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8 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
9 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

10 MICHELLE VELASQUEZ, individually and on ) NO. 23STCV05507  
11 behalf of all similarly situated individuals, )  
12 Plaintiffs, ) PLAINTIFF MICHELLE VELASQUEZ'S  
13 v. ) NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION FOR  
14 THE TOX CORPORATION, THE TOX ) PRELIMINARY APPROVAL;  
15 HOLDINGS, LLC, THE TOX LA MELROSE ) MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND  
16 PLACE, LLC, and DOES 1 to 100, ) AUTHORITIES; DECLARATION OF  
17 Defendants. ) ADAM ROSE; PROPOSED ORDER  
18 ) Date: May 28, 2024  
19 ) Time: 10:00 a.m.  
20 ) Dept: SSC7  
21 )  
22 )  
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TO ALL PARTIES AND TO THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on May 28, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in Department 7 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, 312 N. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, plaintiff Michelle Velasquez will move the court pursuant to Rule of Court 3.769(c) and Code of Civil Procedure section 382 for an order for the following: (1) preliminarily approving the settlement, (2) provisionally certifying the class, (3) approving the class notice and dissemination plan, (4) appointing the class representative and class counsel, (5) appointing a settlement administrator, and (6) scheduling a final approval hearing.

1           The motion will be unopposed and is based on the memorandum of points and authorities  
2 and the declaration of Adam Rose with exhibits including the settlement agreement and proposed  
3 notice to class members.

4  
5 Date: April 2, 2024

FRONTIER LAW CENTER

6  
7           /s/ Adam Rose  
8           Attorney for Plaintiff  
9           Michelle Velasquez  
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1 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

2 I. INTRODUCTION

3 Plaintiff Michelle Velasquez seeks preliminary approval of a \$145,000 settlement involving  
4 work at The Tox massage studios, which provide upscale body sculpting services in Studio City,  
5 West Hollywood, and Walnut Creek. The settlement will provide a recovery to the employees who  
6 comprise the 64 class members who worked at Tox’s locations within the class period, which is  
7 from March 13, 2019 to January 30, 2024 (“the class period”).

8 The class includes all individuals who worked for any of the Tox locations as nonexempt  
9 employees during the class period. Similarly, the PAGA aggrieved employees are all nonexempt  
10 individuals employed at The Tox locations anytime from May 13, 2022 to January 30, 2024 (“the  
11 PAGA period”). Defendants represented there are 39 aggrieved employees.

12 The settlement was reached after an all-day mediation with experienced employment law  
13 mediator Deborah Saxe on October 30, 2023. The case did not settle at the mediation, however  
14 pending further settlement discussions, the settlement was reached in principle on November 16,  
15 2023. The settlement includes a separate release of Plaintiff’s contemplated wrongful termination  
16 claim. Subsequently, versions of the settlement agreements were circulated. Finally, the settlement  
17 agreements were recently signed (and the signed class action settlement is attached).

18 As explained further below, the settlement was reached after an informal exchange of data,  
19 which is described more fully below. The settlement is strongly supported by experienced counsel,  
20 who considered the strength of the claims and potential defenses, as well as the risks of continued  
21 litigation. Thus, the settlement satisfies all the criteria for preliminary approval.

22  
23 II. BACKGROUND

24 Plaintiff worked at The Tox locations in Studio City and West Hollywood from May 2022  
25 to the end of October 2022. The employment law claims are explained further below. Nonetheless,  
26 on February 27, 2023, Plaintiff filed an initial notice with the Labor and Workforce Development  
27 Agency that explained the basis for PAGA penalties and sent the letter by certified mail to The Tox  
28 Corporation, The Tox Holdings, LLC, and The Tox LA Melrose Place, LLC (“The Tox”).

1           Thereafter, the case was filed on March 13, 2023. The after the complaint was served, The  
2 Tox indicated there would be a contemplated cross-complaint for trade secret misappropriation.  
3 The parties agreed to stay the filing of any further pleadings subject to the initial status conference  
4 order and the fact that Plaintiff would file a first amended complaint to include PAGA allegations.

5           Thus, the first amended complaint to include PAGA allegations was filed on July 17, 2023,  
6 and thereafter uploaded the first amended complaint to the LWDA website. The parties met and  
7 conferred further regarding the contemplated cross-complaint and agreed to a further stay pending  
8 mediation. Deborah Saxe of JAMS was selected as the mediator, and Plaintiff requested the  
9 informal production of data in advance of the mediation.

