

JOINT STIPULATION AND CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Subject to final approval by the Court, this Joint Stipulation and Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement is between Plaintiff Joshua Park (“Plaintiff”), on behalf of himself, other members of the general public similarly situated, and other aggrieved employees, and Defendant Brenda’s LLC dba Brenda’s French Soul Food (“Defendant”). Plaintiff and Defendant collectively are referred to in this Agreement as the “Parties.”

I. DEFINITIONS

In addition to the other terms defined in this Agreement, the terms below have the following meaning:

- A. **Administration Costs:** All administrative costs incurred by the Settlement Administrator to administer this Settlement, including the cost of notice to the Class Members, settlement administration, and any fees and costs incurred or charged by the Settlement Administrator in connection with the execution of its duties under this Agreement, which shall not exceed \$12,000. All Administration Costs shall be paid from the Qualified Settlement Fund.
- B. **Agreement, Settlement Agreement, or Settlement:** The settlement agreement reflected in this document is titled “Joint Stipulation and Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement.”
- C. **Attorney Fee Award:** The amount not to exceed \$157,500 (35% of the Gross Settlement Amount finally approved by the Court and awarded to Class Counsel). The Attorney Fee Award shall be paid from the Qualified Settlement Fund and will not be opposed by Defendant.
- D. **Case or Action:** The lawsuit originally filed by Plaintiff on April 26, 2022 entitled *Park v. Brenda’s LLC dba Brenda’s French Soul Food*, Case No. CGC-22-599371, in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco, as well as the First Amended Complaint filed by Plaintiff in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco.
- E. **Class:** All current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of Defendant within the State of California at any time during the period from October 29, 2017, through March 27, 2023 or preliminary approval, whichever is sooner. The Parties agree certification for purposes of settlement is not an admission that class certification is proper under Section 382 of the Code of Civil Procedure. If for any reason this Settlement is not approved or is terminated, in whole or in part, this conditional agreement to class certification will be inadmissible and will have no effect in this matter or on any claims

brought on the same or similar allegations, and the Parties shall revert to the respective positions they held prior to entering the Settlement.

- F. **Class Counsel**: Douglas Han, Shunt Tatavos-Gharajeh, and Halina Szymanski of Justice Law Corporation.
- G. **Class Member**: Each person eligible to participate in this Settlement who is a member of the Class as defined above.
- H. **Class Notice or Notice**: The “Notice of Class Action Settlement” or “Notice” shall mean the notice to be provided to all Class Members regarding the terms of this Settlement, substantially like the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, subject to Court approval. The Notice shall constitute class notice pursuant to California Rule of Court 3.769 (f) and, once approved by the Court shall be deemed compliant with California Rule of Court 3.766.
- I. **Class Period**: The time period from October 29, 2017, through March 27, 2023 or preliminary approval, whichever is sooner.
- J. **Class Representative or Plaintiff**: Joshua Park.
- K. **Class Representative Enhancement Payment**: The amount the Court awards to Plaintiff for his services as Class Representative, which will not exceed \$10,000. This payment shall be paid from the Qualified Settlement Fund and will not be opposed by Defendant. This enhancement payment is subject to approval of the Court. If the Court awards less than the amount requested, any amount not awarded will become part of the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members.
- L. **Complaints**: The complaint originally filed by Plaintiff in this case entitled *Park v. Brenda’s LLC dba Brenda’s French Soul Food*, Case No. CGC-22-599371, in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco, on April 26, 2022 along with the First Amended Complaint filed by Plaintiff in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco.
- M. **Class Released Claims**: As of the Effective Final Settlement Date, in exchange for the consideration provided by this Agreement, Plaintiff and Participating Class Members release the Released Parties, from all claims, rights, demands, damages, liabilities, causes of action, and legal theories, in law or in equity, arising at any time during the Class Period and alleged in the Action, or that could have been alleged or otherwise raised based on the facts pleaded in the Action. These claims include, but are not limited to, violation of all statutes mentioned in the Action and the corresponding provisions of the relevant Wage Orders, including, but not limited to: (1) failure to pay all wages, including minimum wages and overtime wages; (2) failure to properly calculate overtime wages partly due to off-the-clock work; (3) failure to provide meal breaks each

day based on the hours worked by each employee, including meal breaks that were short, late, interrupted, and/or missed altogether; (4) failure to authorize and permit legally compliant rest breaks each day based on the hours worked by each employee, including rest breaks that were short, late, interrupted, and/or missed altogether; (5) failure to factor non-discretionary bonuses into the regular rate of pay for overtime compensation and sick leave pay purposes; (6) failure to timely pay wages during employment for each pay period for every employee; (7) failure to timely pay wages upon discharging employees; (8) failure to reimburse employees for all reasonable and necessary business expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties for Defendant; (9) failure to furnish accurate and compliant itemized wage statements; (10) all claims for unfair business practices that could have been premised on the facts, claims, causes of action or legal theories of relief pled in the Action; and (11) all related claims and associated penalties, damages, interest, costs (including attorneys' fees) and other amounts recoverable under said claims or causes of action alleged or which could have been alleged in the Action. The period of the Class Released Claims shall extend to the limits of the Class Period. The Class Released Claims expressly exclude the PAGA Released Claims, and Participating Class Members will not be deemed to have released the PAGA Released Claims unless such Participating Class Members are also Eligible Aggrieved Employees. Participating Class Members who are also Eligible Aggrieved Employees shall release the PAGA Released Claims, in addition to releasing the Class Released Claims, as defined in Sections I(EE) and III(N).

- N. Class Representative Comprehensive Release:** As of the Effective Final Settlement Date, and in exchange for the consideration provided for by this Agreement, including Plaintiff's Class Representative Enhancement Payment, Plaintiff agrees to a comprehensive release of all known and unknown claims, under federal law or state law, against Defendant and the Released Parties, including a Civil Code section 1542 waiver, as specifically provided in Section III(O). The Parties understand and agree Plaintiff is not, by way of this release, releasing any workers' compensation claims nor any other claims that cannot be released as a matter of law.
- O. Cost Award:** The amount the Court orders Defendant to pay Class Counsel for payment of actual litigation costs, which shall not exceed \$25,000. The Cost Award will be paid from the Qualified Settlement Fund and will not be opposed by Defendant. The Cost Award is subject to Court approval. If the Court awards less than the amount requested, any amount not awarded will become part of the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members.
- P. Counsel for Defendant:** Attorneys Thomas Duckworth and Patricia Murphy of Duckworth & Peters LLP.
- Q. Court:** The Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco.

- R. **Defendant:** Brenda's LLC dba Brenda's French Soul Food.
- S. **Effective Final Settlement Date:** The Effective Final Settlement Date shall be the later of the following: (1) the date of entry of the Court's order granting Final Approval; (2) the date of the running of the appeal period if an objection is made but no appeal is filed; and (3) the Final Judgment becomes final and is no longer subject to appeal if an appeal is filed.
- T. **Eligible Aggrieved Employees:** The aggrieved employees eligible to recover the PAGA Payment, who are all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of Defendant within the State of California at any time during the period from January 30, 2022, through March 27, 2023 or preliminary approval, whichever is sooner ("PAGA Period").
- U. **Exclusion Form:** The Election Not to Participate In ("Opt Out" From) Class Action Settlement, substantially like the form attached hereto as **Exhibit B**, subject to Court approval.
- V. **Gross Settlement Amount or GSA:** The total value of the Settlement is a non-reversionary \$450,000. This is the maximum gross amount Defendant can be required to pay under this Settlement Agreement, which includes without limitation the: (1) Net Settlement Amount to be paid to Participating Class Members; (2) Attorney Fee Award and Cost Award to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and costs, as approved by the Court; (3) Class Representative Enhancement Payment paid to the Class Representative, as approved by the Court; (4) Administration Costs to the Settlement Administrator, as approved by the Court; and (5) PAGA Payment to the LWDA and to Eligible Aggrieved Employees, as approved by the Court. Defendant's portion of payroll taxes as the Class Members' current or former employer is not included in the GSA and will be a separate obligation of Defendant. No portion of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant for any reason.
- W. **Judgment or Final Approval:** The "Final Approval Order" means the final order entered by the Court following the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing. The "Final Judgment" means the final judgment entered by the Court following the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing.
- X. **Individual Settlement Share(s):** The amount payable to each Participating Class Member under the terms of this Settlement Agreement. Class Members are not required to submit a claim form to receive their Individual Settlement Shares pursuant to this Agreement. Participating Class Members will receive an Individual Settlement Share automatically without the return of a claim form. This amount does not include the PAGA Payment to Eligible Aggrieved Employees, which will be paid regardless of whether a Class Member opts out of the Settlement Agreement.

- Y. LWDA:** California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.
- Z. Net Settlement Amount or NSA:** The total amount of money available for payout to Participating Class Members, which is the GSA less the Attorney Fee Award, Cost Award, Class Representative Enhancement Payment, PAGA Payment, and Administration Costs. In other words, the NSA is the portion of the GSA that will be distributed to Participating Class Members.
- AA. Notice Packet:** The Class Notice, Exclusion Form, and Objection Form.
- BB. Objection Form:** The Notice of Objection Form, substantially like the form attached hereto as **Exhibit C**, subject to Court approval.
- CC. PAGA:** The Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.*).
- DD. PAGA Payment:** The PAGA Payment consists of \$20,000 of the Gross Settlement Amount allocated to satisfy the PAGA penalties claim as alleged in the Action. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the PAGA Payment (\$15,000) shall be paid to the LWDA, and twenty-five percent (25%) of the PAGA Payment (\$5,000) shall be distributed to Eligible Aggrieved Employees (including those who submit a valid and timely Exclusion Form) proportionate to the number of pay periods that he or she worked during the PAGA Period. The PAGA Payment will be calculated by determining the total number of pay periods the Eligible Aggrieved Employees were employed during the PAGA Period (*i.e.*, the sum of all pay periods of employment for each eligible aggrieved employee) and dividing that number into the \$5,000 amount allocated to Eligible Aggrieved Employees to determine the monetary value assigned to each pay period. That number will then be multiplied by the individual eligible aggrieved employee's total number of pay periods employed during the PAGA Period to determine that individual's proportional share.
- EE. PAGA Released Claims:** As of the Effective Final Settlement Date, in exchange for the consideration provided by this Agreement, Plaintiff, LWDA, and any other representative, proxy, or agent thereof, including, but not limited to, any and all Eligible Aggrieved Employees, shall release the Released Parties from any claims for and are barred from pursuing any action against the Released Parties for civil penalties under Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.* (PAGA) arising at any time during the PAGA Period and based on or arising out of alleged violations of Labor Code sections alleged in Plaintiff's letter to the LWDA and the Action.
- FF. Participating Class Members:** All Class Members who do not submit a valid and timely request to exclude themselves from the Settlement.
- GG. Parties:** Plaintiff, individually and as the Class Representative, and Defendant.

HH. Preliminary Approval or Preliminary Approval Order: The order entered by the Court following the Preliminary Approval Hearing approving the proposed Settlement.

