.4	\$300.00	Review redline FAC draft; edit
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Review FAC final draft
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	r/r em re filing FAC
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Interoffice discussion re case status
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.3	\$225.00	Review draft stipulation to amend
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	r/r em exchange re filing FAC
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Rev em exchange re informal mediation requests
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	r/r interoffice ems re informal mediation requests
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.5	\$375.00	Rev em fr OC re data points for mediation; responses to requests
Jamie Serb	\$750	2.1	\$1,575.00	Rev doc production for mediation
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.7	\$525.00	Rev waivers and arbs
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev Answer to FAC
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Em exchange re mediation brief
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Em exchange w/expert re damage analysis

Austin Easley v. Paradise Group Holdings USA, LLC, et al
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC

Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Em exchange re document analysis
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	r/r em re analysis of claims
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	r/r em re mediation invoice payment
Jamie Serb	\$750	1.2	\$900.00	Rev doc analysis and discuss internally
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Interoffice discussion re case status
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.8	\$600.00	Em expert with breakdown of claims/requested analysis
Jamie Serb	\$750	2.9	\$2,175.00	Rev expert damage analysis and respond to ems re same
Jamie Serb	\$750	6.7	\$5,025.00	Rev and edit mediation brief
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	r/r em from mediator's office
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Em re mediation brief
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.3	\$225.00	Em exch re mediation strategy
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.4	\$300.00	Em exch re company research
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Em exch re mediation attendance
Jamie Serb	\$750	9.5	\$7,125.00	Prepare for and attend mediation
Jamie Serb	\$750	1.8	\$1,350.00	Draft stip to cont cmc
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Interoffice discussion re case status
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.5	\$375.00	Em exch w/mediator re follow up negotiations
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Em exch interoffice re negotiations
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	r/r em fr OC re cont. negotiations
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	r/r em fr OC re Def financials
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.3	\$225.00	Rev protective order

Austin Easley v. Paradise Group Holdings USA, LLC, et al
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC

Jamie Serb	\$750	0.4	\$300.00	Em exch re financial docs
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Em expert re financials
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.5	\$375.00	Call expert re financials
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Interoffice em exch re financials
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	r/r em with mediator
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	r/r em exch with OC re financial analysis
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Interoffice em exch re prot. order
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.3	\$225.00	Rev prot. Order and exhibits
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.3	\$225.00	Em exch with mediator re negotiations
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Em exch with mediator re Def responses
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Em re client update
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Interoffice discussion re case status
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	r/r em exch with OC re negotiations
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Review mediator's proposal
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.4	\$300.00	Interoffice em exchange re proposal
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Em exch w/mediator re proposal
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Em exch w/OC re proposal
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Call w/ OC
Jamie Serb	\$750	1.9	\$1,425.00	draft MOU
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev mediation invoice
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev 8.1.23 Minute Order
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.4	\$300.00	Em exch re revised MOU

Austin Easley v. Paradise Group Holdings USA, LLC, et al
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC

Jamie Serb	\$750	1.3	\$975.00	Review edits and further revise MOU
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Em re call w/OC
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	r/r em exch w/ OC
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.4	\$300.00	Em exch w/OC re payments
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Review further edits to MOU
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Em exch w/OC re MOU finalization
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Interoffice em re client signature
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Interoffice discussion re case status
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Em exch w/OC re draft settlement agreement
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Rev em exch re joint stip to cont cmc
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev docket to confirm continuance
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev signed stip order
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Interoffice em re admin bids
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Review admin bids, advise of best choice
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Interoffice em exch re release
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.3	\$225.00	Rev prior tentative rulings by same judge for settlement preferences
Jamie Serb	\$750	3.9	\$2,925.00	Review/revise settlement agreement
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Em exch w/OC re settlement agreement revisions
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Em exhc w/OC re settlement agreement status
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Em exch w/OC re status of SA
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Interoffice em exch re SA edits

Austin Easley v. Paradise Group Holdings USA, LLC, et al
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC

Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Review SA edits
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Em OC re class notice
Jamie Serb	\$750	3.2	\$2,400.00	Draft class notice
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Interoffice em exch re MPA
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.4	\$300.00	Review judge's guidelines
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.7	\$525.00	Draft joint stip to cont, send to OC for review
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Review order granting stip
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Interoffice em exch re SA
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Em exch w/admin re additional needs for settlement
Jamie Serb	\$750	2.8	\$2,100.00	Revise SA for additional requirements per guidelines
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.4	\$300.00	Em exch w/ OC re SA edits
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Em exch re SA edits
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Em exch w/OC re escalator clause
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.6	\$450.00	Review MPA draft
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Review 3.7.24 Minute Order
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.4	\$300.00	Interoffice exch re SA signatures
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Review class notice revisions fr OC
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Rev interoffice ems re filing MPA
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Interoffice em re MPA hearing
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Rev tentative ruling re MPA
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Interoffice discussion re tentative

Austin Easley v. Paradise Group Holdings USA, LLC, et al
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC

Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev notice of ruling served by OC
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.3	\$225.00	Interoffice em exch re further edits to SA
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Em OC re new attorney assignment
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.3	\$225.00	Em exch w/OC re enhancement
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Interoffice em exch re suppl brief
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Em exch w/OC re revised SA
Jamie Serb	\$750	3.6	\$2,700.00	Review settlement agreements
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.3	\$225.00	Em exch w/OC re revised agreements
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Interoffice em exch re revised docs
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Revise class notice; send to OC for review
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Interoffice em re client update
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Em exch w/OC re SA signatures
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.4	\$300.00	Rev suppl brief
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Rev tentative ruling
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev interoffice em exch re suppl filing
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Rev 2 nd suppl brief and PO
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev 9.20.24 Minute Order
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Rev interoffice em exch re filing 2 nd suppl brief
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Rev OC's draft declaration and approve
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev tentative ruling
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Em exch re new hearing and revised docs
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev 10.25.24 Minute Order

Austin Easley v. Paradise Group Holdings USA, LLC, et al
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC

Jamie Serb	\$750	0.2	\$150.00	Rev revised suppl dec
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev final draft suppl dec and approve
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev 11.22.24 Minute Order
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Interoffice em re docs to admin
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev em from admin
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev em from admin re notice mailing
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev em from admin re weekly report
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev em from admin re weekly report
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev em from admin re weekly report
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev em from admin re weekly report
Jamie Serb	\$750	0.1	\$75.00	Rev interoffice em exc re MFA
TOTAL:	--	75.1	\$56,325.00	--

Austin Easley v. Paradise Group Holdings USA, LLC, et al
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC

Crosner Legal Time Report Detailed
Branden Hamilton

Attorney	Hourly Rate	Time Spent	Fee	Description of Work Performed
Branden Hamilton	\$600	1.8	\$1,080.00	Review intake notes, review file/employer-produced records, draft records review
Branden Hamilton	\$600	1.4	\$840.00	Research defendants, preexisting case search, draft prelit case analysis
Branden Hamilton	\$600	3.7	\$2,220.00	Draft paga notice, draft/review internal correspondence re filing, service, calendaring exhaustion of notice
Branden Hamilton	\$600	2.9	\$1,740.00	Draft class complaint, draft/review internal correspondence re filing, service of complaint
Branden Hamilton	\$600	1.6	\$960.00	Draft FAC adding PAGA to Class Complaint
TOTAL:	--	11.4	\$6,840.00	--

Crosner Legal Time Report Detailed
Kiara Bramasco

Attorney	Hourly Rate	Time Spent	Fee	Description of Work Performed
Kiara Bramasco	\$650	.3	\$195	Internal discussion re claims in PAGA notice
Kiara Bramasco	\$650	.8	\$520	Records review
Kiara Bramasco	\$650	.4	\$260	Review class complaint
Kiara Bramasco	\$650	.1	\$65	Email re updating client contact information
Kiara Bramasco	\$650	.4	\$260	Prelit Case Analysis
Kiara Bramasco	\$650	.3	\$195	Class complaint review
Kiara Bramasco	\$650	.5	\$325	PAGA Notice
Kiara Bramasco	\$650	.5	\$325	Research company size and pre-existing cases
Kiara Bramasco	\$650	.1	\$65	Emails re FAC

Austin Easley v. Paradise Group Holdings USA, LLC, et al
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC

TOTAL:	\$650	3.4	\$2,210	
---------------	-------	-----	---------	--

Crosner Legal Time Report Detailed
Michael Jones

Attorney	Hourly Rate	Time Spent	Fee	Description of Work Performed
Michael Jones	\$600	3.2	\$1,920.00	Reviewing document production and completing doc prod table
Michael Jones	\$600	8.6	\$5,160.00	Mediation w/Steve Cerveris
Michael Jones	\$600	0.3	\$180.00	Reviewing OC's revisions to settlement agreement
TOTAL:	--	12.10	\$7,260.00	--

Crosner Legal Time Report Detailed
Zachary Crosner

Attorney	Hourly Rate	Time Spent	Fee	Description of Work Performed
Zachary Crosner	\$850	6.8	\$5,780	Review and analyze file, including PAGA Notice complaint, correspondence with OC, client documents and attorney notes
Zachary Crosner	\$850	14.8	\$12,580	Review and analyze pre-mediation documents and disclosures
Zachary Crosner	\$850	3.1	\$2,635	Telephone conferences and emails with experts re

Austin Easley v. Paradise Group Holdings USA, LLC, et al
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2022-01291762-CU-OE-CXC

				preparing for mediation
Zachary Crosner	\$850	8.4	\$7,140	Draft, review and revise mediation brief and review document production by defendant
Zachary Crosner	\$850	3.1	\$2,635	Review and revise class settlement agreement and related documents;
Zachary Crosner	\$850	4.3	\$3,655	Review and revise motion for approval
TOTAL:	--	40.5	\$34,425	--