10           Thereafter, The Tox produced the following for the mediation: 1) a sampling of wage  
11 statements, 2) a sampling of time sheets, and 3) the employee handbook. Plaintiff's expert analyzed  
12 the data to help perform a damages analysis to determine the maximum liability.

13           The allegations are that Plaintiff and the similarly situated employees were prevented from  
14 taking meal and rest breaks and could even be penalized for taking breaks, there was off the clock  
15 work, and that derivative wage statement, waiting time, and PAGA penalties applied.

16           Of course, the substance of what was discussed during the mediation is privileged  
17 information. However, there was a forthright discussion of the strengths and risks of proceeding  
18 further, and key points related to the strengths and risks is described below. Plaintiff's counsel  
19 strongly believes the settlement is in the best interests of the class and aggrieved employees, given  
20 the risks that might have arisen down the line.

21  
22       III.    THE SETTLEMENT TERMS

23           For the class/PAGA settlement, The Tox will pay a total of \$145,000 on a non-reversionary  
24 basis within 20 days after the settlement agreement's effective date. From the gross amount, the  
25 distributions are the following: 1) \$3,000 to class representative Michelle Velasquez as a service  
26 enhancement, 2) \$10,000 as the PAGA allocation, 3) \$47,850 for attorney fees, 4) \$18,000 for  
27 costs, 5) and \$5,750 for settlement administration. This leaves a net settlement amount of \$69,400  
28 to share among the 64 class members with an average recovery of \$1,085.

1 The net settlement amount will be distributed on a pro rata basis, with those who already  
2 signed releases with The Tox receiving approximately one-fifth of the amount to be received from  
3 those who did not signed releases. Thereafter, 30% of each class members' payment will be  
4 allocated to wages (W-2) and 70% of each payment will be allocated to interest, penalties, and  
5 other non-wages (Form 1099).

6 The Tox's records, including pay period data, are presumed accurate as they are regularly  
7 kept business records. Also, if any class member disputes the accuracy of The Tox's records, they  
8 will have the burden to establish otherwise with documentary evidence. All workweek disputes will  
9 be resolved and decided by the settlement administrator.

10 If any Class Members do not cash or otherwise negotiate their Settlement Award checks  
11 after the 180-day expiration date and their checks are not returned, their checks will be void and a  
12 stop-payment will be placed. In such event, the amounts associated with unclaimed Settlement  
13 Award checks shall be donated cy pres to a nonprofit charity to be agreed upon by the parties –  
14 here, the parties agree to L.A. Works as the cy pres recipient: <https://www.lawworks.com/>

15  
16 A. Scope of the Class Release

17 As stated in paragraph 29 of the settlement agreement, "Released Class Claims" means all  
18 claims and/or causes of action occurring during the Class Period under any federal, state or local  
19 law or administrative order that were or could have been plead based on the facts alleged in the  
20 operative class action and PAGA Complaint and amendments, PAGA notice letters and  
21 amendments, and administrative claims, whether known or unknown, including the failure to pay  
22 overtime wages at the correct regular rate of pay, provide meal and rest breaks, failure to provide  
23 accurate wage statements, the failure to pay meal and rest period premiums at the appropriate rate  
24 of pay, failure to pay for time performed off the clock, work expenditure reimbursement  
25 violations, waiting time violations and any other claims whatsoever that were or could have been  
26 alleged in this case, including claims for restitution and other equitable relief under Business and  
27 Professions Code section 17200, conversion, liquidated damages, punitive damages, waiting-time  
28 penalties, penalties under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, and claims

and/or penalties of any nature whatsoever based on the facts alleged in the operative class action and PAGA complaint under California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, et seq., 17203; Labor Code sections 200-204, 206.5, 210, 218.5, 226-226.5, 226.7, 351-356, 510, et seq., 512, 515, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2802, and 2698, et seq.; Code of Civil Procedure sections 382, 474, 1021.5; IWC Wage Orders No. 4; Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. sections 201, et seq., as well as any damages, restitution, disgorgement, civil penalties, statutory penalties, taxes, interest or attorneys' fees or costs resulting therefrom.

Consequently, the settlement terms satisfy the criteria for preliminary approval.