II. Qualified Settlement Fund or QSF: A fund within the meaning of Treasury Regulations section 1.468B-1, 26 C.F.R. section 1.468B-1, *et seq.*, which is established by the Settlement Administrator for the benefit of Participating Class Members, Plaintiff, and Class Counsel.

JJ. Released Parties: Defendant and each of its former and current parents, predecessors, successors, all affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, members, agents, employees, stockholders, owners, attorneys, insurers, assigns, and any individual or entity that could be jointly liable with Defendant.

KK. Response Deadline: Sixty (60) calendar days from the initial mailing of the Notice Packet.

LL. Settlement Administration: The Settlement Administrator will conduct a skip trace for the address of all former employee Class Members. The Settlement Administrator will mail the Notice Packet by first-class regular U.S. Mail and email the Notice Packet to all Class Members at the address and email address Defendant has on file for those Class Members and to all former employee Class Members at the address resulting from the skip trace and any email address Defendant provides for those former employee Class Members. The Notice Packet will inform Class Members that they have until the Response Deadline to either object to the Settlement or to opt-out (exclude themselves) from the Settlement. Any Class Member who does not receive a Notice Packet after the steps outlined above have been taken will still be bound by the Settlement and/or Judgment.

MM. Settlement Administrator: The third-party administrator agreed upon by Parties to administer this Settlement is Phoenix Class Action Administration Solutions.

NN. Superior Court: The Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco.

II. RECITALS

A. Procedural History. On April 26, 2022, Plaintiff, a former employee of Defendant, filed a wage-and-hour class action lawsuit in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco, alleging violations of: (1) Labor Code sections 510 and 1198 (unpaid overtime); (2) Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a) (unpaid meal period premiums); (3) Labor Code section 226.7 (unpaid rest period premiums); (4) Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 (unpaid minimum wages); (5) Labor Code sections 201 and 202 (final wages not timely paid); (6) Labor Code section 226(a) (non-compliant wage statements); (7)

Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 (unreimbursed business expenses); and (8) Business & Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*

After participating in a successful mediation, Plaintiff provided written notice to the LWDA and Defendant of the specific provisions of the Labor Code he contends were violated and the theories supporting his contentions on January 30, 2023. Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint adding a cause of action for violation of Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.* (PAGA).

- B. Investigation.** Prior to attending mediation, the Parties conducted significant investigation and discovery of the facts and law both before and after the Action was filed. Defendant produced hundreds of documents relating to its policies, practices, and procedures regarding reimbursement of business expenses, paying non-exempt employees for all hours worked, meal and rest period policies, and payroll and operational policies. As part of Defendant's production, Plaintiff also reviewed time records, pay records, and information relating to the size and scope of the Class, as well as data permitting Plaintiff to understand the number of workweeks and pay periods in the Class Period. Plaintiff interviewed Class Members who worked for Defendant throughout the Class Period. The Parties agree the above-described investigation and evaluation, as well as the information exchanged during the settlement negotiations, are more than sufficient to assess the merits of the respective Parties' positions and to compromise the issues on a fair and equitable basis.
- C. Mediation.** Plaintiff and Class Counsel engaged in good faith, arms-length negotiations with Defendant concerning possible settlement of the claims asserted in the Action. On January 26, 2023, the Parties participated in a mediation before mediator Mark Rudy. Under the auspices of the mediator, the Parties reached a settlement of the Action.
- D. Benefits of Settlement to Class Members.** Plaintiff and Class Counsel recognize the expense and length of continued proceedings necessary to continue the litigation against Defendant through trial and through any possible appeals. Plaintiff and Class Counsel considered the uncertainty and risk of further litigation, potential outcome, and difficulties and delays inherent in such litigation. Plaintiff and Class Counsel conducted extensive settlement negotiations, including formal mediation. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff and Class Counsel believe the settlement set forth in this Agreement is a fair, adequate, and reasonable settlement, and is in the best interests of the Class.
- E. Defendant's Reasons for Settlement.** Defendant recognizes the defense of this litigation will be protracted and expensive. Substantial amounts of time, energy, and resources of Defendant have been and, unless this Settlement is made, will continue to be devoted to the defense of the claims asserted by Plaintiff. Thus, Defendant has agreed to settle in the manner and upon the terms set forth in this Agreement to put to rest the Class Released Claims.

- F. Defendant's Denial of Wrongdoing.** Defendant generally and specifically denies any and all liability or wrongdoing of any sort with regard to any and all of the claims alleged, makes no concessions or admissions of liability of any sort, and contends for any purpose other than settlement that the Action is not appropriate for PAGA or class treatment. Defendant also asserts several defenses to the claims and has denied any wrongdoing or liability arising out of any and all of the alleged facts or conduct in the Action. Neither this Agreement, nor any document referred to or contemplated herein, nor any statements, discussions, or communications, nor any action taken to carry out this Agreement, is or may be construed as, or may be used as an admission, concession, or indication by or against Defendant or any of the Released Parties of any fault, wrongdoing, or liability whatsoever. Nor should the Agreement be construed as an admission that Plaintiff can serve as adequate Class Representative. There has been no final determination by any court as to the merits of the claims asserted by Plaintiff against Defendant or as to whether a class or classes should be certified, other than for settlement purposes only.
- G. Plaintiff's Claims.** Plaintiff asserts Defendant's defenses are without merit. Neither this Agreement nor any documents referred to or contemplated herein, nor any action taken to carry out this Agreement is, may be construed as, or may be used as an admission, concession, or indication by or against Plaintiff, Class Members, or Class Counsel as to the merits of any claims or defenses asserted, or lack thereof, in the Action. If this Settlement is approved by the Court, Plaintiff, Class Members, or Class Counsel will not oppose Defendant's efforts to use this Agreement to prove Plaintiff and Class Members have resolved and are forever barred from relitigating the Class Released Claims.

III. SETTLEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- A. Gross Settlement Amount.** Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Gross Settlement Amount, excluding payroll taxes, that Defendant is obligated to pay under this Settlement Agreement is \$450,000.
- B. Notice to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA").** On January 30, 2023, Plaintiff filed and served his Notice of Labor Code Violations Pursuant to Labor Code Section 2699.3 Thus, Plaintiff has satisfied his notice obligations under PAGA.
- C. Class Certification.** Solely for the purposes of this Settlement, the Parties stipulate and agree to certification of the claims asserted on behalf of Class Members. As such, the Parties stipulate and agree that for this Settlement to occur, the Court must certify the Class as defined in this Agreement.

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- D. Conditional Nature of Stipulation for Certification.** The Parties stipulate and agree to the certification of the claims asserted on behalf of Plaintiff and Class Members for purposes of this Settlement only. This settlement is contingent upon the Preliminary and Final approval and certification of the Class only for purposes of settlement. If the Settlement does not become final, for whatever reason, the fact the Parties were willing to stipulate provisionally to certification as part of the Settlement shall have no bearing on and shall not be admissible or used in any way in connection with, the question of whether the Court should certify any claims in a non-settlement context in this Action or in any other lawsuit. Defendant expressly reserves the right to oppose class certification and/or to proactively move to deny class certification should this Settlement be modified or reversed on appeal or otherwise not become final.
- E. Appointment of Class Representative.** Solely for the purposes of this Settlement, the Parties stipulate and agree Plaintiff shall be appointed as the Class Representative.
- F. Appointment of Class Counsel.** Solely for the purpose of this Settlement, the Parties stipulate and agree the Court appoint Class Counsel to represent the Class.
- G. Individual Settlement Share.** Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Settlement Administrator will pay an Individual Settlement Share from the Net Settlement Amount to each Participating Class Member.

1. Calculation.

- a. Individual Settlement Share Calculation.** Each Participating Class Member will receive a proportionate share of the Net Settlement Amount that is equal to: (i) the number of weeks he or she worked during the Class Period based on the Class List provided by Defendant; (ii) divided by the total number of weeks worked by any and all Participating Class Members collectively during the Class Period based on the same Class List; (iii) which is then multiplied by the Net Settlement Amount. One day worked in a given week will be credited as a week for purposes of this calculation. Thus, the value of each Participating Class Member's Individual Settlement Share ties directly to the number of weeks that he or she worked.
- H. PAGA Payment.** The PAGA Payment consists of \$20,000 of the Gross Settlement Amount allocated to satisfy the PAGA penalties claim as alleged in the Action. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the PAGA Payment (\$15,000) shall be paid to the LWDA, and twenty-five percent (25%) of the PAGA Payment (\$5,000) shall be distributed to Eligible Aggrieved Employees (including those who submit a valid and timely Exclusion Form).

- 1. Calculation.** The PAGA Payment will be paid to each Eligible Aggrieved Employees proportionate to the number of pay periods that he or she worked during the PAGA Period. It will be calculated by: (a) determining the total number of pay periods the Eligible Aggrieved Employees were employed during the PAGA Period (*i.e.*, the sum of all pay periods of employment for each eligible aggrieved employee); (b) dividing that number by the \$5,000 amount allocated to Eligible Aggrieved Employees to determine the monetary value assigned to each pay period; and (c) multiplying that number by the individual eligible aggrieved employee's total number of pay periods employed during the PAGA Period to determine that individual's proportional share.
- I. Tax Withholdings.** Each Participating Class Member's Individual Settlement Share will be apportioned as follows: twenty percent (20%) wages and eighty percent (80%) as interest and penalties. The amounts paid as wages shall be subject to all tax withholdings customarily made from an employee's wages and all other authorized and required withholdings and shall be reported by W-2 forms. The amounts paid as penalties and interest shall be subject to all authorized and required withholdings other than the tax withholdings customarily made from employees' wages and shall be reported by IRS 1099 forms. The employees' share of payroll tax withholdings shall be withheld from each persons' Individual Settlement Share. Eligible Aggrieved Employees' portion of the PAGA Payment will be allocated as one hundred percent (100%) penalties and will be issued an IRS form 1099 if it exceeds \$600.
- J. Settlement Disbursement.** Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Settlement Administrator will make the following payments out of the Gross Settlement Amount:

 - 1. To Plaintiff.** In addition to his Individual Settlement Share, and subject to the Court's approval, Plaintiff will receive up to \$10,000 as the Class Representative Enhancement Payment. The Settlement Administrator will pay the Class Representative Enhancement Payment out of the Qualified Settlement Fund. Payroll tax withholdings and deductions will not be taken from the Class Representative Enhancement Payment. An IRS Form 1099 will be issued to Plaintiff with respect to his Class Representative Enhancement Payment. If the Court does not approve the entirety of the application for the Class Representative Enhancement Payment, the Settlement Administrator shall pay whatever amount the Court awards, and neither Defendant nor the Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for paying the difference between the amount requested and the amount awarded. If the amount awarded is less than the amount requested by Plaintiff, the difference shall become part of the NSA and be available for distribution to Participating Class Members.

