Arby Aiwazian (SBN 269827)
Ryan Slinger (SBN 351297)
Alborz Javaheri (SBN 364246)
LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203
Tel: (818) 265-1020 / Fax: (818) 265-1021

Attorneys for Plaintiff

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES—SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE

TRACIE SMITH, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general public similarly situated and on behalf of other aggrieved employees pursuant to the California Private Attorneys General Act; Plaintiff, vs. SUPERIOR PROTECTION SERVICES CA, INC., a California corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, Defendants.	Case No. 25STCV23373 Honorable Samantha P. Jessner Department 7 **CLASS ACTION** **DECLARATION OF RYAN SLINGER IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT** Hearing Date: November 3, 2026 Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m. Department: 7 Complaint Filed: August 8, 2025 FAC Filed: June 18, 2026 Trial Date: None Set

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

DECLARATION OF RYAN SLINGER

I, Ryan Slinger, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of California. I am a member of Lawyers *for* Justice, PC, attorneys of record for Plaintiff Tracie Smith ("Plaintiff"). The facts set forth in this declaration are within my personal knowledge or based on information and belief, and if called as a witness, I could and would competently testify thereto.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

2. On June 3, 2025, Plaintiff provided notice by electronic upload to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and written notice by certified mail to Defendant Superior Protection Services CA, Inc. ("Defendant") of the specific provisions of the California Labor Code that were alleged to be violated ("PAGA Notice"). Marked and attached hereto as "**EXHIBIT 1**" is a true and correct copy of Plaintiff's PAGA Notice.

3. On August 8, 2025, Plaintiff filed a Complaint for Enforcement Under the Private Attorneys General Act, California Labor Code § 2698, *Et Seq.* in the Superior Court for the County of Los Angeles, thereby commencing the above-captioned lawsuit.

4. On June 18, 2026, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Class Action Complaint for Damages and Enforcement Under the Private Attorneys General Act, Cal. Lab. Code § 2698, *Et Seq.* ("Operative Complaint"), thereby adding claims for: (1) failure to pay overtime wages under Labor Code Sec. 510, 558, 1194, 1197.1, 1198; (2) failure to provide meal periods and/or pay meal period premiums under Labor Code Sec. 226.7, 512; (3) failure to provide rest periods and/or pay rest period premiums under Labor Code Sec. 226.7; (4) failure to pay minimum wages and/or for all hours worked under Labor Code Sec. 510, 558, 1174, 1194, 1198, and 1199; (5) failure to timely pay wages upon termination under Labor Code Sec. 201-203; (6) failure to timely pay wages during employment under Labor Code Sec. 204, 210; (7) failure to provide accurate, itemized wage statements under Labor Code Sec. 226; (8) failure to keep requisite payroll records under Labor Code Sec. 1174(d); (9) failure to reimburse business expenses under Labor Code Sec. 2800, and 2802; and (10) violation of California's unfair competition law under Business and Professions Code Sec. 17200.

THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

5. Marked and attached hereto as "**EXHIBIT 2**" is a true and correct copy of the Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement and Release ("Settlement," "Agreement," or "Settlement Agreement") entered into by and between Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated and other aggrieved employees, on the one hand, and Defendant, on the other hand (together, the "Parties"). The Parties and their counsel have approved the proposed Notice of Class Action Settlement ("Class Notice"), which is attached to the Settlement Agreement as "Exhibit A" and respectfully request that the Court approve it as well.

6. The Settlement provides for a Total Settlement Amount of $445,000.00 to be paid in two payments on a non-reversionary basis. The Net Settlement Amount is the Total Settlement Amount less the following amounts, subject to approval by the Court: Attorneys' Fees of up to $155,750.00 (if the Total Settlement Amount remains $445,000.00) and Costs not to exceed $25,000.00 to Class Counsel, Enhancement Award to Plaintiff of $10,000.00, Settlement Administration Costs to the Settlement Administrator not to exceed $21,000.00, and the PAGA Penalty Amount of $122,740.00. Assuming that the amounts allocated under the Settlement toward these payments are awarded by the Court, the Net Settlement Amount that will be available for distribution to Settlement Class Members is currently $110,510.00. Additionally, 35% of the PAGA Penalty Amount (i.e., PAGA Member Amount), which is $42,959.00 out of $122,740.00, will be distributed to the PAGA Members, for their respective portion of the PAGA Member Amount. The Total Settlement Amount will be fully distributed in accordance with the terms of the Settlement and there is no reversion to Defendant.

7. The Settlement Agreement provides for Class Counsel to apply for attorneys' fees in an amount of up to thirty-five percent (35%) of the Total Settlement Amount (i.e., $155,750.00, if the Total Settlement Amount remains $445,000.00) and expenses and costs of not more than $25,000.00, which will be paid out of the Total Settlement Amount, subject to approval by the Court. It should be noted that Class Counsel has borne all of the risks and costs of litigation and will not receive any compensation until recovery is obtained. A description of the qualifications of Class Counsel, the work performed by Class Counsel, and the results achieved by Class Counsel in

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

this matter can be found in paragraphs 15 through 25, *infra*.

8. The Settlement Agreement provides for payment of up to $10,000.00 to Plaintiff as an Enhancement Award, to be paid out of the Total Settlement Amount subject to approval by the Court. Plaintiff spent considerable time and effort to produce relevant documents and past employment records and to provide the facts and evidence necessary to attempt to prove the allegations. Plaintiff was available whenever Class Counsel needed her and actively tried to obtain information that would benefit the Class. Accordingly, it is appropriate and just for Plaintiff to receive an Enhancement Award, in addition to her individual settlement payments, for her services on behalf of the Class, PAGA Members, and the State of California.

9. The Parties have agreed to retain Simpluris, Inc., ("Settlement Administrator") to handle the notice and settlement administration process. The Parties respectfully request that the Court appoint Simpluris, Inc. to handle these procedures and serve as the Settlement Administrator. Defendant will provide the Settlement Administrator with the Class List, and the Settlement Administrator will calculate each Class Member's estimated share of the Net Settlement Amount ("Individual Settlement Share") and each PAGA Member's estimated *pro rata* share of the 35% portion of the PAGA Penalty Amount. The Settlement Administrator will be responsible for printing, distributing, and tracking Class Notices and other documents for the Settlement, calculating and distributing payments due under the Settlement, issuing of 1099 and W-2 IRS Forms and all required tax reporting, filings, withholdings, and remittances, providing necessary reports and declarations, transmitting funds representing uncashed checks after the void date to the California State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of each Class Member and/or PAGA Member to whom the checks were issued, and other duties and responsibilities set forth to process the Settlement, and as requested by the Parties. Settlement Administration Costs are currently estimated not to exceed $21,000.00 and will be paid out of the Total Settlement Amount, subject to approval of the Court.

10. Under the Settlement Agreement, Defendant is responsible for any employer-side tax obligations associated with the Total Settlement Amount and will deposit that amount into the settlement fund in addition to the Total Settlement Amount. Each Settlement Class Member's

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

Individual Settlement Share will be allocated 20% to wages and 80% to interest, penalties, and non-wage damages. The Settlement Administrator will withhold the employee's share of taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Shares.

CONDITIONAL CERTIFICATION OF THE PROPOSED CLASS IS APPROPRIATE

11. **Ascertainability:** The proposed Class is defined as all current and former non-exempt security guards working for Defendant in California employed during the Class Period, which is June 13, 2020 through the earlier of (a) the date of Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, or, if applicable, (b) the Alternate End Date.

12. **Numerosity:** Based on data provided by Defendant, the Class is estimated to be approximately 2,450 individuals, as of July 24, 2026.

13. **Commonality:** Based on investigation and information discovered, Class Counsel believes that there is sufficient evidence to support the allegations made in the lawsuit, including the allegations that Defendant, with respect to Plaintiff, Class Members, and PAGA Members, *inter alia*, failed to properly pay overtime and minimum wages and associated premium pay, failed to provide compliant meal and rest periods and to pay associated premium pay, failed to timely pay wages during employment and upon termination of employment, failed to provide compliant wage statements, failed to maintain requisite payroll records, and failed to reimburse necessary business expenses, and thereby engaged in unfair business practices and conduct giving rise to civil penalties recoverable under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (California Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.*). Plaintiff also asserted that Class Members were expected to perform similar job duties and were subject to the same or similar operations and employment policies, practices, and procedures. Additionally, Plaintiff asserted that Defendant's recordkeeping practices with respect to Plaintiff, Class Members, and PAGA Members were substantially the same during the time period at issue. As a result of said alleged uniform practices, Plaintiff claims that the Class Members were not paid all of the compensation that was owed to them by Defendant. Thus, in Class Counsel's view, it is clear that the outcome of this litigation would be determined by Defendant's uniform operations and employment practices, policies, and procedures that Plaintiff alleges applied across its non-exempt security guards working for Defendant in California

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

employed during the Class Period.

14. **<u>Adequacy and Typicality:</u>** Plaintiff undertook the responsibilities of representing a class action against her former employer. Plaintiff spent considerable time and effort to produce relevant documents and past employment records and to provide the facts and evidence necessary to attempt to prove the allegations. Plaintiff was available whenever Class Counsel needed her and actively tried to obtain information that would benefit the Class. Plaintiff has no interests that are adverse to the Class. Plaintiff was employed by Defendant during the Class Period and subject to the same alleged violations and the same policies, practices, and procedures. Plaintiff took on the challenge and risk of commencing and maintaining this action, and she has not yet received any monetary benefit for her service to date. Plaintiff put her own interests aside and brought a publicly filed lawsuit against an employer not just for her own benefit, but, instead, on behalf of other non-exempt security guards and the State of California.

EXPERIENCE AND ADEQUACY OF LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC

15. For over a decade, Lawyers *for* Justice, PC has almost exclusively focused on the prosecution of consumer and employment class actions, involving wage-and-hour claims, race discrimination, unfair business practices, or consumer fraud. Currently, Lawyers *for* Justice, PC is the attorney of record in well over a dozen employment-related putative class actions in both state and federal courts in the State of California. Lawyers *for* Justice, PC is comprised of attorneys who focus on litigating complex wage-and-hour class and Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") representative actions. Lawyers *for* Justice, PC has successfully litigated cases involving the executive, administrative, and other overtime exemptions to the State of California and federal overtime compensation requirements. During a relatively short time, in association with other law firms, Lawyers *for* Justice, PC has recovered millions of dollars on behalf of thousands of individuals in California.

16. Edwin Aiwazian is the Chief Executive Officer of Lawyers *for* Justice, PC. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Pepperdine University in April of 1999 and earned a Juris Doctor degree from Pepperdine University School of Law in May of 2004. He has extensive formal training in dispute resolution and negotiation from the Straus Institute for Dispute

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

Resolution as part of its Masters in Dispute Resolution degree program. In addition, he has previously served as a pro bono mediator for the Los Angeles County Superior Court. In October of 2000, he obtained a Litigation Paralegal Certificate from the UCLA Extension Program. During the summer of 2000, he studied Legal Writing at Harvard University. From approximately September 2002 to approximately December 2002, he served as a Judicial Extern to the Honorable Kim McLane Wardlaw of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. From approximately June 2002 to approximately August 2002, he served as a Judicial Extern to the Honorable Earl Johnson, Jr. of the California Court of Appeal for the Second Appellate District. In December of 2004, he obtained a license to practice law from the California State Bar. Since in or around October of 2008, through his work at Lawyers *for* Justice, PC, he has almost exclusively focused on the prosecution of consumer and employment class actions, involving wage-and-hour claims, race discrimination, unfair business practices, or consumer fraud. While employed by Lawyers *for* Justice PC, he has argued over one hundred (100) motions, taken or defended over one hundred fifty (150) depositions, prepared dozens of expert witnesses for deposition or trial, and attended over one hundred seventy-five (175) mediations. Together with other attorneys at the firm, and in many cases in conjunction with co-counsel, he has successfully litigated cases involving the executive, administrative, and other overtime exemptions to the State of California and federal overtime compensation requirements. Under his supervision, Lawyers *for* Justice, PC has successfully obtained class certification by contested motion practice in approximately sixteen (16) cases in the last decade, and litigated over 1,000 class action or representative action cases.

17. Arby Aiwazian is a Senior Partner of Lawyers *for* Justice, PC. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from University of California, Los Angeles and graduated magna cum laude. He earned a Juris Doctor degree, cum laude, from Southwestern Law School. From approximately May 2007 to approximately July 2007, he served as a Judicial Extern to the Honorable Earl Johnson, Jr. of the California Court of Appeal for the Second Appellate District. From approximately August 2008 to approximately December 2008, he served as a Judicial Extern to the Honorable Kim McLane Wardlaw of the United State Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He was admitted to practice law in California in 2010. He is admitted to practice before

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

all courts of the State of California and all United States District Courts in the State of California. He has worked on many wage-and-hour class action and representative action cases, taking the lead in taking and defending depositions, arguing motions, and attending mediations. He has played an integral role in preparing matters for class certification, including and not limited to, successful certification of a class in *Upson v. Sur La Table* (Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC424012), *Montazemi v. Regus Management* (Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC478769), and *Abdulhaqq v. Urban Outfitters* (Alameda County Superior Court Case No. RG13680477). Under his supervision, dozens of class action or representative action cases have resulted in settlements that have been granted court approval. He has handled over one hundred and fifty (150) mediations and has worked on over two hundred and fifty (250) class action or representative action cases which have resulted in settlement.

