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9 Attorneys for Plaintiffs,
TIANA WILLIAMSON and
10 HARPREET AUJLA, on behalf of themselves
and all others similarly situated
11

12 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
13 **FOR THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

14 TIANA WILLIAMSON and HARPREET AUJLA,) CASE NO.: CVRI2204960
individually, on a representative basis, and on behalf)
15 of all others similarly situated,) [Assigned for all purposes to the Hon.
Harold Hopp - Dept. "1"]
16 Plaintiffs,)
17 v.) **DECLARATION OF JAMES A. DE**
SARIO IN SUPPORT OF MOTION
18 KAL FREIGHT, INC., a Texas Corporation; SPG) **FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL**
TRANSPORTATION INC., a California)
19 Corporation; PRO TEC INC., a California) DATE: December 4, 2024
Corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, Inclusive) TIME: 8:30 a.m.
20) DEPT.: 1
21 Defendants.)
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DECLARATION OF JAMES A. DE SARIO

I, James A. De Sario, say and declare, as follows:

1. I am an attorney at law, duly licensed to practice before all the Courts of the State of California and I am associate of The Nourmand Law Firm, APC and co-counsel for Plaintiffs in the matter entitled *Tina Williamson, et al. v. KAL Freight, Inc., et al.* - Case Number CVRI2204960, pending in the Riverside County Superior Court. As such, I am familiar with the file in this matter and if called as a witness I could and would competently testify to the following facts of my own personal knowledge.

2. This declaration is being submitted in support of the preliminary approval of the class action settlement reached in this litigation.

Procedural History of the Case

3. Plaintiff Tiana Williamson (“Williamson”) filed a wage and hour Class Action Complaint (“Complaint”) alleging that Defendants Kal Freight, Inc., SPG Transportation Inc., Pro Tec Inc. (“Defendants”) violated various sections of the Labor Code, which was later amended through a First Amended Complaint, to include a representative claim under the Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”).

4. Plaintiffs participated in a full day of mediation with Hon. Daniel Buckley (Ret.) on or about April 8, 2024, after conducting informal and formal discovery necessary to evaluate the asserted wage and hour Labor Code violations. Furthermore, counsel for the parties have investigated the law as applied to the facts discovered regarding the alleged claims of Plaintiffs and potential defenses thereto, and the potential damages claimed by Plaintiffs. Ultimately, the parties were able to reach a settlement. As part of the settlement, it was agreed that a Second Amended Complaint would be filed to add Plaintiff Harpreet Aujla (“Aujla”) (Williamson and Aujla, collectively referred to as “Plaintiffs”) to the class and PAGA Action.

5. On or about July 8, 2024, a Second Amended Complaint was filed.

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Class Counsel Are Experienced Class Litigators

6. I graduated from UCI with a B.A. in Political Science in 1998. Thereafter I attended University of West Los Angeles School of Law and graduated in 2006. I became a member of the California State Bar in March 2009. In February 2009 I became an associate at Kokozian & Nourmand LLP and thereafter in June 2010, I became a senior associate at The Nourmand Law Firm, APC. I exclusively represent employees in the area of employment law, wage and hour litigation on an individual, class wide and representative basis. I am admitted to practice in all state courts in California, the United States District Courts of California - Central District, and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal. I am also an active member of the California Employment Lawyer's Association ("CELA"). I was named as a Rising Star by Super Lawyers in 2012, 2015-2019 and selected as a Super Lawyer from 2020-2024 by Super Lawyers.

7. Michael Nourmand, is the principal of The Nourmand Law Firm, APC, and graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in Political Science (Cum Laude) in 1994. Thereafter Mr. Nourmand attended Loyola Law school and graduated in May of 1998. Mr. Nourmand became a member of the California State Bar in December 1998. In September 1999, Mr. Nourmand along with his former business partner Bruce Kokozian, started the law firm of Kokozian & Nourmand LLP and began to represent plaintiffs in the area of personal injury, insurance bad-faith, employment law, wage and hour, and class actions. In June 2010, Mr. Nourmand dissolved his partnership at Kokozian & Nourmand LLP and started The Nourmand Law Firm, APC exclusively representing plaintiffs in the areas of employment law, wage and hour, and class actions. Prior to starting his law firm, Mr. Nourmand worked for a plaintiff's law firm, Rose, Klein & Marias, Law Offices of Gary Bostwick and externed at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Civil Fraud Division and U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Honorable Judge Barry Russell. Mr. Nourmand is admitted to practice in all state courts in California, the United States District Courts of California - Central District, Southern District, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal, and the United States Supreme Court. In July 2011 Mr. Nourmand was selected as one of 75 Top Labor & Employment Lawyers in California by the Daily Journal; in 2011 and 2012 Mr. Nourmand was selected as a Rising Star by Super Lawyers and in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and in 2022 he was

1 selected as a Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers. Mr. Nourmand was selected for inclusion in The
2 Best Lawyers in America for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022. Mr. Nourmand is
3 also an active member of the California Employment Lawyer's Association ("CELA"), National
4 Employment Lawyer's Association ("NELA"), Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles
5 ("CAALA"), Consumer Attorneys of California ("CAOC"), California State Bar, Labor and
6 Employment Section, and the Los Angeles County Bar.