#### IV. PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT IS APPROPRIATE

The purpose of preliminary evaluation of class action settlements is to determine whether the proposed settlement is within the range of possible approval, whether notice to the class of the settlement terms and conditions should be sent, and to the schedule a fairness hearing. (*Wershba v. Apple Computer, Inc.* (2001) 91 Cal. App. 4th 224, 234-35.)

For determining whether a class settlement is fair, adequate and reasonable, a court must be provided with "basic information about the nature and magnitude of the claims in question and the basis for concluding that the consideration being paid for the release of those claims represents a reasonable compromise." (*Clark v. American Residential Services LLC* (2009) 175 Cal. App. 4th 785, 799.) Thus, the court exercises discretion through applying several well-recognized factors when deciding whether a class action settlement is fair. (*Id.* at 799.)

The list of factors, which is not exhaustive and should be tailored to each case, includes the strength of plaintiff's case, the risk, expense, complexity and likely duration of further litigation, the risk of maintaining class action status through trial, the amount offered in settlement, the extent of discovery completed and the stage of the proceedings, the experience and views of counsel, the presence of a governmental participant, and the reaction of the class members to the proposed settlement. (*Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal. App. 4th 116, 128.)

The most important factor in determining whether to approve a class action settlement is the strength of the case for plaintiff on the merits, balanced against the amount offered in settlement.

(*Munoz v. BCI Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Los Angeles*, 186 Cal. App. 4th (2010) 399, 407-408; *Kullar, supra*, 168 Cal. App. 4th at 130.) This is analyzed below.

A. A Settlement Resulting from Informed, Arms' Length Negotiations Is Presumptively Fair

Courts recognize that a presumption of fairness exists where (1) the settlement is reached through arm's-length bargaining; (2) sufficient investigation allows counsel and the court to act intelligently; (3) counsel is experienced in similar litigation; and (4) the percentage of objectors is small. (*Dunk v. Ford Motor Co.* (1996) 48 Cal. App. 4th 1794, 1802.) "[W]hat transpires in settlement negotiations [including mediation] is highly relevant to the assessment of a proposed settlement's fairness." (*State v. Levi Strauss & Co.* (1986) 41 Cal. 3d 460, 482.) It follows that there is a presumption that the settlement negotiations were conducted in good faith. (*Newberg on Class Actions* § 13:45 (5th ed. 2011-2017).)

As stated above, the parties participated in an all-day mediation with Deborah Saxe of JAMS on October 30, 2023. Although the case did not settle at mediation, it subsequently settled in principle based on a mediator's proposal on November 16, 2023. The settlement encompasses an individual portion based a retaliation claim, and the class/PAGA settlement which is the subject of this motion as the negotiations were thorough and conducted at arm's length between attorneys with substantial wage and hour class action experience.

B. The Parties Settled After Factual Investigation and Informal Discovery

There is a presumption that a proposed settlement is fair and reasonable when there was an investigation and discovery to permit counsel and the court to act intelligently, and counsel are experienced in similar litigation. (*Dunk, supra*, 48 Cal. App. 4th at p. 1802.)

Pursuant to the Parties' agreement to an informal exchange of information prior to mediation, Defendants produced the following data: 1) a sampling of time sheets, 2) a sampling of wage statements, 3) the relevant excerpts from employee handbook. Plaintiff used this data to create a damages model regarding the maximum liability, and the maximum was contrasted with the risks of proceeding further which are explained below.

1 C. Class Counsel is Highly Experienced and Support Preliminary Approval

2 Plaintiff and the class are represented by well-qualified counsel with experience in wage  
3 and hour class action litigation. Class counsel's recommendations receive a presumption of  
4 reasonableness when there is familiarity with the lawsuit, are competent, have ample experience  
5 with the type of litigation, and discovery has been completed. (*Boyd v. Bechtel Corp.* (N.D. Cal.  
6 1979) 485 F.Supp.610; *Newberg on Class Actions* § 13:53 (5th ed. 2011-2017).)

7  
8 D. The Settlement Provides Significant Monetary Relief to the Class

9 The party seeking approval provides information about the nature of the claims and the  
10 asserted basis for concluding that the settlement is fair. (*Kullar, supra*, 168 Cal. App. 4th at p. 133.)  
11 A settlement is not judged against what might have been recovered at trial and does not have to  
12 provide 100% of the damages sought. (*Wershba, supra*, 91 Cal.App.4th at p. 250.)