18. Joanna Ghosh is a Senior Partner of Lawyers *for* Justice, PC. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Los Angeles in 2006, a Master of Science degree from the London School of Economics in 2007, and a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 2010. She is admitted to practice in California (since 2010), in New York (since 2013), and in Washington (since 2026) and she is also admitted to practice in all U.S. District Courts in California, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington, and the U.S. Supreme Court. She has taken and defended dozens of depositions and successfully handled motion practice in class action cases regarding discovery (including and not limited to, regarding class contact information), class certification (both contested class certification and stipulated class certification), arbitration agreements, coordination, and intervention. She has successfully handled briefing and oral arguments on appeal and obtained notable decisions regarding Private Attorneys General Act claims and employer efforts to compel arbitration of such claims, e.g., *Roberto Betancourt v. Prudential Overall Supply* (Cal. Ct. App., Mar. 7, 2017) 9 Cal.App.5th 439, cert. denied (Cal., May 24, 2017), cert. denied (U.S., Dec. 11, 2017) and *ZB, N.A. v. Superior Court* (2019) 8 Cal.5th175. She has significant experience with class actions, including and not limited to working on cases to obtain class certification through contested motion practice and working on

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

cases in the post-certification stage (e.g., post-certification discovery, appeal, statistical sampling and pilot study, and trial preparation in conjunction with co-counsel in a case involving a certified class consisting of approximately 2,600 individuals). She has extensive experience with class action and/or representative action settlements, and has handled this process in over five hundred (500) cases. Under her, Edwin Aiwazian, and Arby Aiwazian's supervision, Lawyers *for* Justice, PC has handled the class certification and court approval process for hundreds of class action and/or representative action matters that have successfully resolved. Joanna Ghosh is a member of the California Employment Lawyers Association and, on several occasions, has been a speaker regarding topics in wage and hour law at the organization's continuing legal education events.

19. I am a member of Lawyers *for* Justice. PC. I received my Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan in 2020, and I earned my Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School in 2023. I was admitted to practice law in California in 2023. I am admitted to practice before all courts of the State of California. I have worked on many wage-and-hour class action and PAGA representative cases, and my work on these cases has included preparing pleadings and motions, making court appearances, drafting and finalizing settlement agreements.

THE SETTLEMENT AND SUMMARY OF WORK PERFORMED

20. The effectiveness of Lawyers *for* Justice, PC ("Class Counsel") in prosecuting this matter has translated into tangible monetary benefits in the following respects: (1) Class Members, PAGA Members, and the State of California recover over a reasonably short period of time as opposed to waiting additional years for the same, or possibly worse, result; (2) a guaranteed result that compares favorably with other similar class action settlements of this type given the strengths and weaknesses of the case; and (3) significant savings in Class Counsel's fees and/or costs that would have only increased significantly had the case progressed through certification, trial, and/or appeals.

21. Class Counsel has litigated the case for approximately one (1) year and was actively preparing the matter for trial. The Parties have engaged in extensive settlement negotiations and participated in a full-day mediation conducted by Doug Leach, Esq., a well-respected mediator experienced in mediating complex labor and employment matters. In the course of the this lawsuit

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

and in connection with the mediation and settlement negotiations, the Parties exchanged extensive information and engaged in discussions regarding their evaluations of the case and various aspects of the case, including but not limited to, the risks and delays of further litigation, the law relating to off-the-clock theory, arbitration agreements, meal and rest periods, PAGA representative claims, and state wage-and-hour law and enforcement, as well as the evidence produced and analyzed, and the possibility of appeals, among other things. During all settlement discussions, the Parties conducted their negotiations at arm's length in an adversarial position. Arriving at a settlement that was acceptable to all Parties was not easy. Defendant and its counsel felt strongly about its ability to prevail on the merits, and Plaintiff and Class Counsel believed that they would be able to prevail at trial. After conducting investigations, informal discovery, exchange of information, extensive settlement negotiations, and with the aid of the mediator's evaluation, the Parties have agreed that the matter is well-suited for settlement given the legal issues relating to Plaintiff's principal claims, as well as the costs and risks to both sides that would attend further litigation. The Settlement is a fair, reasonable, and adequate resolution of the Released Class Claims of Plaintiff and Settlement Class Members, and of the Released PAGA Claims of Plaintiff, PAGA Members, and the State of California, against the Released Parties.

22. Prior to reaching the Settlement, Class Counsel investigated the veracity, strength, and scope of the claims, and was preparing the action for trial. Plaintiff conducted significant investigation and informal discovery regarding the facts of the case, including and not limited to, the exchange, review, and analysis of a volume of pages of documents and data obtained from Defendant, Plaintiff, and other sources. The volume of data and documents that Class Counsel reviewed and analyzed included and was not limited to: Plaintiff's employment records, a sampling of Class Members' time and pay data, multiple iterations of Defendant's Employee Handbook, company policy acknowledgements, internal memoranda, Defendant's operations and employment practices, forms, and policies, among other information and documents. Class Counsel had the opportunity to interview Plaintiff to gather facts and to identify potential witnesses. Counsel for the Parties met and conferred on numerous occasions, e.g., to discuss issues relating to the pleadings, and the production of documents and data prior to the mediation. Class

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

Counsel drafted Plaintiff's pleadings and mediation brief and prepared for and attended court proceedings, settlement negotiations, and the mediation, among other tasks.

23. Counsel for the Parties have also invested time researching and investigating the applicable law, which is constantly evolving as it relates to certification, representative PAGA claims, off-the-clock theory, arbitration agreements, meal and rest periods, state wage-and-hour law and enforcement, Plaintiff's claims and damages, and Defendant's defenses thereto, as well as facts discovered. Based on Class Counsel's analysis, the result achieved in this lawsuit is fair, adequate, and reasonable.

24. Class Counsel is aware of the defenses and position of Defendant, but believes that Plaintiff could potentially obtain class certification despite many obstacles. Plaintiff and Class Counsel have also taken into account the uncertainty and risk of the outcome of further litigation, and the difficulties and delays inherent in such litigation. Plaintiff further recognizes the burdens of proof necessary to establish liability for the claims asserted in the lawsuit, Defendant's defenses, and the difficulties in establishing entitlement to monetary recovery. Plaintiff and Class Counsel have also considered the Parties' settlement discussions, as well as the evaluations of the mediator, who is experienced and well-regarded in complex labor and employment matters.

25. Defendant, on the other hand, denied and continues to deny any liability and wrongdoing of any kind associated with the claims alleged in the lawsuit, and further denies that this lawsuit is appropriate for class treatment or representative adjudication for any purpose other than this Settlement. Defendant believes that it would ultimately succeed in the matter. Both sides have also had the opportunity to interview witnesses and review documents and information relating to Plaintiff's, Class Members', and PAGA Members' employment with Defendant, and Defendant's operations and employment policies, practices, and procedures. The Parties also reviewed and analyzed a volume of documents and data to determine the potential value and strength of the claims. The available information enabled Class Counsel to assess and value the class and PAGA claims and prepare violation, damages, and penalties analyses models. Accordingly, counsel for the Parties have conducted adequate investigation and discovery to be sufficiently informed of the nature and extent of the Class Members' claims, and to enable both

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

sides to fully evaluate the Settlement for its fairness, adequacy, and reasonableness. The Settlement takes into account the strengths and weaknesses of each side's position and the uncertainty of how the case might have concluded at trial and/or appeals.

ESTIMATE OF THE VALUE OF THE CLAIMS

26. Plaintiff's action alleges that Defendant has violated the California Labor Code and Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders by engaging in a uniform policy and systematic scheme of wage abuse against Plaintiff and the Class Members, including *inter alia*, failing to properly compensate overtime and minimum wages, failing to provide compliant meal and rest periods and associated premium pay, failing to timely pay wages during employment, failing to timely pay wages upon termination and associated waiting-time penalties, failing to provide compliant wage statements, failing to maintain requisite payroll records, and failing to reimburse necessary business expenses. Plaintiff further contends that Defendant's aforementioned conduct constitutes unfair business practices (under the California Business and Professions Code ("UCL") and gives rise to civil penalties recoverable under PAGA.

27. Based on data provided by Defendant, the total number of Class Members during the period from June 13, 2020 to July 24, 2026 ("relevant time period") was estimated to be approximately 2,450 individuals who worked an estimated total of 125,000 workweeks with an average hourly rate of pay of $16.50.

28. Plaintiff contended that Defendant required Class Members to perform work before clocking-in and after clocking-out of their scheduled shifts and during meal and rest periods. Plaintiff contended that Defendant discouraged the recordation of overtime hours and required Class Members to perform work off-the-clock. Plaintiff contended that Defendant failed to include non-discretionary bonuses and incentives in the calculation of the regular rate when paying overtime wages. Plaintiff also contended that meal and rest periods were regularly missed, later, shortened, and/or interrupted, that Class Members were required to remain on premises during rest breaks, readily available to assist with work tasks, and that Defendant failed to properly pay premiums for all non-compliant meal and rest periods. Additionally, Plaintiff alleged that Defendant intentionally and willfully failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members all wages due to

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

them while they were employed by Defendant, within the time period permissible under California law, and that Defendant failed to pay all wages due upon termination, within the time period permissible under California law, thereby triggering waiting-time penalties under California Labor Code section 203. Plaintiff contended that, based on the violations described herein, the wage statements provided by Defendant and the payroll records kept by Defendant were inaccurate. Finally, Plaintiff contended that Defendant failed to reimburse Plaintiff and the other Class Members for necessary business expenses, including, but not limited to, the costs associated with the usage of personal cell phones for work duties.

29. Class Counsel considered Defendant's arguments, e.g., that the employer's practices, policies, and procedures complied with the law, that Defendant paid Class Members over the California minimum wage for all hours worked, that Defendant correctly paid overtime for all overtime hours worked, that no waiting-time penalties were due because waiting-time penalties only arise from "willful" failure to pay wages due and owing at the time of termination or resignation, that Plaintiff and Class Members suffered no actual injury from the alleged wage statement violations and that this alleged violation and the alleged recordkeeping violation are entirely derivative of the other causes of action, and that a policy and practice of reimbursing employees for necessary business-related expenses exists. Class Counsel also considered the likelihood of Plaintiff's success in establishing that any of provisions of the California Labor Code, on which the civil penalties under PAGA and the UCL claim are predicated, were violated and that such violations were injurious and/or warranted imposition of civil penalties. Class Counsel also considered that trial courts have wide discretion when assessing penalties under PAGA, and that it could be determined that individual liability issues predominate (e.g., due to purported variation in shifts, locations, job duties, and other circumstances which could raise individualized questions of fact) and could pose challenges to certification, manageability, and the merits of Plaintiff's claims.

30. Class Counsel considered information, data, and documents obtained from Plaintiff, Defendant, and other sources, and created violation, damages, and penalties valuations and models prior to reaching the Settlement. Based thereon, Plaintiff calculated the potential value of the claims. However, the potential value of each claim assumed an exposure based on the above-

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

captioned action having been certified and Plaintiff having proven all elements of the claims and entitlement to monetary recovery in the above-captioned action (on a class-wide and a representative basis), despite risks associated with obtaining and maintaining certification and demonstrating manageability, risks to establishing liability and any underlying California Labor Code and IWC Wage Order violations and damages, and significant additional costs that would have to be incurred in order to certify the above captioned action and establish liability, damages, and penalties amounts in the cases. Plaintiff faced the risk of the Court finding that individualized issues predominate, such that the cases are not suitable for class treatment. While Class Counsel disagreed with Defendant's arguments and factual contentions, Class Counsel recognized the circumstances and realities of the cases, applicable case law and regulations, the extensive time and pay records produced by Defendant, the costs and expenses of further litigation and certification, and risks to recovery, and applied appropriate discounts for them. Class Counsel calculated the potential and realistic values of each claim as follows:

a. <u>Failure to Pay Overtime Wages</u>: The potential value of this claim was estimated to be $3,093,750.00 (125,000 workweeks x 1 hour of unpaid overtime wages x overtime hourly rate of $24.75, which is based on the average hourly rate of $16.50). At this juncture, a discount of 65% was applied to account for the risks associated with obtaining and maintaining class certification (bringing the value of this claim closer to $1,082,812.50), a discount of 70% was applied to account for the risks associated with succeeding on the merits and establishing liability (bringing the value of this claim closer to $324,843.75), and a discount of 80% was applied to account for the risks associated with proving the extent of damages and obtaining an award thereof (bringing the value of this claim closer to $64,968.75).

b. <u>Failure to Pay Minimum Wages</u>: The potential value of this claim was estimated to be $2,062,500.00 (125,000 workweeks x 1 hour of unpaid minimum wages x average hourly rate of $16.50). At this juncture, a discount of 65% was applied to account for the risks associated with obtaining and maintaining class certification (bringing the value of this claim closer to $721,875.50, a discount of 70% was applied to account for the risks associated with succeeding on the merits and establishing liability (bringing the value of this claim closer to $216,562.50), and a

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

discount of 80% was applied to account for the risks associated with proving the extent of damages and obtaining an award thereof (bringing the value of this claim closer to $43,312.50).

c. Failure to Provide Compliant Meal Periods and Associated Premiums: The potential value of this claim was estimated to be $2,062,500.00 (125,000 workweeks x 1 meal period premium x average hourly rate of $16.50). At this juncture, a discount of 60% was applied to account for the risks associated with obtaining and maintaining class certification (bringing the value of this claim closer to $825,000.00), a discount of 70% was applied to account for the risks associated with succeeding on the merits and establishing liability (bringing the value of this claim closer to $247,500.00), and a discount of 80% was applied to account for the risks associated with proving the extent of damages and obtaining an award thereof (bringing the value of this claim closer to $49,500.00).