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- 2. To Class Counsel.** Class Counsel will apply to the Court for, and Defendant agree not to oppose, a total Attorney Fee Award not to exceed \$157,500 (35% of the GSA) and a Cost Award not to exceed \$25,000. The Settlement Administrator will pay the court-approved amounts for the Attorney Fee Award and Cost Award out of the Gross Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administrator may purchase an annuity to utilize US treasuries and bonds or other attorney fee deferral vehicles for Class Counsel. Payroll tax withholding and deductions will not be taken from the Attorney Fee Award or the Cost Award. IRS Forms 1099 will be issued to Class Counsel with respect to these payments. If the Court does not approve the entirety of the application for the Attorney Fee Award and/or Cost Award, the Settlement Administrator shall pay whatever amount the Court awards, and neither Defendant nor the Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for paying the difference between the amount requested and the amount awarded. If the amount awarded is less than the amount requested by Class Counsel for the Attorney Fee Award and/or Cost Award, the difference shall become part of the NSA and be available for distribution to Participating Class Members. Except as provided herein, each side shall bear its own attorneys' fees and costs.
- 3. To the Responsible Tax Authorities.** The Settlement Administrator will pay the amount of the Participating Class Members' portion of normal payroll withholding taxes out of each person's Individual Settlement Share. The Settlement Administrator will calculate the amount of the Participating Class Members' and Defendant's portion of payroll withholding taxes. The Settlement Administrator will submit Defendant's portion of payroll withholding tax calculation to Defendant for additional funding and forward those amounts along with each person's Individual Settlement Share withholdings to the appropriate taxing authorities.
- 4. To the Settlement Administrator.** The Settlement Administrator will pay to itself Administration Costs (reasonable fees and expenses) approved by the Court not to exceed \$12,000. This will be paid out of the Qualified Settlement Fund. If the actual amount of Administration Costs is less than the amount estimated, the difference shall become part of the NSA and be available for distribution to Participating Class Members. If the Court does not approve the entirety of the application for the Administration Costs, the Settlement Administrator shall pay to itself whatever amount the Court awards, and neither Plaintiff nor Defendant shall be responsible for paying the difference between the amount requested and the amount awarded.
- 5. To Class Members.** The Settlement Administrator will pay Participating Class Members according to the Individual Settlement Share calculations set forth above. All payments to Participating Class Members shall be made from the Qualified Settlement Fund.

- 6. To Eligible Aggrieved Employees.** The Settlement Administrator shall pay each Eligible Aggrieved Employee according to their proportional share, which will be based upon the total number of pay periods he or she was employed during the PAGA Period.

K. Appointment of Settlement Administrator. Solely for the purposes of this Settlement, the Parties stipulate and agree the Settlement Administrator shall be retained to serve as Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for: (1) translating into Spanish, preparing, printing, and mailing and emailing the Notice Packet to the Class Members; (2) creating a static settlement website that will go live on the same date that the Notice Packet is first sent to the Class Members and that will include, among other things, the Complaints, a standalone generic copy of the Notice Packet, all papers filed in connection with the preliminary approval motion (including all orders filed by the Court), all papers filed in connection with the Final Approval Hearing (including the fee motion and the final approval motion), and, if the Settlement is approved, the Final Judgment; (3) keeping track of any objections or requests for exclusion from Class Members; (4) performing skip traces and resending Notice Packets and remailing Individual Settlement Shares to Class Members; (5) calculating any and all payroll tax deductions as required by law; (6) calculating each Participating Class Member's Individual Settlement Share and each Eligible Aggrieved Employee's portion of the PAGA Payment; (7) providing weekly status reports to the Parties' counsel, which is to include updates on any objections or requests for exclusion that have been received; (8) providing a due diligence declaration for submission to the Court prior to the Final Approval Hearing; (9) mailing Individual Settlement Shares and portions of the PAGA Payment to Participating Class Members and Eligible Aggrieved Employees respectively; (10) mailing the portion of the PAGA Payment to the LWDA; (11) distributing the Attorney Fee Award and the Cost Award to Class Counsel; (12) printing and providing Class Members and Plaintiff with W-2s and 1099 forms as required under this Agreement and applicable law; (13) providing a due diligence declaration for submission to the Court upon the completion of the Settlement; (14) providing any funds remaining in the QSF as a result of uncashed checks to the State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund; and (15) performing other tasks as the Parties mutually agree. The Parties each represent they do not have any financial interest in the Settlement Administrator or otherwise have a relationship with it that could create a conflict of interest.

L. Procedure for Approving Settlement.

1. Motion for Preliminary Approval and Conditional Certification.

- a.** Plaintiff will move for an order conditionally certifying the Class for settlement purposes only, giving Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, setting a date for the Final Approval Hearing, and approving the Notice Packet.

- b. At the Preliminary Approval hearing, Plaintiff will appear, support the granting of the motion, and submit a proposed order granting conditional certification of the Class and Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, appointing the Class Representative, Class Counsel, and Settlement Administrator, approving the Notice Packet, and setting the Final Approval Hearing.
- c. Should the Court decline to conditionally certify the Class or to Preliminarily Approve all material aspects of the Settlement, the Parties will work together to address the Court's concerns to obtain preliminary approval. If the Court does not ultimately approve a settlement consistent with this Settlement, the Settlement will be null and void, and the Parties will have no further obligations under it. Any order or proceeding relating to an application for the Attorney Fee Award, Cost Award, Administration Costs, and Class Representative Enhancement Payment shall not operate to terminate or cancel this Settlement. Nothing in this Settlement shall limit Plaintiff's or Class Counsel's ability to appeal any decision by the Court to award less than the requested Attorney Fee Award, Cost Award, Administration Costs, and Class Representative Enhancement Payment.

2. Notice to Class Members. After the Court enters its Preliminary Approval Order, every Class Member will be provided with the Notice Packet in accordance with the following procedure:

- a. Within twenty-one (21) calendar days after entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, Defendant shall deliver to the Settlement Administrator the following information about each Class Member's: (1) first and last name; (2) last known mailing address; (3) Social Security Number; (4) hire and termination dates; and (5) the total number of weeks during which the Class Member performed any actual work during the Class Period as a member of the Class ("Class List"). If any or all this information is unavailable to Defendant, Defendant will so inform Class Counsel and the Parties will make their best efforts to reconstruct or otherwise agree upon how to deal with the unavailable information. The Settlement Administrator will conduct a skip trace for the address of all former employee Class Members. The Settlement Administrator shall maintain the Class List and all data contained within the Class List as private and confidential. This provision will not impede Class Counsel's ability to discharge fiduciary duties, including effectuating the terms of this settlement.

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- b. The Settlement Administrator shall run all the addresses on the Class List through the United States Postal Service National Change of Address Database (“NCOA”) (which provides updated addresses for any individual who has moved in the previous four years who has notified the U.S. Postal Service of a forwarding address) to obtain current address information. The Settlement Administrator shall mail the Notice Packet to the Class Members via first-class regular U.S. Mail using the most current mailing address information available within fourteen (14) calendar days after the receipt of the Class List from Defendant.
- c. If a Notice Packet is returned because of an incorrect address, within ten (10) days from receipt of the returned Notice Packet, the Settlement Administrator will conduct a search for a more current address for the Class Member and remail the Notice Packet to the Class Member. The Settlement Administrator will use the NCOA and skip traces to attempt to find the current address. The Settlement Administrator will be responsible for taking reasonable steps to trace the mailing address of any Class Member for whom a Notice Packet is returned by U.S. Postal Service as undeliverable. These reasonable steps shall include, at a minimum: (i) tracking of all undelivered mail; (ii) performing address searches for all mail returned without a forwarding address; and (iii) promptly remailing to Class Members for whom new addresses are found. If the Settlement Administrator is unable to locate a better address, the Notice Packet shall be remailed to the original address. If the Notice Packet is remailed, the Settlement Administrator will note for its own records the date and address of each remailing.
- d. Class Members may dispute the information provided in their Notice Packet but must do so in writing via regular U.S. Mail, and it must be postmarked by the Response Deadline. To the extent Class Members dispute the number of weeks they have been credited or the amount of their Individual Settlement Share, Class Members must produce evidence to the Settlement Administrator showing that such information is inaccurate. Class Members shall be permitted to submit copies of any evidence supporting workweek disputes – original versions will not be required. Absent evidence rebutting Defendant’s records, Defendant’s records will be presumed determinative. If a Class Member produces evidence to the contrary, the Parties will evaluate the evidence submitted by the Class Member and will make the final decision as to the number of eligible weeks that should be applied and/or the Individual Settlement Share to which the Class Member may be entitled. If the Parties cannot agree on a final decision as to the number of eligible workweeks that should be applied and/or

the Individual Settlement Share to which the Class Member may be entitled, the decision will be turned over to the Court. In this situation, the Court will evaluate the evidence submitted by the Class Member and will make the final decision as to the number of eligible weeks that should be applied and/or the Individual Settlement Share to which the Class Member may be entitled.

- e. If any Exclusion Form received is incomplete or deficient, the Settlement Administrator shall send a letter informing the Class Member of the deficiency and allow fourteen (14) days to cure the deficiency. But any cure period will not extend the Response Deadline. If after the cure period the Exclusion Form is not cured, it will be determined the Class Member did not exclude himself or herself from the Settlement and will be bound by the Settlement.
 - f. The Settlement Administrator shall provide a weekly status report to the Parties. As part of its weekly status report, the Settlement Administrator will inform the Parties' counsel of the number of Notice Packets mailed and emailed, the number of Notice Packets returned as undeliverable, the number of Notice Packets remailed, and the number of Exclusion Forms received.
 - g. No later than fourteen (14) calendar days after the Response Deadline, the Settlement Administrator will serve on the Parties a declaration of due diligence setting forth its compliance with its obligations under this Agreement. The declaration from the Settlement Administrator shall also be filed with the Court by Class Counsel no later than ten (10) calendar days before the Final Approval Hearing. Before the Final Approval Hearing, the Settlement Administrator will supplement its declaration of due diligence if any material changes occur from the date of the filing of its prior declaration.
- 3. Objections to Settlement.** The Notice Packet will provide that Class Members who wish to object to the Settlement must mail to the Settlement Administrator an Objection Form, postmarked no later than the Response Deadline. For any Class Member to object to this Settlement, or any term of it, the Class Member making the objection must not submit a request for exclusion (*i.e.*, must not opt out).
- a. **Format.** Any objections should: (i) state the objecting Class Member's full name, address, and telephone number and the name and address of counsel, if any; (ii) describe, in clear and concise terms, the reasons for objecting and the legal and factual arguments supporting the objection; (iii) identify any evidence supporting the factual basis for the objection; (iv) be signed by the

objecting Class Member or his or her attorney; and (v) state whether the objecting Class Member (or someone on his or her behalf) intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing. An objection will be deemed valid if it is postmarked no later than the Response Deadline and provides sufficient information to allow the Settlement Administrator to identify the Class Member and understand the Class Member objects to the Settlement or some term(s) of the Settlement. Objecting Class Members who choose to submit evidence supporting their objections may submit copies of such evidence – original versions will not be required.