13  
14 1. The Risks of Proceeding Further

15 There were four primary components to the case: 1) unpaid off the clock work, 2) missed  
16 meal breaks, 3) missed rest breaks, and 4) derivate penalties.

17  
18 a. Off the Clock Claim

19 The risk Plaintiff faced for the unpaid off the work claim is that is it mostly hearsay.  
20 Although Plaintiff maintained that she and other would have to stay beyond their scheduled shifts,  
21 there are no documents to show that work off the clock occurred. Plaintiff's position is that  
22 Defendant did not utilize a proper timekeeping system to track Class Members' hours, but there is  
23 no evidence to contradict the timekeeping records.

24 Plaintiff's position is also that there were occasions where she and others worked over eight  
25 hours a day without receiving overtime, but the allegation is based on appointment calendars rather  
26 than timekeeping systems. Using an assumption of 30 minutes of off the clock work per shift with  
27 an FTE (full time equivalent) count of 30, Plaintiff theorized that the maximum liability was  
28 \$385,532.26. Yet given the risks above, a more realistic maximum liability is 30% of this amount,

1 or \$115,659.85. The reason to reduce to 30% is the alleged off the clock work occurred roughly a  
2 third of the time, and some of the class members already signed releases with Defendants.

3 The above pose risks and complexity if the settlement is not approved, since it will require a  
4 rather in-depth survey of the class members to determine they had similar experiences from what  
5 Plaintiff stated.

6  
7 b. Missed Meal Breaks

8 Plaintiff claimed that she and other were required to work through any alleged meal breaks,  
9 and even if time records showed clocking out for meal breaks they were instructed to keep working  
10 for service appointments. Like the off-the-clock claim, the risk with the missed breaks is that a  
11 survey would be necessary to determine if the class members had similar experiences with working  
12 through breaks when the timekeeping showed they were clocked out.

13 Plaintiff valued the maximum liability for the missed meal breaks claim at \$187,648.98  
14 assuming a meal break violation rate of 43%. Even with this violation rate, Defendants still had a  
15 meal break policy within the employee handbook, and time records generally showed meal periods  
16 when employees worked more than six hours a day. Thus, a more realistic meal break violation rate  
17 is half of the above number or \$93,824.49, since some of the class members may not have  
18 experienced the violations, and some of the class members signed releases with Defendants.

19  
20 c. Missed Rest Breaks

21 Plaintiff claimed that she and the class members could not take ten-minute rest periods  
22 during their shifts, as appointments were back-to-back. Again, the risk is that Plaintiff's experience  
23 might not comport with other class members' work experiences.

24 Plaintiff valued the maximum liability for the rest breaks claim at \$643,788.55. Plaintiff  
25 places perhaps the strongest value on the rest break claim, since the service appointments were  
26 actually scheduled back-to-back, although that did not occur every day. Assuming the back-to-back  
27 appointments occurred 75% of the time (about 3.5 days a week), the adjusted maximum liability is  
28 \$482,841.41.

1       d. Waiting Time Penalties

2           Plaintiff claimed that after she stopped working for Defendants, they willfully did not pay  
3 the unpaid off the clock wages, and the premium pay for missed meal and rest breaks. The risk with  
4 the waiting time penalty cause of action is that some degree of willfulness must be shown, and  
5 there is a possibility of no willfulness if there were no off the clock work or missed breaks.

6           Plaintiff valued the maximum liability for the waiting time penalties at \$80,985.60 given  
7 the relatively low amount of former employees. Further, with the risk that there was no willful  
8 nonpayment of wages, this amount would decrease by approximately a third to \$53,994.40 since  
9 there is a possibility that one-third of the former employees did not experience the same type of off  
10 the clock work or missed meal and rest breaks.

11  
12       e. Wage Statement Penalties

13           Plaintiff claimed that the wage statements were inaccurate since they did not list the off the  
14 clock work or missed meal and rest breaks. Plaintiff valued the maximum liability for wage  
15 statement violations at \$140,350.

16           Similar to the waiting time penalties, for wage statement penalties there must be a knowing  
17 and intentional violation. Plaintiff would need to show that Defendants consciously chose not to  
18 include off-the-clock work and missed breaks, in addition to proving there actually was off the  
19 clock work and missed breaks.

20           Given the risk that roughly half of the class members would not echo Plaintiff's experience,  
21 coupled with the fact that some of the class members already signed individual releases with  
22 Defendants, leads to the ineluctable conclusion that the maximum liability should be reduced by  
23 roughly half the amount to account for the risks. The adjusted maximum is \$70,175.