d. Failure to Provide Compliant Rest Periods and Associated Premiums: The potential value of this claim was estimated to be $4,125,000.00 (125,000 workweeks x 2 rest period premiums x average hourly rate of $16.50). At this juncture, a discount of 60% was applied to account for the risks associated with obtaining and maintaining class certification (bringing the value of this claim closer to $1,650,000.00), a discount of 70% was applied to account for the risks associated with succeeding on the merits and establishing liability (bringing the value of this claim closer to $495,000.00), and a discount of 80% was applied to account for the risks associated with proving the extent of damages and obtaining an award thereof (bringing the value of this claim closer to $99,000.00).

e. Failure to Timely Pay Wages During Employment: The value of this claim is considered as a part of the valuation of the PAGA claim contained infra.

f. Failure to Timely Pay Wages After Termination (and Waiting-Time Penalties): Based on information and data provided by Defendant, it was estimated that approximately 1,115 Class Members had been terminated during the three-year statute of limitations (i.e., from June 8, 2022). Assuming that these individuals were not timely paid all wages due to them upon termination, the potential value of waiting-time penalties was estimated to be $4,415,400.00 collectively (1,115 individuals x [30 days x hourly rate of $16.50 x 8 hours]), or approximately

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

$3,960.00 per individual. At this juncture, a discount of 60% was applied to account for the risks associated with obtaining and maintaining class certification (bringing the value of this claim closer to $1,766,160.00), a discount of 70% was applied to account for the risks associated with succeeding on the merits and establishing liability (bringing the value of this claim closer to $529,848.00), and a discount of 80% was applied to account for the risks associated with proving the extent of damages and obtaining an award thereof (bringing the value of this claim closer to $105,969.60).

g. <u>Failure to Provide Compliant Wage Statements</u>: The potential value of this claim was calculated to be $3,180,000.00 (795 violations x $4,000 maximum statutory penalty). At this juncture, a discount of 65% was applied to account for the risks associated with obtaining and maintaining class certification (bringing the value of this claim closer to $1,113,000.00), a discount of 70% was applied to account for the risks associated with succeeding on the merits and establishing liability (bringing the value of this claim closer to $333,900.00), and a discount of 80% was applied to account for the risks associated with proving the extent of damages and obtaining an award thereof (bringing the value of this claim closer to $66,780.00).

h. <u>Failure to Maintain Payroll Records</u>: Arguably, civil penalties would only be recoverable by the Labor Commissioner, therefore, the value of this claim is considered as a part of the valuation of the PAGA claim contained *infra*.

i. <u>Failure to Reimburse Necessary Business Expenses</u>: The potential value of this claim was estimated to be $537,500.00 (125,000 workweeks x $4.30 unreimbursed business expenses). At this juncture, a discount of 65% was applied to account for the risks associated with obtaining and maintaining class certification (bringing the value of this claim closer to $188,125.00), a discount of 65% was applied to account for the risks associated with succeeding on the merits and establishing liability (bringing the value of this claim closer to $65,843.75), and a discount of 80% was applied to account for the risks associated with proving the extent of damages and obtaining an award thereof (bringing the value of this claim closer to $13,168.75).

j. <u>PAGA Penalties</u>: The amount of civil penalties at issue, which the Court could determine whether or not to assess and whether or not to reduce based on the facts and

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

circumstances of the case (to avoid an award that is unjust, arbitrary and oppressive, or confiscatory, pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699(e)(2)), were estimated to be approximately $1,244,250.00 (711 aggrieved employees estimated to have worked during one-year statutory period x $1,750 civil penalties). At this juncture a discount of 45% was applied to account for the risks associated with possible bifurcation of discovery and/or trial (bringing the value of this claim closer to $684,337.50), a discount of 50% was applied to account for the risks associated with succeeding on the merits and establishing liability (bringing the value of this claim closer to $342,168.75), and a discount of 65% was applied to account for the risks associated with the Court's discretion to reduce civil penalties and obtaining an award of civil penalties (bringing the value of this claim closer to $119,759.06).

31. The foregoing discussion confirms that the amount of the Settlement is adequate in light of Plaintiff's allegations and causes of action, the evidence at issue with respect to those allegations and causes of action, and legal and factual arguments and circumstances which pose challenges to certification, manageability, merits, and monetary recovery. The conclusion to be drawn from the foregoing analysis is that neither class certification, manageability, liability, nor the ability to adjudicate and/or recover monetary relief on a class-wide or representative basis is clear-cut, which is why the Parties elected to settle this matter. Class Counsel also recognized that additional discounts could be made to the risk-adjusted value to account for the costs and expenses associated with further litigation and the present value of obtaining a settlement now as opposed to monetary recovery, if any, that may be obtained in the future after further litigation. Class Counsel recognized the circumstances and realities of the case, applicable case law and regulations, and risks to recovery and applied appropriate discounts.

32. Class Counsel submits that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in the best interest of Plaintiff, the Class, the PAGA Members, and the State of California. Class Counsel further submits that the Settlement is within an acceptable range of recovery for this type of litigation given the strengths and weaknesses of the case, the inherent costs and risks of further litigation, and the costs and risks associated with class certification, representative adjudication, trial, and/or appeals.

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

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

Executed on this 3rd day of August 2026, at Glendale, California.

Ryan Slinger

Ryan Slinger

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Blvd., Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

EXHIBIT 1

June 3, 2025

BY ONLINE SUBMISSION

California Labor & Workforce Development Agency
PAGAfilings@dir.ca.gov

Re: ***SUPERIOR PROTECTION SERVICES CA, INC.; DAN VINCENT, AN INDIVIDUAL***

Dear Representative:

We have been retained to represent Tracie Smith against Superior Protection Services CA, Inc., and Dan Vincent, an individual (including any and all affiliates, subsidiaries, parents, directors, officers, agents, and executive employees) (collectively referred to as "Superior Protection Services") for violations of California wage-and-hour laws. Ms. Smith seeks penalties for violations of the California Labor Code, which are recoverable under California Labor Code section 2698, et seq., the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") and all other remedies available under PAGA.

Dan Vincent is the Chief Executive Officer of Superior Protection Services CA, Inc.. Dan Vincent, at all times herein relevant, was acting either individually or as an officer, owner, director, agent, or employee of Superior Protection Services, who caused and continues to cause all of the wage and hour violations alleged herein against the "aggrieved employees," as defined herein, including without limitation violations of Labor Code Section 558 and 1197.

Ms. Smith seeks these remedies on behalf of the State of California and "aggrieved employees," as defined herein. This letter is sent in compliance with the reporting requirements of California Labor Code section 2699.3.

Superior Protection Services has employed Ms. Smith as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately August 2019 to the present, in the State of California.

The "aggrieved employees" that Ms. Smith may seek penalties on behalf of are all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees who worked for any of the above-referenced entities within the State of California.

Based on the following facts and theories, Superior Protection Services has violated and/or continues to violate, among other provisions of the California Labor Code and applicable wage law, California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, and IWC Wage Orders including *inter alia*, Wage Order 4-2001.

Superior Protection Services required Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees to perform work before their scheduled shifts, after their scheduled shifts, during off-the-clock meal breaks, and/or during rest breaks and failed to compensate Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees for this time. Such work included, but was not limited to, watching security cameras, writing reports, performing security-related tasks, responding to work related communications, conducting security checks, waiting to be relieved from work, answering phone calls and text messages, and completing other regular tasks/duties. Superior Protection Services rounded the work time recorded by Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees in a manner that was not fair and neutral on its face and/or that favored Superior Protection Services over time, resulting in Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees being underpaid for their time worked. Furthermore, Superior Protection Services required Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees to record their scheduled hours instead of the actual hours worked.

California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198 require employers to pay time-and-a-half or double time overtime wages, and make it unlawful to work employees for hours longer than eight hours in one day and/or over forty hours in one week without paying the premium overtime rates at one-and-one-half times or double the regular rate of pay, including additional remuneration. During the relevant time period, Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees worked in excess of 8 hours in a day and 40 hours in a week. Therefore, Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees were entitled to receive certain wages for overtime compensation, but they were not paid for all overtime hours worked.

California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 require employers to pay an employee one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate for each meal or rest period that is not provided. During the relevant time period, Superior Protection Services required Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees to work during meal and rest periods and failed to compensate them properly for non-compliant meal and rest periods including, *inter alia*, short, late, interrupted, and missed meal and rest periods. Superior Protection Services also required Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees to stay on work premises during rest periods.

California Labor Code sections 201 and 202 provide that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately, and if an employee quits his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than seventy-two (72) hours thereafter, unless the employee has given seventy-two (72) hours' notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting. During the relevant time period, Superior Protection Services failed to pay Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees all wages due to them within any time period specified by California Labor Code sections 201 and 202, including earned and unpaid minimum, overtime, and premium wages as discussed above.

California Labor Code section 204 requires that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 1st and the 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 16th and the 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 1st and the 10th day of the following month. California Labor Code section 204 also requires that all wages earned for labor in excess of the normal work period shall be paid no later than the payday for the next regular payroll period. During the relevant time period, Superior Protection Services failed to pay Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees all wages due to them within any time period specified by California Labor Code section 204, including earned and unpaid minimum, overtime, and premium wages as discussed above.

California Labor Code section 226 requires employers to make, keep and provide complete and accurate itemized wage statements to their employees. During the relevant time period, Superior Protection Services did not provide Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees with complete and accurate itemized wage statements. The wage statements they received from Superior Protection Services were in violation of California Labor Code section 226(a). The violations include, but are not limited to, the failure to include the total hours worked by Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees, including time spent working off-the-clock and during meal and rest periods as discussed above.

California Labor Code sections 551 and 552 require that every person employed in any occupation of labor is entitled to one day's rest in a seven-day workweek, that no employer of labor shall cause his employees to work more than six days in a workweek, and that an employer shall pay a civil penalty in the amounts of fifty dollars ($50) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation and one hundred dollars ($100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation. During the relevant time period, Ms. Smith and the aggrieved employees were required to regularly and/or consistently work in excess of six (6) days in a workweek. During the relevant time period, Ms. Smith and the aggrieved employees were required to work in excess of thirty (30) hours in a week and/or six (6) hours in any one (1) day thereof, during workweeks in which they were required to work in excess of six (6) days. During the relevant time period, Ms. Smith and the aggrieved employees were required to work in excess of six (6) days in a workweek without accumulating or being provided the opportunity to take at least one (1) day of rest, and when Ms. Smith and the aggrieved employees accumulated days of rest, they were not actually provided the opportunity to take the equivalent of one (1) day's rest in seven (7) during each calendar month.

California Labor Code sections 1174(d) requires an employer to keep, at a central location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units earned by and any applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or establishments. These records shall be kept with rules established for this purpose by the commission, but in any case shall be kept on file for not less than two years. During the relevant time period, Superior Protection Services failed to keep accurate and complete payroll records showing the actual hours worked daily and the wages earned by Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees, including earned and unpaid minimum, overtime, and premium wages as discussed above.

California Labor Code section 2810.5 requires an employer to provide written notice to an employee, at the time of hiring, containing the following information:

> The rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or otherwise, including any rates for overtime, as applicable. Allowances, if any, claimed

> as part of the minimum wage, including meal or lodging allowances. The regular payday designated by the employer in accordance with the requirements of this code. The name of the employer, including any "doing business as" names used by the employer. The physical address of the employer's main office or principal place of business, and a mailing address, if different. The telephone number of the employer. The name, address, and telephone number of the employer's workers' compensation insurance carrier. That an employee: may accrue and use sick leave; has a right to request and use accrued paid sick leave; may not be terminated or retaliated against for using or requesting the use of accrued paid sick leave; and has the right to file a complaint against an employer who retaliates. Any other information the Labor Commissioner deems material and necessary.

Superior Protection Services failed to accurately provide Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees with the requisite notice in violation of California Labor Code section 2810.5.

California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197, and 1197.1 provide the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lesser wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful. During the relevant time period, Superior Protection Services did not provide Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees with the minimum wages to which they were entitled for work performed "off-the-clock."

California Labor Code section 1198 provides that "The employment of any employee … under conditions of labor prohibited by the [Industrial Wage Orders] is unlawful." The applicable Industrial Wage Orders, including *inter alia*, Wage Order 4-2001, require that for each workday an employee is required to report for work and does report, but is not put to work or is furnished less than half said employee's usual or scheduled day's work, the employee shall be paid for half the usual or scheduled day's work, but in no event for less than two (2) hours nor more than four (4) hours, at the employee's regular rate of pay. Further, if an employee is required to report for work a second time in any one workday and is furnished less than two (2) hours of work on the second reporting, said employee shall be paid for two (2) hours at the employee's regular rate of pay. During the relevant time period, Superior Protection Services failed to pay Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees half the usual or scheduled day's work in an amount no less than two (2) hours nor more than four (4) hours at the employee's regular rate of pay for workdays in which Ms. Smith and the other aggrieved employees reported to work and were furnished less than half the usual or scheduled day's work. During the relevant time period, Superior Protection Services failed to pay Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees for two (2) hours at the employee's regular rate of pay on days in which Ms. Smith and the other aggrieved employees were required to report for work a second time in one workday and were furnished less than two (2) hours of work upon the second reporting.

California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 require an employer to reimburse its employee for all necessary expenditures incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her job duties or in direct consequence of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer. During the relevant time period, Ms. Smith and other aggrieved employees incurred necessary business-related expenses and costs that were not fully reimbursed by Superior Protection Services. These costs include, but are not limited to, the use of personal phones for business-related purposes, parking fees, the purchasing and maintenance of clothing in compliance with company policy, and the purchasing and maintenance of specialty footwear in compliance with company policy.