- b. Appearance at Final Approval and Oral Objection.** Class Members may (though are not required to) appear at the Final Approval Hearing, either in person or through their own counsel, at the Class Member's own expense and orally object to the Settlement. Plaintiff, rather than objecting Class Members and/or their counsel, if any, will be responsible for filing timely objections, if any, with the Court.
 - c.** If a Class Member objects to the Settlement, the objecting Class Member will remain a member of the Class and if the Court approves the Settlement, the objecting Class Member will be bound by the terms of the Settlement in the same way and to the same extent as a Participating Class Member who does not object. Eligible Aggrieved Employees do not have the right to object to the PAGA portion of the Settlement.
 - d.** Plaintiff and Defendant will be permitted to respond in writing to such objections no later than seven (7) days before the Final Approval Hearing. Plaintiff waives any right to object to the Settlement, and hereby endorses the Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate and in the best interests of the Class.
- 4. Request for Exclusion from the Settlement (“Opt-Out”).** The Notice Packet will provide that Class Members who wish to exclude themselves from the Settlement must mail to the Settlement Administrator an Exclusion Form. The written request for exclusion should: (a) include the Class Member's name, address, and last four digits of the Social Security Number; (b) be addressed to the Settlement Administrator; (c) be signed by the Class Member or his or her lawful representative; and (d) be postmarked no later than the Response Deadline. A request for exclusion will be deemed valid if it is postmarked no later than the Response Deadline and provides sufficient information to allow the Settlement Administrator to identify the Class Member and understand the Class Member's request.

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- a. **Confirmation of Authenticity.** The date of the initial mailing of the Notice Packet, and the date the signed request to be excluded is postmarked, shall be conclusively determined according to the records of the Settlement Administrator. If there is a question about the authenticity of a signed request for exclusion, the Settlement Administrator may demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity. Any Class Member who returns a timely, valid, and executed Exclusion Form will not participate in or be bound by the Settlement and Judgment, will not receive an Individual Settlement Share, and will not have any right to object, appeal, or comment thereon. A Class Member who does not complete and mail a timely Exclusion Form will automatically be included in the Settlement, will be mailed an Individual Settlement Share, and be bound by all terms and conditions of the Settlement, if the Settlement is approved by the Court, and by the Judgment, regardless of whether he or she has objected to the Settlement.
 - b. **Report.** No later than seven (7) calendar days after the Response Deadline, the Settlement Administrator will provide the Parties with a complete and accurate accounting of the number of Notice Packets mailed and emailed to Class Members, the number of Notice Packets returned as undeliverable, the number of Notice Packets remailed to Class Members, the number of remailed Notice Packets returned as undeliverable, the number of Class Members who objected to the Settlement and copies of their submitted objections, the number of Class Members who returned valid requests for exclusion, and the number of Class Members who returned invalid requests for exclusion.
 - c. **Defendant's Option to Terminate.** If twenty (20) or more Class Members exercise their right to exclude themselves and opt out of the Settlement, Defendant may, in its sole discretion, unilaterally withdraw from and terminate the settlement no later than five (5) court days prior to the date of the Final Approval Hearing. In the event of Defendant's withdrawal, no party may use the fact that the Parties agreed to the settlement for any reason. Defendant will also be responsible for paying any settlement administration costs incurred if it exercises its right to withdraw from the Settlement under this provision.
5. **No Solicitation of Objection or Requests for Exclusion.** Neither the Parties nor their respective counsel will solicit or otherwise encourage directly or indirectly any Class Member to object to the Settlement, request exclusion from the Settlement, or appeal from the Judgment.

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6. Motion for Final Approval.

- a. Upon expiration of the Objection/Exclusion Deadlines, Class Counsel will file unopposed motions and memorandums in support thereof for Final Approval of the Settlement and the following payments in accord with the terms of the Settlement: (i) Attorney Fee Award; (ii) Cost Award; (iii) Administration Costs; (iv) Class Representative Enhancement Payment; and (v) PAGA Payment. Class Counsel will also move the Court for an order of Final Approval (and associated entry of Judgment) releasing and barring any Class Released Claims of the Class Members who do not opt out of the Settlement.
 - b. If the Court does not grant Final Approval of the Settlement, or if the Court's Final Approval of the Settlement is reversed or materially modified on appellate review, then this Settlement will become null and void, but remains protected by Evidence Code Section 1152. If that occurs, the Parties will have no further obligations under the Settlement, including any obligation by Defendant to pay the Gross Settlement Amount or any amounts that otherwise would have been owed under this Agreement, except that Defendant shall pay fifty percent (50%) of the Administration Costs, and Plaintiff shall pay the remaining fifty percent (50%) of the Administration Costs. An award by the Court of a lesser amount than sought by Plaintiff and Class Counsel for the Class Representative Enhancement Payment, Attorney Fee Award, and/or Cost Award will not constitute a material modification to the Settlement within the meaning of this paragraph.
 - c. Upon Final Approval of the Settlement, the Parties shall present to the Court a proposed Final Approval Order, approving the Settlement and entering Judgment in accordance therewith. After entry of Judgment, the Court shall have continuing jurisdiction over the Action for purposes of: (i) enforcing this Settlement Agreement; (ii) addressing settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as may be appropriate under Court rules and applicable law. Notice of entry of Final Judgment will be served upon Class Members by the Settlement Administrator posting the Final Judgment on the Settlement Administrator's website.
- 7. Disbursement of Settlement Shares and Payments.** Subject to the Court finally approving the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator shall distribute funds pursuant to the terms of this Agreement and the Court's Final Approval Order and Judgment. The maximum amount Defendant can

be required to pay under this Settlement for any purpose is the Gross Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administrator shall keep the Parties' counsel apprised of all distributions from the Gross Settlement Amount. Furthermore, the Settlement Administrator shall respond to questions from the Parties' counsel.

- a. **Funding the Settlement:** No later than fourteen (14) calendar days after the Effective Final Settlement Date, Defendant shall deposit the Gross Settlement Amount of \$450,000 needed to pay the entire Gross Settlement Amount by wiring the funds to the Settlement Administrator. Defendant shall also at this time provide any tax information that the Settlement Administrator may need to calculate each Participating Class Member's Individual Settlement Share.
 - b. **Disbursement:** Within fourteen (14) calendar days after the funding of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator shall calculate and pay all payments due under the Settlement Agreement, including all Individual Settlement Shares, Attorney Fee Award, Cost Award, Class Representative Enhancement Payment, PAGA Payment, and Administration Costs. The Settlement Administrator will also forward a check for the PAGA Payment to the LWDA for settlement of the PAGA claim.
 - c. **QSF:** The Parties agree the QSF is intended to be a "Qualified Settlement Fund" under Section 468B of the Code and Treasury Regulations section 1.468B-1, 26 C.F.R. section 1.468B-1, *et seq.*, and will be administered by the Settlement Administrator as such. The Parties and Settlement Administrator shall treat the QSF as coming into existence as a Qualified Settlement Fund on the earliest date permitted as set forth in 26 C.F.R. section 1.468B-1, and such election statement shall be attached to the appropriate returns as required by law.
8. **Uncashed Checks.** Participating Class Members and Eligible Aggrieved Employees must cash or deposit their Individual Settlement Share checks within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days after the checks are mailed to them. If any checks are not redeemed or deposited within ninety (90) calendar days after mailing, the Settlement Administrator will send a reminder postcard indicating that unless the check is redeemed or deposited in the next ninety (90) calendar days, it will expire and become non-negotiable, and offer to replace the check if it was lost or misplaced. If any checks remain uncashed or not deposited by the expiration of the 90-day period after mailing the reminder notice, the Settlement Administrator will, within two hundred (200) calendar days after the checks are mailed, cancel the checks, and reissue the checks to those Participating Class Members and

Eligible Aggrieved Employees who have cashed their checks. The second round of checks will expire and become non-negotiable after thirty (30) calendar days. The Settlement Administrator will, within forty-five (45) calendar days after the second round of checks are mailed, cancel the checks, and pay the amount of the residual Individual Settlement Share(s) to the State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund.

9. Final Report by Settlement Administrator. Within ten (10) calendar days after the disbursement of all funds, the Settlement Administrator will serve on the Parties a declaration providing a final report on the disbursements of all funds.

10. Defendant's Legal Fees. Defendant is responsible for paying for all of Defendant's own legal fees, costs, and expenses incurred in this Action outside of the Gross Settlement Amount.

M. Release of Claims. As of the Effective Final Settlement Date, Participating Class Members waive, release, promise never to assert in any forum, remise, and forever discharge the Released Parties from the Class Released Claims during the Class Period. This release expressly excludes the PAGA Released Claims.

N. Effect of PAGA Settlement. As of the Effective Final Settlement Date, Plaintiff, LWDA, and any other representative, proxy, or agent thereof, including, but not limited to, any and all Eligible Aggrieved Employees waive, release, promise never to assert in any forum, remise, and forever discharge the Released Parties from the PAGA Released Claims during the PAGA Period. Eligible Aggrieved Employees may not opt out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement, will still be entitled to payment of their portions of the PAGA Payment, and shall still release the PAGA Released Claims as of the Effective Final Settlement Date regardless of the submission of a valid and timely Exclusion Form to the Settlement Administrator.

O. Plaintiff's Release of Claims and General Release. As of the Effective Final Settlement Date, and in exchange for the Class Representative Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff, in recognition of his work and efforts in obtaining the benefits for the Class, and undertaking the risk for the payment of costs if this matter had not successfully resolved, Plaintiff provides a general release of claims for himself and his respective spouse, heirs, successors, and assigns, and forever releases, remises, and discharges the Released Parties from any and all charges, complaints, claims, liabilities, obligations, promises, agreements, controversies, damages, actions, causes of action, suits, rights, demands, costs, losses, debts, penalties and expenses of any nature and description whatsoever, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, asserted or that might have been asserted, whether in tort, contract, equity, or otherwise, arising out of Plaintiff's employment with Defendant, payment of wages during that employment and the cessation of that employment and/or violation of any federal, state or local statute, rule, ordinance or regulation. With respect to the General Release, Plaintiff stipulates and agrees he shall be

deemed to have expressly waived and relinquished, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the provisions, rights, and benefits of section 1542 of the Civil Code, or any other similar provision under federal or state law, 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.

P. Miscellaneous Terms

- 1. No Admission of Liability.** Defendant makes no admission of liability or wrongdoing by virtue of entering into this Agreement. Additionally, Defendant reserves the right to contest any issues relating to class certification and liability if the Settlement is not approved. Defendant denies it has engaged in any unlawful activity, has failed to comply with the law in any respect, has any liability to anyone under the claims asserted in the Case, or that but for the Settlement, a Class should be certified in the Action This Agreement is entered solely for the purpose of compromising highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or will be construed as an admission by Defendant of liability or wrongdoing. This Settlement and the Parties' willingness to settle the Case will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation (other than solely in connection with this Settlement).
- 2. No Effect on Employee Benefits.** The amounts paid under this Agreement do not represent a modification of any previously credited hours of service under any employee benefit plan, policy, or bonus program sponsored by Defendant. Such amounts will not form the basis for additional contributions to, benefits under, or any other monetary entitlement under, benefit plans (self-insured or not) sponsored by Defendant's policies or bonus programs. Any payments made under the terms of this Settlement shall not be applied retroactively, currently or on a going forward basis as salary, earnings, wages, or any other form of compensation for the purposes of Defendant's benefit plan, policy, or bonus program. Defendant retains the right to modify the language of its benefit plans, policies, and bonus programs to effect this intent and to make clear that any amounts paid pursuant to this Settlement are not for "hours worked," "hours paid," "hours of service," or any similar measuring term as defined by applicable plans, policies, and bonus programs for purpose of eligibility, vesting, benefit accrual, or any other purpose, and that additional contributions or benefits are not required by this Settlement.