7 8. Class Counsel are respected members of the California Bar with strong records of
8 vigorous and effective advocacy of their clients, and they are experienced in handling complex
9 class action litigation.

10 9. The Nourmand Law Firm, APC has been approved to act as lead or co-counsel on
11 numerous class action cases, including but not limited to, the following:

- 12 (a.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Spring
13 Street Courthouse, *Reid v. Cardinal Glass Industries, Inc., et al.*, Case No.
BC633874.
- 14 (b.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Joaquin, *Azpeitia,*
15 *et al. v. The Newark Group, Inc.*, Case No. STK-CV-UOE-2016-0012282.
- 16 (c.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Spring
17 Street Courthouse, *Turner, et al. v. Providence Little Company of Mary*
18 *Foundation, et al.*, Case No. BC676996.
- 19 (d.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Kern, *Garza v. Frito-*
20 *Lay, Inc.*, Case No. CV-16-102730 D.L.
- 21 (e.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Spring
22 Street Courthouse, *Winters v. The Dependable Companies, et al.*, Case No.
BC623839.
- 23 (f.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Spring
24 Street Courthouse, *Barretos v. Don Roberto Jewelers, Inc.*, Case No.
BC495451.
- 25 (g.) Superior Court of the State of California, Ventura County, *Morales, et al. v.*
26 *Southland Sod Farms Operations, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 56-2017-00496912-
CU-OE-V.A.
- 27 (h.) Superior Court of the State of California, Los Angeles County, Spring Street
28 Courthouse, *Castrejon, et al. v. Karen Kane, Inc., et al.*, Case Nos.
BC537058 and BC569548.
- (i.) United States District Court, Central District of California, *Balderas v. SPS*
Technologies, LLC, Case No. 2:14-cv-4036-CAS (VBKx).
- (j.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Spring
Street Courthouse, *Levkovitch v. Premier Displays & Exhibits, Inc.*, Case
No. BC628412.
- (k.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Spring
Street Courthouse, *Pena v. National Diversified Sales, Inc., et al.*, Case No.
BC610019.
- (l.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Central
Civil West, *Cortez v. Darling International, Inc.*, Case No. BC525091.
- (m.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Spring

- 1 Street Courthouse, *Lopez v. Owens & Minor Distribution, Inc.*, Case No. BC613671.
- 2 (n.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Spring
- 3 Street Courthouse, *Starks, et al. v. Mercury Air Cargo, Inc., et al.*, Case No. BC614067.
- 4 (o.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Spring
- 5 Street Courthouse, *Calvo v. Craneveyor Corp, et al.*, Case No. BC634012.
- 6 (p.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Spring
- 7 Street Courthouse, *Alvarez v. Norman's Nursery, Inc.*, Case No. BC592465.
- 8 (q.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Central
- 9 Civil West, *Corlew v. Ferrellgas, Inc., et al.*, Case No. BC521730.
- 10 (r.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Spring
- 11 Street Courthouse, *Vela v. Doorking, Inc.*, Case No. BC644377.
- 12 (s.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Spring
- 13 Street Courthouse, *Shasheet, et al. v. Pacifica Hotel Company, et al.*, Case
- 14 No. 603264 and BC635444.
- 15 (t.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Central
- 16 Civil West, *Kim, et al. v. Beverly Hills Properties, Inc., et al.*, Case No.
- 17 BC503462 and BC520587.
- 18 (u.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Central
- 19 Civil West, *Benitez, et al. v. Aircraft Service International, Inc.*, Case No.
- 20 BC534264.
- 21 (v.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Central
- 22 Civil West, *Santoyo v. Consolidated Foundries, Inc., et al.*, Case No.
- 23 BC612298.
- 24 (w.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Central
- 25 Civil West, *Carreon v. Jonathan Louis International, LTD*, Case No.
- 26 BC543678.
- 27 (x.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Spring
- 28 Street Courthouse, *Garcia, et al. v. American International Industries*, Case
- No. BC560886.
- (y.) Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Central
- Civil West, *Badios, et al. v. E.M. Pizza, Inc.*, Case No. BC495252.

10. Accordingly, The Nourmand Law Firm, APC has the experience, resources, and means necessary to allow us to provide adequate representation as Class Counsel to all Class Members and Aggrieved Employees in this litigation. Currently, our firm is acting as lead counsel in over thirty other wage and hour class actions.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct this 4th day of November 2024, at Beverly Hills, California.

/s/ James A. De Sario
James A. De Sario