Therefore, on behalf of all aggrieved employees, Ms. Smith seeks all applicable penalties arising out of the above-referenced wage, hour, and payroll practices, or which could be assessed and collected by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, for violation of the California Labor Code pursuant to PAGA, including civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 558.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your attention to this matter and the noble cause you advance each and every day.

With kind regards,

Arman Marukyan, Esq.

Cc: (By U.S. Certified Mail / Return Receipt Requested)

Superior Protection Services CA, Inc.
c/o Dan Vincent
Agent for Service of Process
5800 S. Eastern Ave., #310
Commerce, CA 90040

Dan Vincent
5800 S. Eastern Ave., #310
Commerce, CA 90040

EXHIBIT 2

JOINT STIPULATION OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE

This Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement and Release ("Settlement," "Agreement" or "Settlement Agreement") is made and entered into by and between Plaintiff Tracie Smith ("Plaintiff"), individually, on behalf of all others similarly situated, and on behalf of the State of California with respect to PAGA Members pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act, and Defendant Superior Protection Services CA, Inc. ("Defendant") (together, Plaintiff and Defendant are referred to as the "Parties" and individually they are referred to as "Party").

This Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement and Release shall be binding on Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members (as defined herein), the State of California with respect to PAGA Members (as defined herein) and on Defendant, subject to the terms and conditions hereof and the approval of the Court.

RECITALS

1. On June 3, 2025, Plaintiff provided notice by electronic upload to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and written notice by certified mail to Defendant of her intent to pursue civil penalties under California Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.* ("PAGA") for Defendant's alleged violations of the California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, and Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders including *inter alia*, Wage Orders 4-2001 ("PAGA Notice"). A true and correct copy of the PAGA Notice is attached hereto as "**EXHIBIT B**."

2. On August 8, 2025, Plaintiff filed a Complaint for Enforcement Under the Private Attorneys General Act, California Labor Code § 2698, Et Seq., thereby commencing a putative PAGA representative action entitled *Tracie Smith v. Superior Protection Services Ca, Inc.* in the Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles, Case No. 25STCV23373 ("Action") against Defendant for alleged violations of the California Labor Code.

3. Plaintiff will file a First Amended Class Action Complaint for Damages & Enforcement Under the Private Attorneys General Act, California Labor Code § 2698, Et Seq. ("Operative Complaint"), thereby adding claims for: (1) failure to pay overtime wages under Labor Code Sec. 510, 558, 1194, 1197.1, 1198; (2) failure to provide meal periods and/or pay meal period premiums under Labor Code

Sec. 226.7, 512; (3) failure to provide rest periods and/or pay rest period premiums under Labor Code Sec. 226.7; (4) failure to pay minimum wages and/or for all hours worked under Labor Code Sec. 510, 558, 1174, 1194, 1198, and 1199; (5) failure to timely pay wages upon termination under Labor Code Sec. 201-203; (6) failure to timely pay wages during employment under Labor Code Sec. 204, 210; (7) failure to provide accurate, itemized wage statements under Labor Code Sec. 226; (8) failure to keep requisite payroll records under Labor Code Sec. 1174(d); (9) failure to reimburse business expenses under Labor Code Sec. 2800, and 2802; and (10) violation of California's unfair competition law under Business and Professions Code Sec. 17200.

4. Defendant denies all material allegations set forth in the Operative Complaint in the Action and has asserted numerous affirmative defenses in the case. Notwithstanding, in the interest of avoiding further litigation, Defendant desires to fully and finally settle the Action, the Released Class Claims, and the Released PAGA Claims.

5. Class Counsel diligently investigated the claims against Defendant, including any and all applicable defenses and the applicable law. The investigation included, *inter alia*, the exchange of information, data, and documents, and review of Defendant's employment and operations policies, practices, and procedures.

6. On April 30, 2026, the Parties participated in mediation with Doug Leach, Esq. (the "Mediator"), a respected mediator of complex wage and hour actions, and with the assistance of the Mediator's evaluations, the Parties reached the settlement that is memorialized herein. The settlement discussions were conducted at arm's-length, and the Settlement is the result of an informed and detailed analysis of Defendant's potential liability and exposure in relation to the costs and risks associated with continued litigation. Based on the documents produced, as well as Class Counsel's own independent investigation and evaluation, Class Counsel believe that the settlement with Defendant for the consideration and on the terms set forth in this Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interest of the Class Members, the State of California, and PAGA Members in light of all known facts and circumstances, including the risk of significant delay and uncertainty associated with litigation and various defenses asserted by Defendant.

7. The Parties expressly acknowledge that this Settlement Agreement is entered into solely

for the purpose of compromising significantly disputed claims and that nothing herein is an admission of liability or wrongdoing by Defendant. If for any reason the Settlement Agreement is not approved, it will be of no force or effect, and the Parties shall be returned to their original respective positions.

DEFINITIONS

8. The following definitions are applicable to this Settlement Agreement. Definitions contained elsewhere in this Settlement Agreement will also be effective:

a. "Attorneys' Fees and Costs" means attorneys' fees for Class Counsel's litigation and resolution of the Action and all actual costs incurred and to be incurred by Class Counsel in the Action, as set forth in Paragraph 13.

b. "Class Counsel" means Arby Aiwazian, Yasmin Hosseini, Ryan Slinger, and Alborz Javaheri of Lawyers *for* Justice, PC.

c. "Class List" means a complete list of all Class Members that Defendant will diligently and in good faith compile from their records and provide to the Settlement Administrator. The Class List will be formatted in a readable Microsoft Office Excel spreadsheet and will include each Class Member's last-known full name, mailing address, telephone number, Social Security Number, start and end dates employed as a non-exempt security guard for Defendant in California during the Class Period, and such other information as is necessary for the Settlement Administrator to calculate Workweeks and Pay Periods (as defined herein).

d. "Class Member(s)" or "Class" means all current and former non-exempt security guards working for Defendant in California employed during the Class Period. Defendant represents that the number of Class Members is approximately 2,410 individuals, as of May 1, 2026.

e. "Class Notice" means the Notice of Class Action Settlement, substantially in the form attached as "**Exhibit A**."

f. "Class Period" means the time period from June 13, 2020 through the earlier of (a) the date of Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, or, if applicable, (b) the Alternate End Date, pursuant to Paragraph 39.

g. "Class Representative" or "Plaintiff" means Tracie Smith.

h. "Class Settlement" means the settlement and resolution of all Released Class

Claims.

i. “Court” means the Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles.

j. “Defendant” means Superior Protection Services CA, Inc.

k. “Defendant’s Counsel” means Stephanie P. Alexander of S Alexander PC.

l. “Effective Date” means the later of (a) the last day on which any appeal might be filed with respect to the Final Approval Order and Judgment, assuming no appeal is filed, or (b) the date of successful resolution of any appeal(s) with respect to Final Approval Order and Judgment – including expiration of any time to seek reconsideration or further review.

m. “Employer Taxes” means the employers’ share of taxes and contributions in connection with the wages portion of Individual Settlement Shares.

n. “Enhancement Award” means the amount to be paid to Plaintiff in recognition of her efforts and work in prosecuting the Action, which is in addition to whatever payments she may otherwise be entitled to as a Settlement Class Member and PAGA Member.

o. “Final Approval” means the determination by the Court that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and entry of the Final Approval Order and Judgment based thereon.

p. “Final Approval Hearing” means the hearing at which the Court will consider and determine whether the Settlement should be granted Final Approval.

q. “Final Approval Order and Judgment” means the order and judgment to be entered by the Court upon granting Final Approval of the Settlement and this Agreement as binding upon the Parties and the Settlement Class Members (i.e., those Class Members who do not properly and timely submit a Request for Exclusion).

r. “Individual PAGA Payment(s)” means the *pro rata* share of the PAGA Member Amount that a PAGA Member may be eligible to receive for the PAGA Settlement, to be calculated in accordance with Paragraph 18.

s. “Individual Settlement Credit” means an amount not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00), towards Defendant’s satisfaction of the Total Settlement Amount, which represents the amount Defendant previously paid to Class Members who executed individual settlement agreements with Defendant prior to the date of mediation.

t. "Individual Settlement Payment(s)" means the net payment of each Settlement Class Member's Individual Settlement Share, after reduction for the employee's share of taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Share, as provided in Paragraph 17.

u. "Individual Settlement Share" means the *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Amount that a Class Member may be eligible to receive for the Class Settlement, to be calculated in accordance with Paragraph 17.

v. "LWDA Payment" means the amount of Seventy-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-One Dollars ($79,781.00), i.e., 65% of the PAGA Penalty Amount, that the Parties have agreed to pay to the LWDA for the PAGA Settlement, as set forth in Paragraph 16.

w. "Net Settlement Amount" means the Total Settlement Amount less the Court-approved Enhancement Award, Settlement Administration Costs, Individual Settlement Credit, PAGA Penalty Amount, and Attorneys' Fees and Costs.

x. "Objection" means a Class Member's written objection to the Class Settlement, which must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action; (b) contain the Class Member's full name, signature, address, telephone number, and last four (4) digits of Social Security Number; (c) contain a written statement of all grounds for the objection accompanied by any legal and factual support for such objection; (d) contain copies of any papers, briefs, or other documents upon which the objection is based; and (e) be submitted by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline.

y. "Operative Complaint" means the First Amended Class Action Complaint for Damages & Enforcement Under the Private Attorneys General Act, California Labor Code § 2698, Et Seq.

z. "PAGA Members" means all current and former non-exempt security guards working for Defendant in California employed during the PAGA Period.

aa. "PAGA Member Amount" means the amount of Forty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Nine Dollars ($42,959.00), i.e., 35% of the PAGA Penalty Amount, to be distributed to PAGA Members on a *pro rata* basis based on their Pay Periods during the PAGA Period.

bb. "PAGA Penalty Amount" means the allocation of One Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Dollars ($122,740.00) from the Total Settlement Amount as civil penalties pursuant to PAGA, for the settlement and resolution of the Released PAGA Claims. Sixty-five percent (65%) of the PAGA Penalty Amount, or $79,781.00, will be paid to the LWDA (i.e., the LWDA Payment) and the remaining thirty-five percent (35%), or $42,959.00, will be distributed to PAGA Members (i.e., the PAGA Member Amount).

cc. "PAGA Period" means the time period from November 1, 2024 through the earlier of (a) the date of Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, or, if applicable, (b) the Alternate End Date, pursuant to Paragraph 39.

dd. "PAGA Settlement" means the settlement and resolution of Released PAGA Claims.

ee. "Parties" means Plaintiff and Defendant, together, and "Party" means either the Plaintiff or Defendant.

ff. "Pay Periods" means the number of pay periods each PAGA Member was employed as a non-exempt security guard for Defendant in California during the PAGA Period, which will be calculated by the Settlement Administrator by dividing the number of calendar days each employee was employed during the PAGA Period, as recorded in Defendant's records, by seven (7).

gg. "Preliminary Approval" means entry of the Court order granting preliminary approval of the Settlement Agreement.

hh. "Released Class Claims" means all claims arising during the Class Period under state, federal, or local law, that were alleged or could have been alleged based on the factual allegations pleaded in the Operative Complaint, under the California Labor Code, Wage Orders, regulations, and/or other provisions of law, for: (1) failure to pay overtime wages under Labor Code Sec. 510, 558, 1194, 1197.1, 1198; (2) failure to provide meal periods and/or pay meal period premiums under Labor Code Sec. 226.7, 512; (3) failure to provide rest periods and/or pay rest period premiums under Labor Code Sec. 226.7; (4) failure to pay minimum wages and/or for all hours worked under Labor Code Sec. 510, 558, 1174, 1194, 1198, and 1199; (5) failure to timely pay wages upon termination under Labor Code Sec. 201-203; (6) failure to timely pay wages during employment under Labor Code Sec. 204, 210; (7)

failure to provide accurate, itemized wage statements under Labor Code Sec. 226; (8) failure to keep requisite payroll records under Labor Code Sec. 1174(d); (9) failure to reimburse business expenses under Labor Code Sec. 2800, and 2802; and (10) violation of California's unfair competition law under Business and Professions Code Sec. 17200.

ii. "Released PAGA Claims" means all claims arising during the PAGA Period for civil penalties under PAGA that were alleged or could have been alleged based on the factual allegations in the Operative Complaint and PAGA Notice.

jj. "Released Parties" means Defendant and any of its former and/or current parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and any other entities that could be considered to have jointly employed the Class Members or PAGA Members as well as each of their officers, directors, managers, owners, executives, partners, executive-level employees, shareholders, agents, attorneys, and any other predecessors, successors, assigns or legal representatives.

kk. "Request for Exclusion" means a Class Member's written letter indicating a request to be excluded from the Class Settlement, which must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action; (b) contain the Class Member's full name, signature, address, telephone number, and last four (4) digits of Social Security Number; (c) contain a clear written statement indicating that the Class Member seeks exclusion from the Class Settlement; and (d) be submitted by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline.

ll. "Response Deadline" means the deadline by which Class Members must submit a Request for Exclusion, Objection, and/or Workweeks Dispute, which shall be the date that is forty-five (45) calendar days from the initial mailing of the Class Notice by the Settlement Administrator, unless the 45th day falls on a Sunday or Federal holiday, in which case the Response Deadline will be extended to the next day on which the U.S. Postal Service is open; in the event that a Class Notice is re-mailed to a Class Member, the Response Deadline for that Class Member shall be extended by fifteen (15) calendar days from the initial Response Deadline.

mm. "Settlement Administrator" means Simpluris, Inc. or any other third-party class action settlement administrator agreed to by the Parties and approved by the Court for purposes of administering this Settlement. The Parties and their counsel each represent that they do not have any financial interest in the Settlement Administrator or otherwise have a relationship with the Settlement Administrator that could create a conflict of interest.

nn. “Settlement Administration Costs” means the costs payable from the Total Settlement Amount, subject to Court approval, to the Settlement Administrator for administering this Settlement, as set forth in Paragraph 15.

oo. “Settlement Class Members” means all Class Members who do not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion from the Class Settlement.

pp. “Total Settlement Amount” means the amount of Four Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Dollars ($445,000.00), to be paid by Defendant in full resolution of all Released Class Claims, Released PAGA Claims, and the claims in the Operative Complaint provided for under the Class Settlement and PAGA Settlement, which includes all Attorneys’ Fees and Costs to be paid to Class Counsel, Enhancement Award to be paid to Plaintiff, PAGA Penalty Amount to be paid to the LWDA and PAGA Members, Net Settlement Amount to be paid to the Settlement Class Members, and Settlement Administration Costs to be paid to the Settlement Administrator. The Total Settlement Amount may increase to the extent provided in Paragraph 39. The Total Settlement Amount does not include Employer Taxes; Employer Taxes will be paid by Defendant, separately and in addition to the Total Settlement Amount.

qq. “Workweeks” means the number of weeks each Class Member was employed as a non-exempt security guard for Defendant in California during the Class Period, which will be calculated by the Settlement Administrator by dividing the number of calendar days each employee was employed during the Class Period, as recorded in Defendant’s records, by seven (7).

rr. “Workweeks Dispute” means a Class Member’s and/or PAGA Member’s written letter disputing the pre-printed information on the Class Notice as to the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to them, which must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action; (b) contain the Class Member’s and/or PAGA Member’s full name, signature, address, telephone number, and last four (4) digits of Social Security Number; (c) clearly state that the Class Member and/or PAGA Member disputes of the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to him or her and what he or she contends is the correct number to be credited to him or her; (d) attach any documentation that he or she has to support the dispute; and (e) be submitted by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline.