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- 3. Publicity.** Class Counsel and Plaintiff agree to discuss the terms of this Settlement only in declarations submitted to a court to establish Class Counsel's adequacy to serve as Class Counsel, in declarations submitted to the Court in support of motions for Preliminary Approval, Final Approval, for attorneys' fees/costs, and any other pleading filed with the Court in conjunction with the Settlement, and in discussions with Class Members in the context of administering this Settlement until the Preliminary Approval Order is issued. Class Counsel and Plaintiff further agree to not disclose or publicize the Settlement, including the fact of the Settlement, its terms or contents, and the negotiations underlying the Settlement, in any manner or form, directly or indirectly, to any person or entity, except Class Members and shall be contractually required to effectuate the terms of the Settlement as set forth herein. Class Counsel and Plaintiff agree they shall not publish any press releases or press statements regarding the Settlement, identify Defendant or Counsel for Defendant by name in any media, including Class Counsel's website, or have any communications with the press or media about the Case or the Settlement. Plaintiff, in response to inquiries, will state that "the Case was resolved." This provision will not impede Class Counsel's ability to discharge fiduciary duties, including effectuating the terms of this settlement.
- 4. Integrated Agreement.** After this Agreement is signed and delivered by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement and its exhibits will constitute the entire Agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement, and it will then be deemed that no oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements have been made to any party concerning this Agreement or its exhibits, other than the representations, warranties, covenants, and inducements expressly stated in this Agreement and its exhibits. Except as expressly provided herein, this Agreement has not been executed in reliance upon any other written or oral representations or terms, and no such extrinsic oral or written representations or terms shall modify, vary, or contradict its terms. In entering into this Agreement, the Parties agree this Agreement is to be construed according to its terms and may not be varied or contradicted by extrinsic evidence.
- 5. Authorization to Enter Settlement Agreement.** Class Counsel and Counsel for Defendant warrant and represent they are authorized by Plaintiff and Defendant, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties under this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to effect the implementation of the Settlement. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement this Agreement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Agreement, the Parties will seek the assistance of the Court, and in

all cases, all such documents, supplemental provisions, and assistance of the Court will be consistent with this Agreement.

- 6. Exhibits and Headings.** The terms of this Agreement include the terms set forth in the attached exhibits, which are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein. Any exhibits to this Agreement are an integral part of the settlement and must be approved substantially as written. The descriptive headings of any paragraphs or sections of this Agreement are inserted for convenience of reference only and do not constitute a part of this Agreement.
- 7. Deadlines Falling on Weekends or Holidays.** To the extent any deadline set forth in this Settlement Agreement falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, that deadline shall be continued until the following business day.
- 8. No Pending Lawsuits By Plaintiff.** Other than this Case, Plaintiff represents that there are no unalleged claims in addition to, or different from, those which are finally and forever settled and released against the Released Parties by this Settlement, and no unalleged facts or legal theories upon which any claims or causes of action could be brought against Defendant, except such facts and theories specifically alleged in the Complaints in this Action. Plaintiff further represents, other than the instant Case, he has no current intention of asserting any other “Class Released Claims” against Defendant in any judicial or administrative forum.
- 9. Interim Stay of Proceedings.** The Parties agree to stay and hold all proceedings in the Action in abeyance, except such proceedings necessary to implement and complete the Settlement, pending the Final Approval Hearing to be conducted by the Court.
- 10. Amendment or Modification of Agreement.** This Agreement, and any and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by counsel for all Parties or their successors-in-interest.
- 11. Agreement Binding on Successors and Assigns.** This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors and assigns of the Parties, as previously defined.
- 12. No Prior Assignment.** Plaintiff represents, covenants, and warrants he has 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 rights herein released and discharged.

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- 13. Applicable Law.** All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of California, without giving effect to any conflict of law principles or choice of law principles.
- 14. Fair, Adequate, and Reasonable Settlement.** The Parties and their respective counsel believe and warrant that this Agreement reflects a fair, reasonable, and adequate settlement of the Action and have arrived at this Agreement through arms-length negotiations, considering all relevant factors, current and potential.
- 15. No Tax or Legal Advice.** The Parties understand and agree the Parties are neither providing tax or legal advice, nor making representations regarding tax obligations or consequences, if any, related to this Agreement, and that Class Members will assume any such tax obligations or consequences that may arise from this Agreement, and that Class Members shall not seek any indemnification from the Parties or any of the Released Parties in this regard. The Parties agree if any taxing body determines that additional taxes are due from any Class Member, such Class Member assumes all responsibility for the payment of such taxes.
- 16. Jurisdiction of the Superior Court.** Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6, the Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of the terms of this Agreement and all orders and judgments entered in connection therewith, and the Parties and their counsel hereto submit to the jurisdiction of the Superior Court for purposes of interpreting, implementing, and enforcing the Settlement embodied in this Agreement and all orders and judgments in connection therewith.
- 17. Invalidity of Any Provision; Severability.** Before declaring any provision of this Agreement invalid, the Parties request the Court first attempt to construe the provisions valid to the fullest extent possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of this Agreement valid and enforceable. If any provision of this Agreement shall be found unenforceable, the unenforceable provision shall be deemed deleted, and the validity and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not be affected thereby.
- 18. Cooperation in Drafting.** The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any party on the basis that the party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.

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19. Execution in Counterpart. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts. All executed counterparts, and each of them, will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if the Parties' counsel will exchange between themselves original signed counterparts. Facsimile or PDF signatures will be accepted. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

20. Escalator Clause. This Settlement was reached based on the assumption that approximately 10,000 workweeks were worked by the Class Members during the Class Period. If it is determined the number of workweeks through March 27, 2023, or preliminary approval, whichever is sooner, exceeds ten percent (10%) or more of this estimate (*i.e.*, more than 11,000 workweeks), then Defendant will have the option to either (a) increase the GSA proportionally (*i.e.*, if the number of workweeks increases by 11%, the GSA will increase by 1%); or (b) shorten the Class Period so there is no increase in the GSA.

[SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE]

IV. EXECUTION BY PARTIES AND COUNSEL

The Parties and their counsel execute this Agreement.

Dated: 02/15/2023

JOSHUA PARK



Plaintiff

Dated: 2/16/23

BRENDA'S LLC DBA BRENDA'S FRENCH SOUL FOOD



Defendant

Name: Brenda Buervigle

Title: Owner

Dated: 2/16/23

JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION



Douglas Han, Esq.

Shunt Tatavos-Gharajeh, Esq.

Halina E. Szymanski, Esq.

Attorneys for Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated

Dated: 2/23/23

DUCKWORTH & PETERS LLP



Thomas Duckworth, Esq.

Patricia Murphy, Esq.

Attorneys for Defendant

EXHIBIT A

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Park v. Brenda's LLC dba Brenda's French Soul Food
Case No. CGC-22-599371

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

*A court authorized this notice. This is not a solicitation.
This is not a lawsuit against you, and you are not being sued.
However, your legal rights are affected by whether you act or don't act.*

TO: All current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of Defendant Brenda's LLC dba Brenda's French Soul Food ("Defendant") within the State of California at any time during the period from October 29, 2017, through March 27, 2023 or preliminary approval, whichever is sooner.

The Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco, has granted preliminary approval of a proposed settlement ("Settlement") of the above-captioned action (the "Action"). Because your rights may be affected by this Settlement, it is important that you read this Notice of Class Action Settlement ("Notice") carefully. The purpose of this Notice is to provide a brief description of the claims alleged in the Action, the key terms of the Settlement, and your rights and options with respect to the Settlement.

YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO MONEY UNDER THE PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT. PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY; IT INFORMS YOU ABOUT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS.

WHAT INFORMATION IS IN THIS NOTICE

1.	What Is This Case About?.....	Page 2
2.	Why Have I Received This Notice?.....	Page 3
3.	What Are My Options?.....	Page 4
4.	Who Are the Attorneys Representing the Parties?.....	Page 5
5.	How Does This Settlement Work?.....	Page 6
6.	How Do I Dispute the Information Included in This Notice?.....	Page 7
7.	How Do I Object to the Settlement?.....	Page 7
8.	How Do I Opt Out or Exclude Myself From This Settlement?.....	Page 8
9.	How Does This Settlement Affect My Rights? What Are the Class Released Claims and PAGA Released Claims?.....	Page 9
	a. Class Released Claims.....	Page 9
	b. PAGA Released Claims.....	Page 9
10.	How Much Can I Expect to Receive From This Settlement?.....	Page 10
	a. How Will My Individual Settlement Share Be Calculated?.....	Page 10
	b. How Will My Portion of the PAGA Payment Be Calculated?.....	Page 11
	c. When Will My Payment From the Settlement Be Mailed?.....	Page 11
11.	How Will the Attorneys for the Class and the Class Representative Be Paid?.....	Page 12
12.	Final Approval Hearing.....	Page 12
13.	Getting More Information.....	Page 12

I. What Is This Case About?

On April 26, 2022, Plaintiff Joshua Park (“Plaintiff”), a former employee of Defendant, filed a wage-and-hour class action lawsuit in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco, alleging violations of: (1) Labor Code sections 510 and 1198 (unpaid overtime); (2) Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a) (unpaid meal period premiums); (3) Labor Code section 226.7 (unpaid rest period premiums); (4) Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 (unpaid minimum wages); (5) Labor Code sections 201 and 202 (final wages not timely paid); (6) Labor Code section 226(a) (non-compliant wage statements); (7) Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 (unreimbursed business expenses); and (8) Business & Professions Code sections 17200.

Plaintiff and Defendant (collectively, the “Parties”) attended a mediation with mediator Mark Rudy on January 26, 2023 to attempt to resolve the claims Plaintiff made against Defendant without going to trial. With the help of the mediator, the Parties successfully negotiated a settlement, some of the terms of which are described in this Notice.

In line with the settlement, Plaintiff provided written notice to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) and Defendant of the specific provisions of the Labor Code he contends were violated and the theories supporting his contentions on January 30, 2023. Within Plaintiff’s written notice, Plaintiff stated his belief Defendant was violating Labor Code provisions related to: (1) properly paying employees for all hours worked; (2) properly calculating and paying minimum wages, overtime wages, and sick leave; (3) properly compensating employees for missed, interrupted, short, and late meal and rest breaks; (4) paying employees all wages due to them in a timely manner; (5) paying employees all earned and unpaid wages in a timely manner upon employees’ discharge or termination; (6) providing employees with complete and accurate wage statements; (7) keeping complete and accurate payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to employees; and (8) reimbursing employees for all necessary business-related costs and expenses. The relevant Labor Code sections are sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 246(l), 510, 512(a), 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802.

