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16 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

17
18 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
19 **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

20 RODOLFO PONCE, individually, on behalf of
21 all others similarly situated, and on behalf of the
22 State of California and other aggrieved persons

23 Plaintiff,

24 v.

25 YOUBAR, INC., a California corporation; and
26 DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

27 Defendants.

Case No.: 22STCV37519

Assigned for all purposes to:
Hon. Stuart M. Rice
Dept. 1

**DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF
RODOLFO PONCE IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION AND PAGA
SETTLEMENT**

FINAL APPROVAL HEARING

Date: September 19, 2025

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Dept: 1

1 I, Rodolfo Ponce, declare as follows:

2 1. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration and could and
3 would competently testify to them under oath if called as a witness. I submit this declaration in
4 support of my Motion for Final Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement.

5 **Risks, Both Financial and Otherwise, Faced in Bringing the Suit**

6 2. When I decided to become involved in this lawsuit as a class representative on behalf
7 of other employees of YouBar, Inc. (“Defendant”) and as a private attorney general for the State of
8 California, I understood that I was not only seeking unpaid wages and penalties on behalf of myself,
9 but also for other employees who worked for Defendant, and that by doing so, I would be delaying
10 more immediate recovery available to me through the Labor Commissioner’s office.

11 3. I was also made aware that being a class representative and private attorney general
12 in an action filed on behalf of others would subject me to a stigma that is sometimes associated with
13 those who bring these kinds of lawsuits. I was aware that, as a class representative and private
14 attorney general, I might be responsible for some or all of Defendant’s legal costs if the case was not
15 successfully concluded. Even with knowledge of these risks, I was willing to go forward and to act
16 on behalf of the other employees and the State of California, but I was nervous about losing and
17 having a judgment filed against me for costs or losing job opportunities in the future.

18 4. I understood that there were risks involved in class and representative action lawsuits.
19 I understood that the lawsuit could continue for several years and require my services and attention
20 throughout the entire length of the lawsuit. I learned that even if we won at trial, the case could be
21 further delayed by appeals.

22 **Notoriety and Personal Difficulties Encountered**

23 5. As the named plaintiff, I am the face of the litigation. Additionally, the class notice
24 that was mailed in this case was sent to 428 current and former employees of Defendant. The notice
25 informed all of these employees that I filed a class and representative action against Defendant.
26 Exposing myself to this kind of publicity creates a risk for my future career prospects, since current
27 and former employees of Defendant may move to different companies within the industry or may
28 know people at other companies within the industry who may not want to hire someone who sued

his employer.

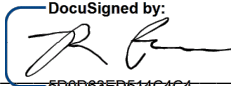
Amount of Time and Effort Spent and Duration of the Litigation

6. I have spent a substantial amount of time and effort on this litigation. My work on this case has included, among other things, gathering and providing my employment records, discussing potential witnesses, reviewing discovery information, assisting my attorneys prepare for mediation, and participating in settlement discussions. After mediation, I remained actively involved by reviewing the settlement papers and amended settlement papers and regularly contacted my counsel for updates. I estimate that since I retained my counsel in October 2022, I have spent approximately 45-50 hours on the activities described above.

Personal Benefit Received as a Result of the Litigation

7. Absent the requested service payment, the personal benefit I will receive is the same as all other employees. But unlike the other employees, I have signed a general release for Defendant. The other employees are only releasing the wage and hour claims asserted in the lawsuit.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on 9/7/2025, at Pomona, California.

DocuSigned by:

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 RODOLFO PONCE