CLASS CERTIFICATION

9. For the purposes of this settlement only, the Parties stipulate to the certification of the Class.

10. The Parties agree that certification for the purpose of settlement is not an admission that certification is proper under California Code of Civil Procedure section 382. Should, for whatever reason, the Court not grant Final Approval, the Parties' stipulation to class certification as part of the Settlement shall become null and void *ab initio* and shall have no bearing on, and shall not be admissible in connection with, the issue of whether or not certification would be appropriate as to any of the claims asserted by Plaintiff against Defendant in a non-settlement context.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, promises, and agreements set forth herein, the Parties agree, subject to the Court's approval, as follows:

11. Amendment of Complaint. To implement the terms of the Settlement, Parties have agreed that Plaintiff will file a First Amended Class Action Complaint for Damages & Enforcement Under the Private Attorneys General Act, California Labor Code § 2698, Et Seq. in the Action. Parties will enter into a separate stipulation seeking an order from the Court granting Plaintiff leave to file the contemplated amended complaint and/or Plaintiff will move the Court for leave to file the contemplate amended complaint (and Defendant will not oppose this request).

12. Funding and Disbursement of the Total Settlement Amount. Within fifteen (15) calendar days after Final Approval, the Settlement Administrator will provide the Parties with an accounting estimate of the amounts to be paid by Defendant pursuant to the terms of the Settlement and establish a qualified settlement account for administration of the Settlement. Within thirty (30) calendar days after Final Approval, Defendant shall fund fifty percent (50%) of the net of the Total Settlement Amount less the Individual Settlement Credit into the settlement account to be established by the Settlement Administrator ("First Installment"). Within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after Final Approval, Defendant shall fund the remaining fifty percent (50%) of the net of the Total Settlement Amount less the

Individual Settlement Credit into the settlement account to be established by the Settlement Administrator ("Second Installment"). Within seven (7) calendar days of the funding of the Total Settlement Amount, the Settlement Administrator will issue payments due under the Settlement and approved by the Court, as follows: (a) Individual Settlement Payments to Settlement Class Members; (b) Individual PAGA Payments to PAGA Members; (c) LWDA Payment to the LWDA; (d) Enhancement Award to Plaintiff; (e) Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Class Counsel; and (f) Settlement Administration Costs to itself (the Settlement Administrator). The Settlement Administrator will obtain funds from Defendant that are sufficient for the Employer Taxes that Defendant must fund separately and in addition to the Total Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administrator will also undertake filings and remittances in connection with the employee's share of taxes on the wages portion of Individual Settlement Shares and the Employer Taxes, that are necessary for administration of the Settlement.

13. Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Class Counsel will request and Defendant will not oppose attorneys' fees of up to thirty-five percent (35%) of the Total Settlement Amount (i.e., up to $155,750.00 if the Total Settlement Amount remains $445,000.00) and reimbursement of actual costs and expenses associated with Class Counsel's litigation and settlement of the Action, supported by declaration, in an amount not to exceed Twenty Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), both of which will be paid from the Total Settlement Amount subject to Court approval. These amounts will cover any and all work performed and any and all costs incurred by Class Counsel in connection with the litigation and settlement of the Action, including without limitation all work performed and costs incurred to date, and all work to be performed and all costs to be incurred in connection with obtaining the Court's approval of this Settlement, including any objections raised and any appeals necessitated by those objections. Class Counsel shall be solely and legally responsible for correctly characterizing this compensation for tax purposes and for paying any taxes on the amounts received. With respect to the Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Class Counsel, the Settlement Administrator may purchase an annuity to utilize United States Treasuries and bonds or utilize other attorney fee deferral vehicles for Class Counsel, and any additional expenses for doing so shall be paid separately by Class Counsel and shall not be included within the Settlement Administration Costs. Defendant and Defendant's Counsel shall not be liable for any expenses associated with the purchase or use of any attorney fee deferral vehicles

for Class Counsel by the Settlement Administrator. Any portion of the requested Attorneys' Fees and Costs not awarded to Class Counsel shall be a part of the Net Settlement Amount for the benefit of Settlement Class Members.

14. Enhancement Award. In recognition of her efforts and work in prosecuting the Action, Defendant agrees not to oppose or impede any application or motion for an Enhancement Award to Plaintiff in the amount of up to Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00). The Enhancement Award, which will be paid from the Total Settlement Amount subject to Court approval, will be in addition to any Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable) that she is eligible to receive pursuant to the Settlement. The Settlement Administrator will issue an IRS Form 1099 to Plaintiff for the Enhancement Award, and Plaintiff shall be solely and legally responsible for correctly characterizing this compensation for tax purposes and for paying any and all taxes on the amounts received. Should the Court not approve the Enhancement Award to Plaintiff, or approve it in an amount that is less than that set forth above, Plaintiff shall not have the right to revoke this Agreement, and it will remain binding, and the difference between the amount approved by the Court (if any) and the amount allocated toward the Enhancement Award will be part of the Net Settlement Amount for the benefit of Settlement Class Members.

15. Settlement Administration Costs. The Settlement Administrator will be paid for the reasonable costs of administration of the Settlement and distribution of payments under the Settlement, which is currently estimated not to exceed Twenty-One Thousand Dollars ($21,000.00). These costs, which will be paid from the Total Settlement Amount subject to Court approval, will include, *inter alia*, printing, distributing, and tracking Class Notices and other documents for the Settlement, calculating and distributing payments due under the Settlement, issuing of 1099 and W-2 IRS Forms and all required tax reporting, filings, withholdings, and remittances, providing necessary reports and declarations, and other duties and responsibilities set forth herein to process this Settlement, and as requested by the Parties. To the extent actual Settlement Administration Costs are greater than the estimated amount stated herein, such excess amount will be deducted from the Total Settlement Amount, subject to approval by the Court. Any portion of the estimated, designated, and/or awarded Settlement Administration Costs which are not in fact required to fulfill payment to the Settlement Administrator, to undertake the requirement

settlement administration duties, will be part of the Net Settlement Amount for the benefit of Settlement Class Members.

16. PAGA Penalty Amount. Subject to approval by the Court, the Parties agree that the amount of One Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Dollars ($122,740.00) from the Total Settlement Amount will be allocated toward civil penalties under PAGA (i.e., the PAGA Penalty Amount), of which sixty-five percent (65%), or $79,781.00, will be paid to the LWDA (i.e., the LWDA Payment) and thirty-five percent (35%) or, $42,959.00, will be distributed to PAGA Members (i.e., the PAGA Member Amount) on a *pro rata* basis, based on Pay Periods during the PAGA Period (i.e., the Individual PAGA Payment).

17. Individual Settlement Share Calculations. Individual Settlement Shares will be calculated and apportioned from the Net Settlement Amount based on the Class Members' number of Workweeks during the Class Period, as follows:

a. After Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will divide the estimated Net Settlement Amount by the Workweeks of all Class Members during the Class Period to yield the "Estimated Workweek Value," and multiply each Class Member's individual Workweeks during the Class Period by the Estimated Workweek Value to yield his or her estimated Individual Settlement Share.

b. After Final Approval of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will divide the final Net Settlement Amount by the Workweeks of all Settlement Class Members during the Class Period to yield the "Final Workweek Value," and multiply each Settlement Class Member's individual Workweeks during the Class Period by the Final Workweek Value to yield his or her Individual Settlement Share.

18. Individual PAGA Payment Calculations. Individual PAGA Payments will be calculated and apportioned from the PAGA Member Amount based on the PAGA Members' number of Pay Periods during the PAGA Period as follows: The Settlement Administrator will divide the PAGA Member Amount, i.e., 35% of the PAGA Penalty Amount, by the total number of Pay Periods of all PAGA Members during the PAGA Period to yield the "Pay Period Value," and multiply each PAGA Member's individual Pay Periods during the PAGA Period by the Pay Period Value to yield his or her

Individual PAGA Payment.

19. Settlement Awards Do Not Trigger Additional Benefits. All payments made under the Settlement shall be deemed to be paid to the payee solely in the year in which such payments actually are issued to the payee. It is expressly understood and agreed that payments made under this Settlement shall not in any way entitle Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, or PAGA Members to additional compensation or benefits under any new or additional compensation or benefits, or any bonus, contest or other compensation or benefit plan or agreement in place during the Class Period, nor will it entitle Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, or PAGA Members to any increased retirement, 401K benefits or matching benefits, or deferred compensation benefits. It is the intent of this Agreement that the Individual Settlement Payments and Individual PAGA Payments provided for in this Agreement are the sole payments to be made by Defendant to the Settlement Class Members and PAGA Members in connection with this Agreement (notwithstanding any contrary language or agreement in any benefit or compensation plan document that might have been in effect during the Class Period).

20. Notice of Proposed PAGA Settlement to LWDA. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699(l)(2), Class Counsel will submit a copy of this Settlement Agreement to the LWDA at the same time that it is submitted to the Court for preliminary approval.

21. Delivery of the Class List. Within twenty-one (21) calendar days of Preliminary Approval, Defendant will provide the Class List to the Settlement Administrator.

22. Notice by First-Class U.S. Mail.

a. Within fourteen (14) calendar days after receiving the Class List from Defendant, the Settlement Administrator will perform a search based on the United States Postal Service's National Change of Address Database or any other similar services available, such as provided by Experian, for information to update and correct for any known or identifiable address changes, and will mail a Class Notice in English (in the form attached as **Exhibit A** to this Settlement Agreement) to all Class Members via U.S. mail, using the most current, known mailing addresses identified by the Settlement Administrator.

b. With respect to Class Notices that are returned as undeliverable on or before the Response Deadline, the Settlement Administrator will search for an alternate address by way of skiptrace and re-mail the Class Notice within five (5) calendar days to an alternate address if one is located.

c. Dispute Regarding Workweeks and/or Pay Periods. The Class Notice will include the procedure by which a Class Member and/or PAGA Member may dispute the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods allocated to him or her by submitting a timely and valid Workweeks Dispute. The date of the postmark on the return mailing envelope will be the exclusive means to determine whether a dispute has been timely submitted. Absent evidence rebutting the accuracy of Defendant's records and data as they pertain to the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to be credited to a disputing Class Member and/or PAGA Member, Defendant's records will be presumed correct and determinative of the dispute. The Settlement Administrator will evaluate the information and/or documents submitted by the Class Member and/or PAGA Member and the Settlement Administrator will resolve and determine the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods that the disputing Class Member and/or PAGA Member should be credited with under the Settlement. The Settlement Administrator's decision on such disputes will be final and non-appealable.

23. Settlement Checks.

a. The Settlement Administrator will be responsible for undertaking appropriate deductions, required tax reporting, and issuing the Individual Settlement Payments by way of check to the Settlement Class Members and the Individual PAGA Payments by way of check to the PAGA Members in accordance with this Settlement Agreement. When issuing payments, the Settlement Administrator may combine the Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA Payment into one check if the intended recipient for both payments is one individual.

b. The Settlement Administrator shall remit and report the applicable portions of the payroll tax payment to the appropriate taxing authorities on a timely basis pursuant to its duties under this Agreement. Defendant agrees to reasonably cooperate with the Settlement Administrator to the extent necessary to determine the amount of the payroll tax payment required

c. Each Individual Settlement Payment check and Individual PAGA Payment check will be valid and negotiable for one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days from the date of original issuance, and thereafter, shall be canceled. All funds remaining in connection with, and after the cancelation of checks issued to Settlement Class Members and PAGA Members, shall be paid to the

California State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the each Class Member and/or PAGA Member thereby leaving no "unpaid residue" subject to the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure section 384, subd. (b).

d. The Settlement Administrator shall undertake amended and/or supplemental tax filings and reporting, required under applicable local, state, and federal tax laws, that are necessitated due to the cancelation of any Individual Settlement Payment or Individual PAGA Payment checks. Settlement Class Members whose Individual Settlement Payment checks are canceled shall, nevertheless, be bound by this Settlement Agreement and the Final Approval Order and Judgment will have claim preclusive impact with respect to them and all Settlement Class Members with respect to the Class Settlement. The Final Approval Order and Judgment will have claim preclusive impact on the PAGA Members with respect to the PAGA Settlement irrespective of whether their Individual PAGA Payment checks are canceled.