Afterwards, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint adding a cause of action for violation of Labor Code section 2698 (Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”)). A PAGA lawsuit is a type of representative lawsuit authorized by Labor Code section 2698, which allows aggrieved employees to file lawsuits to recover civil penalties on behalf of themselves, other employees, and the State of California for violations of the Labor Code. An aggrieved employee is any person who was employed by the alleged Labor Code violator and against whom one or more of the alleged Labor Code violations was committed. An employee who files a PAGA lawsuit is acting as an agent of California’s labor law enforcement agencies, who have the power to initiate an enforcement action directly. Plaintiff’s inclusion of the cause of action for violation of PAGA is based on the Labor Code violations Plaintiff believes Defendant committed, as described in the paragraph above.

Though Plaintiff originally filed a class action-only lawsuit, the Settlement called for a resolution of both class and PAGA claims. A class action is a procedure by which an employee may resolve the claims of other absent employees on a representative basis. A PAGA action is different from a class action in that an employee filing a PAGA action is not resolving the claims of absent employees but is acting as an agent of the State of California to obtain penalties for absent employees for Labor Code violations committed against those employees. Penalties awarded in a PAGA action are measured by the number of Labor Code violations committed by the employer, and a portion of these penalties must be paid to the State of California. In addition, members of a class action have the right to opt out of, or exclude themselves from, the class action. Class members who opt out will not be bound by the terms of any judgment issued by the Court in the class action. Class members who do not opt out will be bound by the terms of any judgment issued and will be

precluded from bringing any claims that were or that could have been brought against the employer in the lawsuit in which the individual was a class member. Aggrieved employees do not have the right to opt out of a PAGA action. However, aggrieved employees retain the right to pursue or recover other remedies available under state or federal law.

The Court has not made any determination as to whether the claims advanced by Plaintiff have any merit. In other words, the Court has not determined whether any laws have been violated, nor has it decided in favor of Plaintiff or Defendant. Instead, both sides agreed to resolve the lawsuit with no decision or admission of who is right or wrong. By agreeing to resolve the lawsuit, all Parties avoid the risks and cost of a trial.

Defendant expressly denies it did anything wrong or that it violated the law and further denies any liability whatsoever to Plaintiff or to the Class. Accordingly, the Settlement constitutes a compromise of disputed claims and should not be construed as an admission of liability on the part of Defendant, by whom all liability is expressly denied.

2. *Why Have I Received This Notice?*

Defendant's personnel records indicate you may be a Class Member. You are a Class Member if you are a current or former hourly-paid or non-exempt employee of Defendant within the State of California at any time during the period from October 29, 2017, through March 27, 2023 or preliminary approval, whichever is sooner ("Class," "Class Members", and "Class Period"). In addition, you are an Eligible Aggrieved Employee if you are a current or former hourly-paid or non-exempt employee of Defendant within the State of California at any time during the period from January 30, 2022, through March 27, 2023 or preliminary approval, whichever is sooner ("Eligible Aggrieved Employees" and "PAGA Period").

A Preliminary Approval Hearing regarding the Settlement – the terms of which the Parties agreed to pursuant to the mediation on January 26, 2023 – was held on [the date of Preliminary Approval], in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco. At the Preliminary Approval Hearing, the Court conditionally certified the Class for settlement purposes only and directed that you receive this Notice. The purpose of this Notice is to inform you of the Settlement and advise you of your rights with respect to the Settlement.

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

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing concerning the Settlement on [the date of final approval hearing] at [time a.m./p.m.] before the Honorable Richard B. Ulmer, Jr. in Department 302 of the San Francisco County Superior Court located at 400 McAllister Street, San Francisco, California 94102 (Civic Center Courthouse).

3. *What Are My Options?*

As a Class Member and/or Eligible Aggrieved Employee, you have options with respect to your involvement in the Settlement. Each option has its consequences, which you should understand before making your decision. The table below summarizes your rights with respect to each option and the steps you must take to select each option. These options are also explained in more detail later in this Notice.

Important Note: Defendant will not retaliate against you in any way for either participating or not participating in this Settlement.

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OPTIONS	CLASS MEMBERS	ELIGIBLE AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES
DO NOTHING	If you do nothing and the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, you will become part of the Action, and the Settlement Administrator will mail you a check for your Individual Settlement Share, which will be based on the total number of workweeks you were employed as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee in California during the Class Period, at your address of record. You will give up your right to pursue the Class Released Claims as defined in Section No. 9 below, meaning you will be unable to sue the Released Parties, including Defendant, for the Class Released Claims.	If you do nothing and the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, you will become part of the Action, and the Settlement Administrator will mail you a check for your portion of the PAGA Payment, which will be based on the total number of pay periods you were employed as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee in California during the PAGA Period, at your address of record. You will give up your right to pursue the PAGA Released Claims as defined in Section No. 9 below, meaning you will be unable to sue the Released Parties, including Defendant, for the PAGA Released Claims.
UPDATE MAILING ADDRESS	You must keep the Settlement Administrator informed of any change of address. The purpose of doing so is to ensure the Settlement Administrator can contact you for, among other things, the proper mailing of your Individual Settlement Share check. You can contact the Settlement Administrator by calling the Settlement Administrator at [phone number].	You must keep the Settlement Administrator informed of any change of address. The purpose of doing so is to ensure the Settlement Administrator can contact you for, among other things, the proper mailing of a check for your portion of the PAGA Payment. You can contact the Settlement Administrator by calling the Settlement Administrator at [phone number].
DISPUTE WORKWEEKS AND/OR PAY PERIODS	If you believe the number of workweeks with which you have been credited, and thereby the amount of your Individual Settlement Share, as provided in this Notice, is inaccurate, you may dispute this information. The procedure for disputing this information is described in Section No. 6 below.	If you believe the number of pay periods with which you have been credited, and thereby the amount of your portion of the PAGA Payment, as provided in this Notice, is inaccurate, you may dispute this information. The procedure for disputing this information is described in Section No. 6 below.
OBJECT	You may object to the Settlement. If you would like to object, you may not opt out of this Settlement. The procedure for objecting to the Settlement is described in Section No. 7 below. If you object and the Court approves the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will mail you your Individual Settlement Share check, and you will give up your right to sue the Released Parties, including	Eligible Aggrieved Employees do not have the right to object to the PAGA portion of the Settlement. If the Court approves the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will mail you a check for your portion of the PAGA Payment, and you will give up your right to sue the Released Parties, including Defendant, for the PAGA Released Claims as defined in Section No. 9 below.

	Defendant, for the Class Released Claims as defined in Section No. 9 below.	
REQUEST EXCLUSION	If you do not want to participate as a Class Member in the Settlement, you may request exclusion from, or opt out of, the Settlement, which will remove you from the Class and this Action. If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will not mail you an Individual Settlement Share, and you will not give up the right to sue the Released Parties, including Defendant, for any of the Class Released Claims as defined in Section No. 9 below. The procedure for requesting exclusion from the Settlement is described in Section No. 7 below.	Eligible Aggrieved Employees do not have the right to request exclusion from, or opt out of, the PAGA portion of the Settlement. If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will mail you a check for your portion of the PAGA Payment, and you will give up the right to sue the Released Parties, including Defendant, for the PAGA Released Claims as defined in Section No. 9 below. Eligible Aggrieved Employees who opt out of the class portion of the Settlement will still be mailed checks for their portions of the PAGA Payment and will give up the right to sue the Released Parties for the PAGA Released Claims.

4. Who Are the Attorneys Representing the Parties?

Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class	Attorneys for Defendant
JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION Douglas Han Shunt Tatavos-Gharajeh Halina Szymanski 751 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 101 Pasadena, California 91103 Telephone: (818) 230-7502 Facsimile: (818) 230-7259	DUCKWORTH & PETERS LLP Thomas Duckworth Patricia Murphy 369 Pine Street, Suite 410 San Francisco, California 94104 Telephone: (415) 433-0333 Facsimile: (310) 449-6556

The Court has decided Justice Law Corporation is qualified to represent Plaintiff, on an individual basis, and you and all other Class Members, on a class-wide basis, simultaneously. Class Counsel is working on behalf of Plaintiff and the Class at large. If you want your own attorney, you may hire one at your own cost.

5. How Does This Settlement Work?

In this Action, Plaintiff sued on behalf of himself and all other similarly situated employees who were employed by Defendant as hourly-paid or non-exempt employees in California at any time during the Class Period. Plaintiff and these other current and former employees comprise a “Class” and are “Class Members.” Those Class Members employed by Defendant as hourly-paid or non-exempt employees in California at any time during the PAGA Period are also “Eligible Aggrieved Employees.”

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The Settlement of this Action is a class and representative action settlement, meaning the Settlement resolves the Class Released Claims of all Class Members, except for those Class Members who exclude themselves from the Class by requesting to be excluded in the manner set forth in Section No. 8 below, as well as the PAGA Released Claims of all Eligible Aggrieved Employees. The Class Released Claims and the PAGA Released Claims are defined in Section No. 9 below. In return for giving up the right to sue the Released Parties for the Class Released Claims, the Class Members who do not decide to exclude themselves from the class portion of the Settlement will be mailed checks for their Individual Settlement Shares. Similarly, in return for giving up the right to sue the Released Parties for the PAGA Released Claims, the Eligible Aggrieved Employees will be mailed checks for their portions of the PAGA Payment.

Because the Settlement is a class and representative action settlement, it differs from a class-only settlement in several ways. For instance, unlike a class-only settlement, the Settlement includes Eligible Aggrieved Employees, a PAGA Payment, and PAGA Released Claims.

Under the terms of the Settlement, the total maximum amount that Defendant will be required to pay is \$450,000 (“Gross Settlement Amount”). Under the terms of the Settlement, \$20,000 from the Gross Settlement Amount will be set aside as the “PAGA Payment.” The PAGA Payment is the total amount of civil penalties collected on behalf of the State of California, seventy-five percent (75%) of which (\$15,000) will be sent to the State of California and twenty-five percent (25%) of which (\$5,000) will be distributed to Eligible Aggrieved Employees based on the number of pay periods they worked during the PAGA Period.

Because the PAGA penalties can only be sought by or on behalf of the State of California, Eligible Aggrieved Employees cannot exclude themselves from the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Therefore, if the Court approves the Settlement, all Eligible Aggrieved Employees will give up the right to sue the Released Parties for the PAGA Released Claims, described in greater detail in Section No. 9 below. However, all Eligible Aggrieved Employees are also Class Members and may still exclude themselves from the class portion of the Settlement and retain the right to sue the Released Parties for the Class Released Claims, described in greater detail in Section No. 9 below.

Because Plaintiff is acting on behalf of the State of California with respect to the representative (PAGA) portion of the Settlement, Plaintiff must also keep the LWDA informed of any legal action taken with respect to the Action and the Settlement. For example, Plaintiff is required to file with the LWDA a copy of the Settlement as well as any revised versions of the Settlement and the papers Plaintiff has filed and will file with the Court to obtain both preliminary and final approval of the Settlement. This is not required for class-only settlements.