24. <u>Procedures for Requesting Exclusion from the Class Settlement</u>. Any Class Member wishing to be excluded from the Class Settlement must submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion to the Settlement Administrator, by mail, on or before the Response Deadline. The date of the postmark on the return mailing envelope will be the exclusive means to determine whether a Request for Exclusion has been timely submitted. The Settlement Administrator will certify jointly to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel, the number of timely and valid Requests for Exclusion that were submitted, and also identify the individuals who submitted them, in a declaration that is to be filed with the Court in advance of the Final Approval Hearing. Any Class Member who submits a timely and valid Request for Exclusion is prohibited from making any objection to the Class Settlement. Any Class Member who submits a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will not be bound by the Class Settlement and will not be issued an Individual Settlement Payment. All PAGA Members will be bound by the PAGA Settlement and will be issued an Individual PAGA Payment, irrespective of whether they submit a Request for Exclusion.

25. <u>Procedures for Objecting to the Class Settlement</u>. Class Members who have not opted out of the Class Settlement (i.e., Settlement Class Members) may object to the Class Settlement. To object to the Class Settlement, Settlement Class Members must submit a timely and complete Objection

to the Settlement Administrator, by mail, on or before the Response Deadline. The Objection must be signed by the Settlement Class Member and contain all information required by Section 8.x of this Settlement Agreement. The postmark date will be deemed the exclusive means for determining that the Objection is timely. At no time will any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class Members to object to the Settlement Agreement or appeal from the Final Approval Order and Judgment. Settlement Class Members may also present their objection orally at the Final Approval Hearing, irrespective of whether they submit a written Objection. The Settlement Administrator will certify jointly to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel the Objections that were timely submitted, and also attach them as exhibits to a declaration that is to be filed with the Court in advance of the Final Approval Hearing.

26. Reports by the Settlement Administrator Regarding Settlement Administration. The Settlement Administrator will provide Defendant's Counsel and Class Counsel a weekly report which certifies: (a) the number of Class Members and/or PAGA Members who have submitted Workweeks Disputes; (b) the number of Class Members who have submitted timely and valid Requests for Exclusion; (c) the number of Class Members who have submitted timely and complete Objections; (d) the number of undeliverable Class Notices; and (e) the number of re-mailed Class Notices. Additionally, the Settlement Administrator will provide to counsel for both Parties any updated reports regarding the administration of the Settlement Agreement as needed or requested, and immediately notify the Parties when it receives a request from an individual or any other entity regarding inclusion in the Class and/or Settlement.

27. Certification of Completion. Upon completion of administration of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will provide a written declaration under oath to certify such completion to the Court and counsel for all Parties.

28. Treatment of Individual Settlement Payments and Individual PAGA Payments. Each Individual Settlement Share will be allocated as follows: twenty percent (20%) wages and eighty percent (80%) interest, penalties, and non-wage damages. The portion allocated to wages will be reported on an IRS Form W-2 and the portions allocated to penalties, interest, and non-wage damages will be reported on an IRS Form-1099 by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will withhold the

employee's share of taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Shares, and issue checks to Settlement Class Members for their Individual Settlement Payments (i.e., payment of their Individual Settlement Share net of these taxes and withholdings). Each Individual PAGA Payment will be allocated as one hundred percent (100%) penalties and will be reported on an IRS Form-1099 (if applicable) by the Settlement Administrator.

29. Administration of Taxes by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will be responsible for issuing to Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, PAGA Members, and Class Counsel any W-2, 1099, or other tax forms as may be required by law for all amounts paid pursuant to this Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Administrator will also be responsible for forwarding all payroll taxes, contributions, and withholdings to the appropriate government authorities.

30. Tax Liability. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant, and Defendant's Counsel do not intend anything contained in this Settlement Agreement, the Class Notice, or any other communications to Class Members or PAGA Members regarding the Settlement to constitute advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement Agreement, the Class Notice, or any other communication regarding the Settlement be relied on as such. Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, and PAGA Members understand and agree that they will be solely responsible for correctly characterizing any compensation received by them under the Settlement on their personal income tax returns and paying any and all taxes due for any and all amounts paid to them under the Settlement.

31. Circular 230 Disclaimer. EACH PARTY TO THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE "ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY" AND EACH PARTY TO THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT OTHER THAN THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY, AN "OTHER PARTY") ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT (1) NO PROVISION OF THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, AND NO WRITTEN COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE BETWEEN OR AMONG THE PARTIES OR THEIR ATTORNEYS AND OTHER ADVISERS, IS OR WAS INTENDED TO BE, NOR WILL ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTE OR BE CONSTRUED OR BE RELIED UPON AS, TAX ADVICE WITHIN THE MEANING OF UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR 230 (31 CFR PART 10, AS AMENDED); (2) THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY (A) HAS RELIED EXCLUSIVELY UPON HIS,

HER OR ITS OWN, INDEPENDENT LEGAL AND TAX COUNSEL FOR ADVICE (INCLUDING TAX ADVICE) IN CONNECTION WITH THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, (B) HAS NOT ENTERED INTO THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF ANY OTHER PARTY OR ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO ANY OTHER PARTY, AND (C) IS NOT ENTITLED TO RELY UPON ANY COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE BY ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISER TO ANY OTHER PARTY TO AVOID ANY TAX PENALTY THAT MAY BE IMPOSED ON THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY; AND (3) NO ATTORNEY OR ADVISER TO ANY OTHER PARTY HAS IMPOSED ANY LIMITATION THAT PROTECTS THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY SUCH ATTORNEY'S OR ADVISER'S TAX STRATEGIES (REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH LIMITATION IS LEGALLY BINDING) UPON DISCLOSURE BY THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY OF THE TAX TREATMENT OR TAX STRUCTURE OF ANY TRANSACTION, INCLUDING ANY TRANSACTION CONTEMPLATED BY THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.

32. No Prior Assignments. The Parties and their counsel represent, covenant, and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action or right herein released and discharged.

33. Releases of Claims.

a. Release of Released Class Claims. Upon the Effective Date and full funding of the Total Settlement Amount, Plaintiff and all Class Members who do not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion (i.e., Settlement Class Members) will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties of and from all Released Class Claims.

34. Release of Released PAGA Claims. Upon the Effective Date and full funding of the Total Settlement Amount, Plaintiff, the State of California with respect to PAGA Members, and PAGA Members will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties of and from all Released PAGA Claims pertaining to Plaintiff and the PAGA Members.

35. General Release of Claims by Plaintiff. In addition to the above releases of claims, upon the Effective Date and full funding of the Total Settlement Amount, Plaintiff will be deemed to have fully released and discharged the Released Parties of and from all claims arising from their employment with Defendant, separation of employment from Defendant, and any acts that have or could have been asserted in any legal action or proceeding against Defendant, whether known or unknown, arising under any federal, state, or local law, or statute, including, *inter alia*, those arising under the California Labor Code, Fair Labor Standards Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Employee Retirement Income Security Act, National Labor Relations Act, California Corporations Code, California Business and Professions Code, California Fair Employment and Housing Act, California Constitution (all as amended), and law of contract and tort, as well as for discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, lost wages, benefits, other employment compensation, emotional distress, medical expenses, other economic and non-economic damages, attorney fees, and costs, arising on or before the date of execution of the Settlement Agreement. With respect to those claims released by Plaintiff in an individual capacity, Plaintiff acknowledges and waives any and all rights and benefits available under California Civil Code section 1542, which provides:

> A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.

Plaintiff understands and agrees that claims or facts in addition to or different from those which are now known or believed by Plaintiff to exist may hereafter be discovered. It is Plaintiff's intention to settle fully and release all claims Plaintiff now has against the Released Parties, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, upon the Effective Date and full funding of the Total Settlement Amount. Notwithstanding the above, this general release by Plaintiff shall not extend to claims for workers' compensation benefits, claims for unemployment benefits, or other claims that may not be released by law.

36. Duties of the Parties with Respect to Obtaining Preliminary Approval of the Settlement. Upon execution of this Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff shall promptly obtain a hearing date for Plaintiff's motion for preliminary approval of the Settlement, and submit this Settlement Agreement to

the Court in support of said motion. Defendant agrees not to oppose the motion for preliminary approval of the Settlement consistent with this Settlement Agreement. Said motion shall apply to the Court for the entry of an order ("Preliminary Approval Order"), which shall be mutually agreed upon by the Parties, seeking the following:

a. Conditionally certifying the Class for settlement purposes only;

b. Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement;

c. Preliminarily appointing Plaintiff as representative of the Class;

d. Preliminarily appointing Class Counsel as counsel for the Class;

e. Approving, as to form and content, the mutually-agreed upon and proposed Class Notice and directing its mailing to the Class by U.S. Mail;

f. Approving the manner and method for Class Members to request exclusion from or object to the Class Settlement as contained herein and within the Class Notice; and

g. Scheduling a Final Approval Hearing at which the Court will determine whether the Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate.

37. Defendant's Right to Withdraw. If the number of valid Requests for Exclusion exceeds 10% of the total of all Class Members, Defendant may, but are not obligated to, elect to withdraw from the Settlement. The Parties agree that, if Defendant withdraws, the Settlement shall be void *ab initio*, have no force or effect whatsoever, and that neither Party will have any further obligation to perform under this Agreement; provided, however, Defendant will remain responsible for paying all Settlement Administration expenses incurred as of the date Defendant made this election to withdraw. Defendant must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its election to withdraw not later than seven (7) days after the Settlement Administrator sends the final Exclusion List to Defense Counsel. Invalid Requests for Exclusion will have no effect on this threshold for an election.

38. Duties of the Parties with Respect to Obtaining Final Approval of the Settlement. After the Response Deadline, and with the Court's permission, a hearing will be conducted on Plaintiff's motion for final approval of the Settlement (i.e., the Final Approval Hearing), to determine whether Final Approval of the Settlement should be granted, along with the amounts properly payable for Individual Settlement Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, LWDA Payment, Attorneys' Fees and

Costs, Enhancement Award, and Settlement Administration Costs. By way of said motion, Plaintiff will apply for the entry of the mutually-agreed-upon proposed order and judgment ("Final Approval Order and Judgment"), which will provide for, in substantial part, the following:

a. Approval of the Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate, and directing consummation of its terms and provisions;

b. Certification of the Settlement Class;

c. Appointment of Plaintiff as representative of the Settlement Class;

d. Appointment of Class Counsel as counsel for the Settlement Class;

e. Approval of the application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Class Counsel;

f. Approval of the application for Enhancement Award to Plaintiff;

g. Directing Defendant to fund all amounts due under the Settlement Agreement and ordered by the Court; and

h. Entering judgment in this Action, while maintaining continuing jurisdiction to implement the Settlement, in conformity with California Rules of Court 3.769 and the Settlement Agreement.

39. Effects of Termination of the Settlement. In the event that the Settlement Agreement is not approved by the Court, such a development shall have the following effects:

a. The Settlement Agreement and all negotiations, statements, and proceedings relating thereto shall be without prejudice to the rights of any of the Parties, all of whom shall be restored to their respective positions in the Action prior to the execution of the Settlement Agreement;

b. Neither this Settlement Agreement, nor any ancillary documents, actions, statements, or filings in furtherance of the Settlement (including all matters associated with the mediation) shall be offered into evidence in the Action or any other action for any purpose whatsoever; and

c. Any documents generated to bring the Settlement into effect, will be null and void, and any order entered by the Court in furtherance of this Settlement Agreement will likewise be treated as void from the beginning.

40. Escalator Clause. Defendant represents that there are 125,000 Workweeks during the period from June 13, 2020 to April 30, 2026. Should the Workweeks during the Class Period increase

beyond 10%, then either (a) Defendant shall increase the Total Settlement Amount on a *pro-rata* basis equal to the percentage increase in the number of Workweeks above 10% (e.g., if the number of Workweeks increases by 11%, then the Total Settlement Amount will increase by 1%), or (b) the Class Period and PAGA Period shall end on the last day on which the Workweeks do not exceed 137,500 ("Alternate End Date").

41. Continuing Jurisdiction. After entry of judgment pursuant to the Settlement, the Court will have continuing jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 3.769 of the California Rules of Court and Section 664.6 of the California Code of Civil Procedure, for purposes of addressing: (a) the interpretation and enforcement of the terms of the Settlement, (b) settlement administration matters, and (c) such post-judgment matters as may be appropriate under court rules or as set forth in this Settlement Agreement.

42. Exhibits Incorporated by Reference. The terms of this Settlement Agreement include the terms set forth in any attached exhibits, which are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein. Any exhibits to this Settlement Agreement are an integral part of the Settlement.

43. Limitation on Publicity. Plaintiff and Class Counsel agree not to issue press releases and engage in any publicity regarding the Settlement, except as shall be contractually required to effectuate the terms of the Settlement and respond to inquiries received from Class Members and PAGA Members. However, for the limited purpose of allowing Class Counsel to prove their experience and adequacy as class counsel in other actions, Class Counsel may reference the Settlement in the Action for such purposes. Furthermore, Plaintiff and Class Counsel will undertake any and all disclosures and submissions required to be made to the LWDA in conformity with PAGA.

44. Entire Agreement. This Settlement Agreement and any attached exhibits constitute the entirety of the Parties' settlement terms. No other prior or contemporaneous written or oral agreements may be deemed binding on the Parties. The Parties expressly recognize California Civil Code section 1625 and California Code of Civil Procedure section 1856(a), and any other provisions of state or federal law, which provide that a written agreement is to be construed according to its terms and may not be varied or contradicted by extrinsic evidence, and the Parties agree that no such extrinsic oral or written representations or terms will modify, vary, or contradict the terms of this Settlement Agreement. This Settlement Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the settlement and

transaction contemplated hereby, and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, representations, and statements, whether oral or written and whether by a Party or such Party's legal counsel, are merged herein.

45. Interim Stay of Proceedings. The Parties agree to hold in abeyance all proceedings in the Action (including, and not limited to, the deadline to bring the Action to trial under California Code of Civil Procedure section 583.310), except such proceedings necessary to implement and complete the Settlement Agreement, pending the Final Approval Hearing to be conducted by the Court.

46. Amendment and Waiver. The Parties may not waive, amend, or modify any provision of this Settlement Agreement except by written agreement signed by counsel for the Parties, and subject to any necessary Court approval. A waiver or amendment of any provision of this Settlement Agreement will not constitute a waiver of any other provision.

47. Authorization to Enter into Settlement Agreement. Counsel for all Parties warrant and represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Settlement Agreement and to take all appropriate actions required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Settlement Agreement to effectuate its terms and to execute any other documents required to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement. The Parties warrant that they understand and have full authority to enter into this Settlement Agreement, and further intend that this Settlement Agreement will be fully enforceable and binding on all Parties, and agree that it will be admissible and subject to disclosure in any proceeding to enforce its terms, notwithstanding any mediation confidentiality provisions that otherwise might apply under state or federal law.

48. Signatories. It is agreed that because the members of the Class are so numerous, it is impossible or impractical to have each Class Member execute this Settlement Agreement. The Class Notice will advise all Class Members of the binding nature of the Class Settlement as to the Settlement Class Members, and the release shall have the same force and effect as if this Settlement Agreement were executed by each Settlement Class Member.

49. Binding on Successors and Assigns. This Settlement Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors or assigns of the Parties hereto, as previously defined.

50. California Law Governs. All terms of this Settlement Agreement and attached exhibits

hereto will be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of California.

51. Execution and Counterparts. This Settlement Agreement is subject only to the execution of all Parties. However, the Settlement Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts. All executed counterparts and each of them, including facsimile, electronic, and scanned copies of the signature page, will be deemed to be one and the same instrument.

52. Acknowledgment that the Settlement is Fair and Reasonable. The Parties believe this Settlement Agreement is a fair, adequate, and reasonable settlement of the Action, Released Class Claims, and Released PAGA Claims, and have arrived at this Settlement after arm's-length negotiations and in the context of adversarial litigation, taking into account all relevant factors, present and potential. The Parties further acknowledge that they are each represented by competent counsel and that they have had an opportunity to consult with their counsel regarding the fairness and reasonableness of this Settlement Agreement. In addition, if necessary to obtain Court approval of the Settlement, the Mediator may execute a declaration supporting the Settlement and the reasonableness of the Settlement and the Court may, in its discretion, contact the Mediator to discuss the Settlement and whether or not the Settlement is objectively fair and reasonable.

53. Invalidity of Any Provision. Before declaring any provision of this Settlement Agreement invalid, the Court will first attempt to construe the provision as valid to the fullest extent possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to find all provisions of this Settlement Agreement valid and enforceable.

54. Cooperation. By signing this Settlement Agreement, the Parties are hereby bound by the terms herein and agree to fully cooperate to implement the Settlement.

55. Non-Admission of Liability. The Parties enter into this Settlement Agreement to resolve the dispute that has arisen between them and to avoid the burden, expense, and risk of continued litigation. In entering into this Settlement Agreement, Defendant does not admit, and specifically denies, that it has violated any state, federal, or local law; violated any regulations or guidelines promulgated pursuant to any statute or any other applicable laws, regulations, or legal requirements; breached any contract; violated or breached any duty; engaged in any misrepresentation or deception; or engaged in any other unlawful conduct with respect to its employees. Neither this Settlement Agreement, nor any

of its terms or provisions, nor any of the negotiations connected with it, shall be construed as an admission or concession by Defendant of any such violations or failures to comply with any applicable law. Except as necessary in a proceeding to enforce the terms of this Settlement Agreement, this Settlement Agreement and its terms and provisions shall not be offered as evidence in any action or proceeding to establish any liability or admission on the part of Defendant or to establish the existence of any condition constituting a violation of, or a non-compliance with state, federal, local, or other applicable law.

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

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

58. Representation by Counsel. The Parties acknowledge that they have been represented by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Settlement Agreement, and that this Settlement Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel, and reviewed in full by the Parties with the assistance of their respective counsel.

59. All Terms Subject to Final Court Approval. All amounts and procedures described in this Settlement Agreement herein will be subject to final Court approval.

60. Notices. All notices, demands, and other communications to be provided concerning this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and delivered by overnight mail at the addresses set for below, or such other addresses as either Party may designate in writing from time to time:

To Plaintiff and Class Counsel:

Arby Aiwazian, Esq.
Yasmin Hosseini, Esq.
Ryan Slinger, Esq.
Alborz Javaheri, Esq.
LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC
450 North Brand Boulevard, Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203

To Defendant:

Stephanie P. Alexander, Esq.
S ALEXANDER PC
3090 Bristol Street, Suite 400
Costa Mesa, California 92626

61. Final Approval Order and Judgment. The Parties shall provide the Settlement Administrator with a copy of the Final Approval Order and Judgment once it is entered by the Court, and the Settlement Administrator shall post the Final Approval Order and Judgment on its website for sixty (60) calendar days, and this shall satisfy California Rules of Court 3.771(b). No individualized notice of the Final Approval Order and Judgment to the Class will be required.

62. Cooperation and Execution of Necessary Documents. All Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other in good faith and use their best efforts to implement the Settlement, including and not limited to, executing all documents to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement Agreement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement, the Parties may seek the assistance of the Mediator and then the Court to resolve such disagreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto knowingly and voluntarily executed this Joint Stipulation of Class and PAGA Settlement and Release between Plaintiff and Defendant:

IT IS SO AGREED.

PLAINTIFF TRACIE SMITH

Electronically Signed 2026-06-19 21:44:27 UTC - 76.32.171.34
Nintex AssureSign® 9a37058c-393e-4aa4-bc96-b46e0165d25a

Dated: 06/19/2026, 2026

Tracie Smith, Plaintiff

DEFENDANT SUPERIOR PROTECTION

SERVICES CA, INC.

Dated: ____________________, 2026

____

Full Name:
Title:
On behalf of Superior Protection Services CA, Inc.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC

Dated: June 19, 2026

____

Ryan Slinger
Alborz Javaheri
Attorneys for Plaintiff and Proposed Class Counsel

S ALEXANDER PC

Dated: ____________________, 2026

____

Stephanie P. Alexander
Attorneys for Defendant

SERVICES CA, INC.

Dated: June 24th, 2026

____

Full Name: **Dan Vincent**
Title: **President & CEO**
On behalf of Superior Protection Services CA, Inc.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

LAWYERS *for* JUSTICE, PC

Dated: ____________________, 2026

____

Ryan Slinger
Alborz Javaheri
Attorneys for Plaintiff and Proposed Class Counsel

S ALEXANDER PC

Dated: June 24, 2026

Stephanie Alexander
____

Stephanie P. Alexander
Attorneys for Defendant

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Tracie Smith v. Superior Protection Services CA, Inc.
Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles, Case No. 25STCV23373

PLEASE READ THIS CLASS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

You have received this Class Notice because Defendant's records indicate that you may be eligible to take part in the class action settlement reached in the above-referenced case.

You do not need to take any action to receive a settlement payment.

This Class Notice is designed to advise you of your rights and options, and how you can request to be excluded from the class action settlement, object to the class action settlement, and/or dispute the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods that you are credited with, if you so choose.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT: A class action settlement has been reached between Plaintiff Tracie Smith ("Plaintiff") and Defendant Superior Protection Services CA, Inc. ("Defendant") (Plaintiff and Defendant are together referred to as the "Parties") in the case entitled *Tracie Smith v. Superior Protection Services CA, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 25STCV23373 ("Action"), which may affect your legal rights. On [date of Preliminary Approval], the Court granted preliminary approval of the settlement and scheduled a hearing on [hearing date] at [hearing time] ("Final Approval Hearing") to determine whether or not the Court should grant final approval of the settlement.

I. IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

"**Class**" or "**Class Member**" means all current and former non-exempt security guards working for Defendant in California employed during the Class Period.

"**Class Period**" means the period from June 13, 2020 through [the earlier of (a) the date of Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, or, if applicable, (b) the Alternate End Date].

"**Class Settlement**" means the settlement and resolution of all Released Class Claims (described in Section III.D below).

"**PAGA Members**" means all current and former non-exempt security guards working for Defendant in California employed during the PAGA Period.

"**PAGA Settlement**" means the settlement and resolution of Released PAGA Claims (described in Section III.D below).

"**PAGA Period**" means the time period from November 1, 2024 through [the earlier of (a) the date of Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, or, if applicable, (b) the Alternate End Date].

II. BACKGROUND OF THE ACTION

On June 3, 2025, Plaintiff provided notice by electronic upload to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and written notice by certified mail to Defendant of her intent to pursue civil penalties for alleged violations of the California Labor Code ("PAGA Notice"). On August 8, 2025, Plaintiff filed a Complaint for Enforcement Under the Private Attorneys General Act, California Labor Code § 2698, *Et Seq.* in the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 25STCV23373 ("Action"). On June 18, 2026, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Class Action Complaint for Damages & Enforcement Under the Private Attorneys General Act, California Labor Code § 2698, *Et Seq.* ("First Amended Complaint"), thereby adding class action claims for: (1) failure to pay overtime wages under Labor Code Sec. 510, 558, 1194, 1197.1, 1198; (2) failure to provide meal periods and/or pay meal period premiums under Labor Code Sec. 226.7, 512; (3) failure to provide rest periods and/or pay rest period premiums under Labor Code Sec. 226.7; (4) failure to pay minimum wages and/or for all hours worked under Labor Code Sec. 510, 558, 1174, 1194, 1198, and 1199; (5) failure to timely pay wages upon termination under Labor Code Sec. 201-203; (6) failure to timely pay wages during employment under Labor Code Sec. 204, 210; (7) failure to provide accurate, itemized wage statements under Labor Code Sec. 226; (8) failure to keep requisite payroll records under Labor Code Sec. 1174(d); (9) failure to reimburse business expenses under Labor Code Sec. 2800, and 2802; and (10) violation of California's unfair competition law under Business and Professions Code Sec. 17200.

Plaintiff alleges that Defendant failed to properly pay minimum and overtime wages, provide compliant meal and rest breaks and/or pay associated premiums, timely pay wages during employment and upon termination of employment and associated waiting-time penalties, provide compliant wage statements, keep requisite payroll records, reimburse business expenses, and thereby engaged in unfair business practices in violation of California Business & Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*, and conduct that gives rise to penalties under California Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.* ("PAGA"). Plaintiff seeks, among other things, recovery of unpaid wages and meal and rest period premiums, unreimbursed business expenses, restitution, penalties, interest, and attorneys' fees and costs.

Defendant denies all of the allegations in the Action or that it violated any law.

After investigation and analysis of the claims, the Parties engaged in good faith, arms-length negotiations, and as a result, the Parties reached a settlement. The Parties have since entered into the Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement and Release ("Agreement," "Settlement," or "Settlement Agreement").

On [date of Preliminary Approval], the Court entered an order preliminarily approving the Settlement. The Court has appointed Simpluris, Inc. as the administrator of the Settlement ("Settlement Administrator"), Plaintiff Tracie Smith as representative of the Class ("Class Representative"), and the following counsel as counsel for the Class ("Class Counsel"):

Arby Aiwazian, Esq.
Yasmin Hosseini, Esq.
Ryan Slinger, Esq.
Alborz Javaheri, Esq.
Lawyers *for* Justice, PC
450 North Brand Boulevard, Suite 900
Glendale, California 91203
Telephone: (818) 265-1020 / Fax: (818) 265-1021

If you are a Class Member, you do not need to take any action to receive an Individual Settlement Payment, but you have the opportunity to request exclusion from the Class Settlement (in which case you will not receive an Individual Settlement Payment), object to the Class Settlement, and/or dispute the Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you, if you so choose, as explained more fully in Sections III.B and V below. If you are a PAGA Member, you do not need to take any action to receive an Individual PAGA Payment.

The Settlement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in the Settlement is intended or will be construed as an admission by Defendant that the claims in the Action have merit or that Defendant has any liability to Plaintiff, Class Members, or PAGA Members. The Court has made no ruling on the merits of the claims asserted in the Action and has determined only that certification of the Class for settlement purposes is appropriate under California law.

III. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

A. Settlement Formula

The total gross settlement amount to be paid by Defendant is $445,000.00 (the "Total Settlement Amount"). The portion of the Total Settlement Amount that is available for payment to Class Members is referred to as the "Net Settlement Amount." The Net Settlement Amount will be the Total Settlement Amount, less the following payments which are subject to approval by the Court: (1) attorneys' fees in an amount up to thirty-five percent (35%) of the Total Settlement Amount (i.e., $155,750.00 if the Total Settlement Amount remains $445,000.00) and reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses in an amount up to $25,000.00 (together, "Attorneys' Fees and Costs") to Class Counsel; (2) Enhancement Award in an amount up to $10,000.00 to Plaintiff; (3) Settlement Administration Costs in an amount up to $21,000.00 to the Settlement Administrator; and (4) the amount of $122,740.00 allocated toward civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act, California Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.* ("PAGA Penalty Amount"). The PAGA Penalty Amount will be distributed 65% ($79,781.00) to the LWDA ("LWDA Payment") and the remaining 35% (i.e., $42,959.00) will be distributed to PAGA Members ("PAGA Member Amount").

Class Members are eligible to receive payment under the Class Settlement of their *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Amount ("Individual Settlement Share") based on the number of weeks each Class Member was employed as a non-exempt security guard for Defendant in California during the Class Period ("Workweeks"). The Settlement Administrator has divided the estimated Net Settlement Amount by the Workweeks of all Class Members during the Class Period to yield the "Estimated Workweek Value," and multiplied each Class Member's individual Workweeks during the Class Period by the Estimated Workweek Value to arrive at each Class Members' Individual Settlement Share that he or she may be eligible to receive under the Class Settlement (which is listed in Section III.C below). Class Members who do not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion ("Settlement Class Members") will be issued payment of their final Individual Settlement Share, net of applicable taxes.

Each Individual Settlement Share will be allocated as 20% wages, which will be reported on an IRS Form W-2, and 80% interest, penalties, and non-wage damages, which will be reported on an IRS Form 1099. Each Individual Settlement Share shall be subject to reduction for the employee's share of payroll taxes due on the wages portion of Individual Settlement Share. The employer's share of payroll taxes and contributions in connection with the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Shares ("Employer Taxes") will be paid by Defendant separately and in addition to the Total Settlement Amount.

PAGA Members are eligible to receive payment under the PAGA Settlement of their *pro rata* share of the PAGA Member Amount ("Individual PAGA Payment"), based on the number of pay periods each PAGA Member was employed as a non-exempt security guard for Defendant in California during the PAGA Period ("Pay Periods"). The Settlement Administrator has divided the PAGA Member Amount, i.e., 35% of the PAGA Penalty Amount, by the total number of Pay Periods of all PAGA Members during the PAGA Period to yield the "Pay Period Value," and multiplied each PAGA Member's individual Pay Periods during the PAGA Period by the Pay Period Value to arrive at each PAGA Member's Individual PAGA Payment that he or she may be eligible to receive under the PAGA Settlement (which is listed in Section III.C below).

Each Individual PAGA Payment will be allocated as 100% penalties, which will be reported on an IRS Form 1099 (if applicable).

If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, Individual Settlement Payments will be mailed to Settlement Class Members and Individual PAGA Payments will be mailed to PAGA Members at the address that is on file with the Settlement Administrator. **If the address to which this Class Notice was mailed is not correct, or if you move after you receive this Class Notice, you must contact the Settlement Administrator as soon as possible and provide your corrected and/or updated mailing address to the Settlement Administrator; this will make it more likely that you will receive any payments or other notices that may be issued to you.**

B. <u>Your Workweeks and/or Pay Periods Based on Defendant's Records</u>

According to Defendant's records:

From June 13, 2020 through [the earlier of (a) the date of Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, or, if applicable, (b) the Alternate End Date] (i.e., Class Period), you are credited with <<_____>> Workweeks.

From November 1, 2024 through [the earlier of (a) the date of Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, or, if applicable, (b) the Alternate End Date] (i.e., PAGA Period), you are credited with <<_____>> Pay Periods.

If you wish to dispute the Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you, you must submit a written dispute ("Workweeks Dispute") that: (a) contains the case name and number of the Action (*Tracie Smith v. Superior Protection Services CA, Inc.,* Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 25STCV23373); (b) contains your full name, signature, address, telephone number, and last four (4) digits of your Social Security number; (c) contain a clear statement that you dispute the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you; (d) attach any relevant documentation in support thereof; and (e) is submitted to the Settlement Administrator by mail at the specified address listed in Section V.B below, postmarked **no later than [Response Deadline]**.

C. <u>Your Estimated Individual Settlement Share and Individual PAGA Payment</u>

As explained above, your estimated Individual Settlement Share and/or Individual PAGA Payment is based on the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you. Under the terms of the Settlement:

Your Individual Settlement Share is estimated to be $<<___________>>. The Individual Settlement Share is subject to reduction for the employee's share of taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Share.

Your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be $<<___________>>.

Payments under the Settlement will only be distributed if the Court approves the Settlement and after the Settlement goes into effect. The settlement approval process may take multiple months. Your Individual Settlement Share and/or Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable) reflected in this Class Notice is only an estimate. Your actual Individual Settlement Share and/or Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable) may be higher or lower.

D. <u>Release of Claims</u>

Upon the Effective Date and full funding of the Total Settlement Amount, Plaintiff and all Settlement Class Members will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties of and from all Released Class Claims.

Upon the Effective Date and full funding of the Total Settlement Amount, Plaintiff, the State of California with respect to PAGA Members, and PAGA Members will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties of and from all Released PAGA Claims pertaining to Plaintiff and the PAGA Members.

"Released Class Claims" means all claims arising during the Class Period under state, federal, or local law, that were alleged or could have been alleged based on the factual allegations pleaded in the Operative Complaint, under the California Labor Code, Wage Orders, regulations, and/or other provisions of law, for: (1) failure to pay overtime wages under Labor Code

Sec. 510, 558, 1194, 1197.1, 1198; (2) failure to provide compliant meal periods and/or pay meal period premiums under Labor Code Sec. 226.7, 512; (3) failure to provide rest periods and/or pay rest period premiums under Labor Code Sec. 226.7; (4) failure to pay minimum wages and/or for all hours worked under Labor Code Sec. 510, 558, 1174, 1194, 1198, and 1199; (5) failure to timely pay wages upon termination under Labor Code Sec. 201-203; (6) failure to timely pay wages during employment under Labor Code Sec. 204, 210; (7) failure to provide accurate, itemized wage statements under Labor Code Sec. 226; (8) failure to keep requisite payroll records under Labor Code Sec. 1174(d); (9) failure to reimburse business expenses under Labor Code Sec. 2800, and 2802; and (10) violation of California's unfair competition law under Business and Professions Code Sec. 17200.

"Released PAGA Claims" means all claims arising during the PAGA Period for civil penalties under PAGA that were alleged or could have been alleged based on the factual allegations in the Operative Complaint and PAGA Notice.

"Released Parties" means Defendant and any of its former and/or current parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and any other entities that could be considered to have jointly employed the Class Members or PAGA Members as well as each of their officers, directors, managers, owners, executives, partners, executive-level employees, shareholders, agents, attorneys, and any other predecessors, successors, assigns or legal representatives.

E. Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs to Class Counsel

Class Counsel will seek attorneys' fees in an amount of up to thirty five percent (35%) of the Total Settlement Amount (i.e., an amount of up to $155,750.00 if the Total Settlement Amount is $445,000.00) and reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses in an amount of up to Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) (together, "Attorneys' Fees and Costs"), subject to approval by the Court. The Attorneys' Fees and Costs granted by the Court will be paid from the Total Settlement Amount. Class Counsel has been prosecuting the Action on behalf of Plaintiff and Class Members on a contingency fee basis (that is, without being paid any money to date) and has been paying all litigation costs and expenses.

F. Enhancement Award to Plaintiff

Plaintiff will seek the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00) ("Enhancement Award"), in recognition of her services in connection with the Action and her broader individual release and waiver of claims. The Enhancement Award will be paid from the Total Settlement Amount, subject to approval by the Court, and if awarded, will be paid to Plaintiff in addition to any Individual Settlement Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment that Plaintiff may be entitled to under the Settlement.

G. Settlement Administration Costs to Settlement Administrator

Payment to the Settlement Administrator is estimated not to exceed Twenty-One Thousand Dollars ($21,000.00) ("Settlement Administration Costs") for the costs of the notice and settlement administration process, including and not limited to, the expense of notifying the Class Members of the Settlement, processing Requests for Exclusion, written objections to the Class Settlement, and Workweeks Disputes, calculating and distributing payments, and preparing and issuing tax forms, and shall be paid from the Total Settlement Amount, subject to approval by the Court.

IV. WHEN WILL SETTLEMENT PAYMENT BE DISTRIBUTED?

Barring unforeseen circumstances, if the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, Defendant is expected to fund the Total Settlement Amount and fund the amounts necessary to fully pay their Employer Taxes within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after Final Approval, and distributions of Individual Settlement Payments to Settlement Class Members and Individual PAGA Payments to PAGA Members are expected to occur within seven (7) calendar days after the funding of the Total Settlement Amount.

Defendant will fund the Total Settlement Amount by way of two (2) installment payments. Within thirty (30) calendar days after Final Approval, Defendant shall fund fifty percent (50%) of the net of the Total Settlement Amount less the individual settlement credit into the settlement account to be established by the Settlement Administrator ("First Installment"). Within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after Final Approval, Defendant shall fund the remaining fifty percent (50%) of the net of the Total Settlement Amount less the individual settlement credit into the settlement account to be established by the Settlement Administrator ("Second Installment").

V. WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS AS A CLASS MEMBER?

A. Participate in the Settlement

If you want to participate in the Settlement and receive money from the Settlement, you do not have to do anything. You will automatically be included in the Class Settlement and issued your Individual Settlement Payment unless you decide to exclude yourself from the Class Settlement.

Unless you elect to exclude yourself from the Class Settlement, you will be bound by the terms of the Class Settlement and any judgment that may be entered by the Court based thereon, and you will release the Released Class Claims described in Section III.D above.

If you are a PAGA Member, you will automatically be included in the PAGA Settlement and issued your Individual PAGA Payment. This means you will be bound by the terms of the PAGA Settlement and any judgment that may be entered by the Court based thereon, and you will release the Released PAGA Claims described in Section III.D above.

Class Members and PAGA Members will not be separately responsible for the payment of attorney's fees or litigation costs and expenses, unless they retain their own counsel, in which event they will be responsible for their own attorney's fees and expenses.

B. Request Exclusion from the Class Settlement

If you do not wish to participate in the Class Settlement, you must seek exclusion from the Class Settlement by submitting a written request ("Request for Exclusion"), which must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action (*Tracie Smith v. Superior Protection Services CA, Inc.,* Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 25STCV23373); (b) contain your full name, signature, address, telephone number, and last four (4) digits of your Social Security number; (c) contain a clear statement indicating that you seek exclusion from the Class Settlement; and (d) be sent to the Settlement Administrator, postmarked by **no later than [Response Deadline]** at the following address:

Simpluris, Inc.
[Address]

If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, any Class Member who submits a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will not be entitled to receive an Individual Settlement Payment, will not be bound by the Class Settlement (and the release of Released Class Claims described in Section III.D above), and will not have any right to object to, appeal, or comment on the Class Settlement. Class Members who do not submit a Request for Exclusion will be deemed Settlement Class Members and will be bound by all terms of the Settlement, including those pertaining to the release of Released Class Claims described in Section III.D above, as well as any judgment that may be entered by the Court based thereon. All PAGA Members will be bound to the PAGA Settlement (and the release of Released PAGA Claims described in Section III.D above) and will be issued an Individual PAGA Payment, regardless of whether they submit a Request for Exclusion.

C. Object to the Class Settlement

You can object to the terms of the Class Settlement as long as you have not submitted a Request for Exclusion, by submitting a written objection to the Settlement Administrator. Alternatively, or in addition, you can present your objection orally at the Final Approval Hearing.

An objection must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action (*Tracie Smith v. Superior Protection Services CA, Inc.,* Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 25STCV23373); (b) contain your full name, signature, address, telephone number, and last four (4) digits of your Social Security number; (c) contain a written statement of all grounds for your objection accompanied by any legal and factual support for such objection; (d) contain copies of any papers, briefs, or other documents upon which the objection is based; and (e) be mailed to the Settlement Administrator at the address listed in Section V.B above, postmarked **no later than [Response Deadline]**.

VI. FINAL APPROVAL HEARING

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing in Department 7 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, located at Spring Street Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, on **<<date>>**, at **<<time>>**, to determine whether the Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court also will be asked to approve and award Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Class Counsel, Enhancement Award to Plaintiff, and Settlement Administration Costs to the Settlement Administrator.

The hearing may be continued without further notice to Class Members. It is not necessary for you to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, although you may appear if you wish to.

You may appear for the Final Approval Hearing in person or you may appear remotely. Please visit the Court's website for the most-up to-date information regarding how to appear remotely: https://www.lacourt.ca.gov/pages/lp/lacc-welcome.

Please visit the Court's website for the most up-to-date information regarding the operations of the Court and any requirements that may apply for accessing Court facilities: https://www.lacourt.ca.gov/home.

VII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The above is a summary of the basic terms of the Settlement. For the precise terms and conditions of the Settlement

Agreement, you should review the detailed Settlement Agreement and other papers which are on file with the Court.

You may view the Settlement Agreement and other imaged documents filed in the Action for a fee by visiting the Office of the Clerk of the Court, located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, during business hours, or online by visiting the following website: https://www.lacourt.ca.gov/pages/lp/access-a-case/tp/find-case-information/cp/os-civil-case-access, typing in the case number "25STCV23373" in the textbox labeled "Case Number," and clicking "Search."

If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will post the Court's order granting final approval of the settlement and judgment on its website: [Settlement Administrator Website].

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT OR THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS SETTLEMENT.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU MAY CALL THE SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR AT THE FOLLOWING TOLL-FREE NUMBER: [INSERT], OR YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT CLASS COUNSEL.