6. *How Do I Dispute the Information Included in This Notice?*

Section No. 10 below states the number of workweeks with which you have been credited – meaning the number of workweeks you worked during the Class Period based on Defendant’s records – and the estimated amount of your Individual Settlement Share based on this number of workweeks. If you are also an Eligible Aggrieved Employee, Section No. 10 below also states the number of pay periods with which you have been credited – meaning the number of pay periods you worked during the PAGA Period based on Defendant’s records – and the estimated amount of your portion of the PAGA Payment based on this number of pay periods. If you believe the number of workweeks and/or pay periods with which you have been credited, and the estimated amount of your Individual Settlement Share and/or portion of the PAGA Payment, is inaccurate, you may dispute this information.

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If you choose to dispute the information included in this Notice, you must do so in writing. You must also produce and submit evidence to the Settlement Administrator showing the disputed information is inaccurate. You are permitted to submit copies of such evidence – original versions are not required. If the Settlement Administrator does not receive evidence from you rebutting the disputed information, the number of workweeks and/or pay periods contained in Defendant’s records will be presumed correct, and your challenge will be rejected by the Settlement Administrator. However, if you do submit evidence rebutting the disputed information, the Parties will evaluate this evidence and make the final decision as to the number of workweeks and/or pay periods with which you will be credited. If the Parties cannot agree on the number of workweeks and/or pay periods with which you should be credited, the Court will evaluate the evidence and make the final determination.

Your dispute should be signed and dated and must be mailed along with your supporting evidence by regular U.S. Mail, **postmarked no later than [Response Deadline]** to: **BRENDA’S LLC DBA BRENDA’S FRENCH SOUL FOOD SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR C/O [SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR] [INSERT ADDRESS]**. You are encouraged to keep copies of any and all evidence you submit to the Settlement Administrator.

7. *How Do I Object To The Settlement?*

If you are a Class Member who does not opt out of the Settlement, you may object to the Settlement, personally or through an attorney, by sending a timely objection form to the Settlement Administrator. A form (“NOTICE OF OBJECTION FORM”) (“Objection Form”) has been provided to you along with this Notice, which can be used for this purpose. Alternatively, you can submit your own written document that includes this same information. The Objection Form should be signed and dated and must be mailed by regular U.S. Mail, **postmarked no later than [Response Deadline]** to: **BRENDA’S LLC DBA BRENDA’S FRENCH SOUL FOOD SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR C/O [SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR] [INSERT ADDRESS]**.

The Objection Form should: (1) state the objecting Class Member’s full name, address, and telephone number and the name and address of counsel, if any; (2) describe, in clear and concise terms, the reasons for objecting and the legal and factual arguments supporting the objection; (3) identify any evidence supporting the factual basis for the objection; (3) be signed by the objecting Class Member or his or her attorney; and (5) state whether the objecting Class Member (or someone on his or her behalf) intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing. Though you are encouraged to include all the foregoing information in your objection, the inclusion of all such information is not a condition for the submission of a valid objection.

Class Members may appear at the Final Approval Hearing, either in person or through their own counsel and orally object to the Settlement. Class Members’ timely and valid objections to the Settlement will still be considered even if the objector does not appear at the Final Approval Hearing. Settlement Class Members who fail to object in the manner specified above shall be deemed to have waived any objections and shall be foreclosed from making any objections to the Settlement. Again, to be valid and effective, any written objections must be mailed to the Settlement Administrator postmarked on or before **[Response Deadline]**.

If the Court approves the Settlement, the objecting Class Member will be mailed an Individual Settlement Share and will be bound by the terms of the Settlement, meaning the Class Member will be unable to sue the Released Parties for the Class Released Claims. Eligible Aggrieved Employees do not have the right to object to the PAGA portion of the Settlement. If the Court approves the Settlement, all Eligible Aggrieved Employees will be mailed payments for their

portions of the PAGA Payment and will be bound by the terms of the Settlement, meaning Eligible Aggrieved Employees will be unable to sue the Released Parties for the PAGA Released Claims.

8. *How Do I Opt Out Or Exclude Myself From This Settlement?*

If you do not wish to participate in the class portion of the Settlement, you may be excluded from the class portion of the Settlement (*i.e.*, “opt out”) by sending a timely opt out form to the Settlement Administrator. A form (“ELECTION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN (‘OPT OUT’ FROM) CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT”) (“Exclusion Form”) has been provided to you along with this Notice, which can be used for this purpose. Alternatively, you can submit your own written document that includes this same information. If you opt out of the Settlement, you will not be releasing the claims set forth in Section No. 9. The Exclusion Form should be signed and dated and must be mailed by regular U.S. Mail, **postmarked no later than [Response Deadline]** to: **BRENDA’S LLC DBA BRENDA’S FRENCH SOUL FOOD C/O [SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR] [INSERT ADDRESS]**. You cannot exclude yourself by phone.

The Court will exclude any Class Member who submits a timely Exclusion Form as described in the paragraph above. The Exclusion Form should: (1) include the Class Member’s name, address, and last four digits of the Social Security Number; (2) be addressed to the Settlement Administrator; (3) be signed by the Class Member or his or her lawful representative; and (4) be postmarked no later than the **[Response Deadline]**. Exclusion Forms that are not timely submitted will be deemed null, void, and ineffective.

Class Members may only opt out of the class portion of the Settlement. Class Members who are also Eligible Aggrieved Employees cannot opt out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. In other words, a Class Member who submits a valid and timely Exclusion Form will not release the Class Released Claims, as described in Section No. 9 below. However, if such a Class Member is also an Eligible Aggrieved Employee, the Class Member will still release the PAGA Released Claims, as described in Section No. 9 below.

Any Class Member who fails to submit a valid Exclusion Form on or before **[Response Deadline]** shall be bound by all terms of the Settlement, release, and any Judgment entered in the Action if the Settlement receives final approval from the Court. You are responsible for ensuring the Settlement Administrator receives any request for exclusion you submit.

9. *How Does This Settlement Affect My Rights? What Are the Class Released Claims and PAGA Released*

If the Settlement is approved by the Court, a Final Judgment will be entered by the Court. All Class Members who do not submit a valid and timely request to exclude themselves from the Settlement (“Participating Class Members”) and all Eligible Aggrieved Employees will be bound by the Court’s Final Judgment and will fully release and discharge Defendant and each of its former and current parents, predecessors, successors, all affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, members, agents, employees, stockholders, owners, attorneys, insurers, assigns, and any individual or entity that could be jointly liable with Defendant (“Released Parties”).

All Participating Class Members will release the Released Parties from the Class Released Claims, and all Eligible Aggrieved Employees will release the Released Parties from the PAGA Released Claims as of the Effective Final Settlement Date. The Effective Final Settlement Date shall be the later of the following: (1) the date of entry of the Court’s order granting Final Approval; (2) the date of the running of the appeal period if an objection is made but no appeal is filed; and (3) the Final Judgment becomes final and is no longer subject to appeal if an appeal is filed.

The Class Released Claims and the PAGA Released Claims are defined below.

A. Class Released Claims

As of the Effective Final Settlement Date, in exchange for the consideration provided by the Settlement, Plaintiff and Participating Class Members release the Released Parties, from all claims, rights, demands, damages, liabilities, causes of action, and legal theories, in law or in equity, arising at any time during the Class Period and alleged in the Action, or that could have been alleged or otherwise raised based on the facts pleaded in the Action. These claims include, but are not limited to, violation of all statutes mentioned in the Action and the corresponding provisions of the relevant Wage Orders, including, but not limited to: (1) failure to pay all wages, including minimum wages and overtime wages; (2) failure to properly calculate overtime wages partly due to off-the-clock work; (3) failure to provide meal breaks each day based on the hours worked by each employee, including meal breaks that were short, late, interrupted, and/or missed altogether; (4) failure to authorize and permit legally compliant rest breaks each day based on the hours worked by each employee, including rest breaks that were short, late, interrupted, and/or missed altogether; (5) failure to factor non-discretionary bonuses into the regular rate of pay for overtime compensation and sick leave pay purposes; (6) failure to timely pay wages during employment for each pay period for every employee; (7) failure to timely pay wages upon discharging employees; (8) failure to reimburse employees for all reasonable and necessary business expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties for Defendant; (9) failure to furnish accurate and compliant itemized wage statements; (10) all claims for unfair business practices that could have been premised on the facts, claims, causes of action or legal theories of relief pled in the Action; and (11) all related claims and associated penalties, damages, interest, costs (including attorneys' fees) and other amounts recoverable under said claims or causes of action alleged or which could have been alleged in the Action. The period of the Class Released Claims shall extend to the limits of the Class Period.

The Class Released Claims expressly exclude the PAGA Released Claims, and Participating Class Members will not be deemed to have released the PAGA Released Claims unless such Participating Class Members are also Eligible Aggrieved Employees. Participating Class Members who are also Eligible Aggrieved Employees shall release the PAGA Released Claims, in addition to releasing the Class Released Claims, as defined below.

B. PAGA Released Claims

As of the Effective Final Settlement Date, in exchange for the consideration provided by the Settlement, Plaintiff, LWDA, and any other representative, proxy, or agent thereof, including, but not limited to, any and all Eligible Aggrieved Employees shall release the Released Parties from any claims for and are barred from pursuing any action against the Released Parties for civil penalties under PAGA arising at any time during the PAGA Period and based on or arising out of alleged violations of Labor Code sections alleged in Plaintiff's letter to the LWDA and the Action.

As explained earlier in this Notice, Eligible Aggrieved Employees do not have the right to opt out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Thus, as of the Effective Final Settlement Date, the Eligible Aggrieved Employees will give up the right to sue the Released Parties for the PAGA Released Claims, as described in the paragraph above.

10. How Much Can I Expect to Receive From This Settlement?

As stated in Section No. 5 above, the total maximum amount that Defendant will be required to pay under the Settlement Agreement is \$450,000 ("Gross Settlement Amount").

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The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay the following amounts: (1) \$10,000 Class Representative Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff, subject to Court approval; (2) \$12,000 in Administration Costs to the Settlement Administrator, subject to Court approval; (3) \$20,000 PAGA Payment, seventy-five percent (75%) of which (\$15,000) shall be paid to the LWDA, and twenty-five percent (25%) of which (\$5,000) shall be distributed to Eligible Aggrieved Employees, on a pro rata basis, subject to Court approval; (4) \$157,500 Attorney Fee Award to Class Counsel (35% of the Gross Settlement Amount), subject to Court approval; and (5) \$25,000 Cost Award to Class Counsel, subject to Court approval. The amount that remains after all payments are made is the Net Settlement Amount, which is currently estimated to be \$225,500.

A. How Will My Individual Settlement Share Be Calculated?

The Net Settlement Amount will be paid to the Participating Class Members in the form of Individual Settlement Shares. If the Court approves any of the above-referenced payments in smaller amounts, the Net Settlement Amount will be larger. The Settlement Administrator will mail each Participating Class Member an Individual Settlement Share from the Net Settlement Amount that is equal to: (1) the number of weeks he or she worked during the Class Period based on the Class List provided by Defendant; (2) divided by the total number of weeks worked by any and all Participating Class Members collectively during the Class Period based on the same Class List; (3) which is then multiplied by the Net Settlement Amount. One day worked in a given week will be credited as a week for purposes of this calculation. Therefore, the value of each Participating Class Member's Individual Settlement Share ties directly to the number of weeks that he or she worked.

Although your exact share of the Net Settlement Amount cannot be precisely calculated until after the time during which Class Members may submit disputes to, objections to, or requests for exclusion from the Settlement concludes, based upon the calculation above, your estimated Individual Settlement Share from the Net Settlement Amount is \$ [REDACTED], less taxes. This is based on Defendant's records, which show you worked [REDACTED] workweeks during the Class Period. The amount of your Individual Settlement Share will change if Class Members opt out of the class portion of the Settlement, if workweek estimates change, and/or if the Court does not approve all the above-referenced payments from the Gross Settlement Amount in full.

Twenty percent (20%) of your Individual Settlement Share will be treated as unpaid wages. Applicable taxes will be withheld from the wages portion of your Individual Settlement Share only and reported on an IRS Form W-2. Eighty percent (80%) of your Individual Settlement Share will be treated as interest and penalties, both of which will be paid pursuant to an IRS Form 1099.

The Settlement Administrator will mail your Individual Settlement Share check to the address the Settlement Administrator has on record for you. Therefore, it is important that you keep the Settlement Administrator informed of any change of address.

B. How Will My Portion of the PAGA Payment Be Calculated?

The Settlement Administrator will mail each Eligible Aggrieved Employee a check for the Eligible Aggrieved Employee's portion of the PAGA Payment, which will be based upon the total number of pay periods the Eligible Aggrieved Employee was employed during the PAGA Period. Each Eligible Aggrieved Employee's portion of the PAGA Payment will be calculated by: (1) determining the total number of pay periods the Eligible Aggrieved Employees were employed during the PAGA Period (*i.e.*, the sum of all pay periods of employment for each eligible aggrieved employee); (2) dividing that number by the \$5,000 amount allocated to Eligible Aggrieved Employees to determine the

monetary value assigned to each pay period; and (3) multiplying that number by the individual eligible aggrieved employee's total number of pay periods employed during the PAGA Period.

Based upon the calculation above, your estimated portion of the PAGA Payment is \$ [REDACTED]. This is based on Defendant's records, which show you were employed during [REDACTED] pay periods during the PAGA Period. One hundred percent (100%) of this payment will be considered penalties, and you will be issued an IRS Form 1099 if your payment exceeds \$600. You are responsible for paying any federal, state, or local taxes owed because of this payment.

The Settlement Administrator will mail a check for your portion of the PAGA Payment to the address the Settlement Administrator has on record for you. Therefore, it is important that you keep the Settlement Administrator informed of any change of address.

If you are not an Eligible Aggrieved Employee, this subsection does not apply to you.

C. When Will My Payment From the Settlement Be Mailed?

No later than fourteen (14) calendar days after the Effective Final Settlement Date, Defendant shall deposit the Gross Settlement Amount of \$450,000 needed to pay the entire Gross Settlement Amount by wiring the funds to the Settlement Administrator. Defendant shall also at this time provide any tax information that the Settlement Administrator may need to calculate each Participating Class Member's Individual Settlement Share.

Within fourteen (14) calendar days after the funding of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator shall calculate and pay all payments due under the Settlement Agreement, including all Individual Settlement Shares, Attorney Fee Award, Cost Award, Class Representative Enhancement Payment, PAGA Payment, and Administration Costs. The Settlement Administrator will also forward a check for the PAGA Payment to the LWDA for settlement of the PAGA claim.

It is strongly recommended that upon receipt of your Individual Settlement Share check and, if you are an Eligible Aggrieved Employee, your check for your portion of the PAGA Payment, you cash your check(s) immediately or before the 180-day void date shown on each check. If any checks remain uncashed or not deposited by the expiration of the 180-day period after mailing, the Settlement Administrator will, within two hundred (200) calendar days after the checks are mailed, cancel the checks, and reissue the checks to those Participating Class Members and Eligible Aggrieved Employees who have cashed their checks. The second round of checks will expire and become non-negotiable after thirty (30) calendar days. The Settlement Administrator will, within forty-five (45) calendar days after the second round of checks are mailed, cancel the checks, and pay the amount of the residual Individual Settlement Share(s) to the State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund.

11. How Will the Attorneys for the Class and the Class Representative Be Paid?

The attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. Subject to Court approval, the attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class shall be paid an amount not to exceed thirty-five percent (35%) of the Gross Settlement Amount (or \$157,500) for attorneys' fees and up to \$25,000 for litigation costs.

Defendant has paid all its own attorneys' fees and costs.

As set forth in Section No. 10 above, Plaintiff will also be paid a Class Representative Enhancement Payment, subject to Court approval.

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12. Final Approval Hearing

The Court will hold a Final Fairness Hearing concerning the Settlement on [the date of final approval hearing] at [time a.m./p.m.] before the Honorable Richard B. Ulmer, Jr. in Department 302 of the San Francisco County Superior Court located at 400 McAllister Street, San Francisco, California 94102 (Civic Center Courthouse). You are not required to appear at this hearing. Any changes to the hearing date will be available on the Settlement Administrator's website [INSERT WEBSITE ADDRESS]. This website will also include, among other things, both the complaint Plaintiff originally filed on April 26, 2022 along with the First Amended Complaint, a generic copy of this Notice, all papers filed in connection with the preliminary approval motion (including all orders filed by the Court), all papers filed in connection with the Final Approval Hearing (including the fee motion and the final approval motion), and, if the Settlement is approved, the Final Judgment.

13. Getting More Information

IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, you may contact the Settlement Administrator at the telephone number listed below, toll free. Please refer to the "Brenda's LLC dba Brenda's French Soul Food class action settlement."

This Notice does not contain all the terms of the Settlement or all the details of these proceedings. For more detailed information, you may refer to the underlying documents and papers on file with the Civil Records Division of the San Francisco County Superior Court at 400 McAllister Street, Room 103, San Francisco, California 94102 between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

You also visit the Court's civil records webpage <https://www.sfsuperiorcourt.org/divisions/civil/records>. You can also access the Court's file free-of-charge by visiting the Court's website <https://www.sfsuperiorcourt.org/online-services>; clicking "Access Now" on the right side of the box entitled "Case Query"; checking the box stating, "I'm not a robot"; typing in the case number of the Action (CGC-22-599371) in the box provided for "Case Number" using the "Search by Case Number" tab; and clicking "Search." This will take you to a "Register of Actions" page where you can view all documents and papers on file with the Court with respect to the Action. You can also use the "Search by Case Name" tab by typing in "Joshua Park" in the box provided for "Party Name" and clicking "Search." Only one result "JOSHUA PARK, INDIVIDUALLY, AND ON BEHALF OF OTHER" will come up. Click on the case "JOSHUA PARK, INDIVIDUALLY, AND ON BEHALF OF OTHER." This will take you to the same "Register of Actions" page previously described.

You may also contact Class Counsel with any questions you may have regarding the Action, the Settlement of the Action, or this Notice or any other documents or information you have received pertaining to the Action and the Settlement. You may contact Class Counsel directly by visiting Justice Law Corporation at 751 North Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 101, Pasadena, California 91103 during regular business hours, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., or by calling (818) 230-7502. Class Counsel's contact information is also included above in Section No. 4 of this Notice. Class Counsel will provide you with an electronic copy of the Settlement documents or case documents free of charge.

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT OR COURT'S CLERK FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SETTLEMENT.

EXHIBIT B

ELECTION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ("OPT OUT" FROM) CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Francisco

Park v. Brenda's LLC dba Brenda's French Soul Food

Case No. CGC-22-599371

DO NOT SIGN OR SEND THIS DOCUMENT UNLESS YOU WISH TO EXCLUDE YOURSELF FROM THE CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT.

THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN [REDACTED]. IT MUST BE SENT VIA REGULAR U.S. MAIL.

**PLEASE MAIL THIS EXCLUSION FORM VIA REGULAR U.S. MAIL TO:
BRENDA'S LLC DBA BRENDA'S FRENCH SOUL FOOD SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR C/O
[SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR]
[INSERT ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESS]**

You are a Class Member if you are a current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employee of Defendant within the State of California at any time during the period from October 29, 2017, through March 27, 2023 or preliminary approval, whichever is sooner ("Class," "Class Members" and "Class Period"). You are an Eligible Aggrieved Employee if you are a current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employee of Defendant within the State of California at any time during the period from January 30, 2022, through March 27, 2023 or preliminary approval, whichever is sooner ("Eligible Aggrieved Employees" and "PAGA Period"). By signing and mailing this document to the Settlement Administrator at the address above, you are deciding to exclude yourself from the Class and deciding not to participate in the class portion of the settlement of the action entitled *Park v. Brenda's LLC dba Brenda's French Soul Food*. However, Eligible Aggrieved Employees may not exclude themselves from the PAGA portion of the settlement.

IT IS MY DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CLASS PORTION OF THE SETTLEMENT, AND NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CLASS OF CLASS MEMBERS IN THAT ACTION. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY EXCLUDING MYSELF, I WILL NOT RECEIVE AN INDIVIDUAL SETTLEMENT SHARE AND ANY CLAIMS I HAVE DURING THE CLASS PERIOD WILL NOT BE RELEASED.

However, if I am an Eligible Aggrieved Employee and qualify for a payment from the PAGA Payment, I will be mailed a check for that payment regardless of whether or not I exclude myself from the class portion of the settlement, and I will release the PAGA Released Claims.

Dated: _____

(Signature)

(Last Four Digits of Social Security
Number)

(Type or print name and former names(s))

(Type or print name of authorized
representative, if any)

(Telephone Number)

(Address)

(Addressed Continued)

EXHIBIT C

NOTICE OF OBJECTION FORM

Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Francisco

Park v. Brenda's LLC dba Brenda's French Soul Food

Case No. CGC-22-599371

**TO OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT, YOU MAY FILL OUT, SIGN AND RETURN
THIS FORM, POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE [INSERT DATE] TO:
BRENDA'S LLC DBA BRENDA'S FRENCH SOUL FOOD SETTLEMENT
ADMINISTRATOR C/O
[SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR]
[INSERT ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESS]**

You do not have the right to object to the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Please verify and/or complete any missing identifying information:

Dated: _____

(Signature)

(Last Four Digits of Social Security
Number)

(Type or print name and former names(s))

(Type or print name of authorized
representative, if any)

(Telephone Number)

(Address)

(Addressed Continued)

**THIS FORM IS TO BE USED ONLY IF YOU WANT TO OBJECT TO THE
SETTLEMENT.**

I object to the settlement for the following reasons:

(Attach additional pages and copies of any supporting documents, if necessary.)

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I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is 751 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 101, Pasadena, CA 91103 and my electronic service address is aokada@justicelawcorp.com

JOINT STIPULATION AND CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

on interested parties in this action by electronically submitting as follows:

[X] BY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION
Pursuant to California Senate Bill No. 836, I caused the documents described above to be electronically submitted by and through the procedure stated on the website of the State of California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

[X] STATE
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Executed on March 9, 2023, at Pasadena, California.

Am Am

Anna Okada