24  
25       f. PAGA Penalties

26           Succeeding on the PAGA penalties cause of action would be dependent in proving the  
27 underlying claims. The valuation of PAGA penalties is by nature quite high. Plaintiff valued the  
28 maximum PAGA penalties at \$840,560.40.

1 Given the risks above, namely that some of the employees would not corroborate the off the  
2 clock work and missed meal and rest breaks, coupled with the fact that some of the employees  
3 signed individual releases with Defendants, the maximum PAGA penalties should be  
4 correspondingly reduced by half to \$480,280.20.

5 The PAGA allocation in the settlement agreement is \$10,000. This represents 6.8% of the  
6 gross settlement. The PAGA allocation is fair since the amount of PAGA aggrieved employees  
7 comprise 60% of the class, and the class is already receiving an arguably excellent recovery of  
8 approximately \$1,085 each. Thus, Plaintiff submits the PAGA allocation is fair.

9  
10 2. Discussion of *Kullar* Factors

11 For determining the fairness of a class action settlement, courts evaluate the following  
12 factors: a) strength of the case, b) the risk, expenses, complexity and likely duration of further  
13 litigation, c) risk of maintaining class action status through trial, d) the amount offered in  
14 settlement, e) the extent of discovery completed and the stage of the proceedings, f) the experience  
15 and views of counsel, g) the presence of a governmental participant, and h) the reaction of the class  
16 members to the proposed settlement.

17  
18 a. Strengths of the Case

19 The strengths are discussed above; namely that the service appointments are apparently  
20 scheduled in a back-to-back manner which seems to imply that that breaks, if any, were on-duty  
21 meaning the employees were not relieved of all duties.

22  
23 b. Risks of Further Litigation

24 As explained above, a survey would be required to determine if other employees  
25 experienced similar off-the-clock and missed break episodes. This could be both costly and risky,  
26 since it is possible a portion of the employees may not have similar accounts. Even if some of the  
27 employees did not have similar experiences, the off-the-clock work might be hard to gauge without  
28 corroborating time records.

1 c. Risk of Maintaining Class Action Status Through Trial

2 There could be an issue with typicality, consistent with the risks above. Typicality relates to  
3 each class member's claim arising from the same course of events. If some of the class members  
4 did not have the same experiences as Plaintiff, there is could be a typicality issue.

5  
6 d. Extent of Discovery Contemplated and the Stage of Proceedings

7 After the first amended complaint was filed, the parties discussed attending mediation. The  
8 mediation was ultimately scheduled, and the case is waiting for preliminary approval.

9  
10 e. Experience and Views of Counsel

11 As explained in the attached declaration of Adam Rose, the settlement is strongly supported  
12 by class counsel.

13  
14 f. Presence of a Governmental Participant

15 The Labor and Workforce Development Agency did not choose to investigate the PAGA  
16 allegations, so there is no governmental participant.

17  
18 g. Reaction of the Class Members to the Proposed Settlement

19 No class member has commented on the proposed settlement.

20  
21 3. The Settlement is Within the Range of Reasonableness

22 The total unadjusted maximum liability, including PAGA penalties, is \$2,278,865.79. The  
23 total adjusted maximum liability is \$1,296,775.35. The gross settlement of \$145,000 is 6.3% of the  
24 unadjusted maximum liability, and 11.1% of the adjusted maximum liability. Both figures are  
25 within the range of reasonableness; the inquiry evaluates the relative strengths and weaknesses of  
26 the case; it may be reasonable to settle a weak claim for relatively little, while it is not reasonable to  
27 settle a strong claim for the same amount.” (*Cotter v. Lyft, Inc.* (N.D. Cal. 2016) 176 F.Supp.3d  
28 930, 935.) Given the risks set forth above, the settlement is in the range of reasonableness.

1 4. The Settlement is the Result of Serious Negotiations, Has No Obvious Deficiencies, and  
2 Does Not Grant Preferential Treatment

3 The settlement follows an all-day mediation with esteemed employment law mediator  
4 Deborah Saxe. Further, there are no obvious deficiencies with the settlement. Finally, based on the  
5 pro rata distribution to the class members based on their number of workweeks, the settlement does  
6 not grant preferential treatment to any class member. The settlement administrator will calculate  
7 the number of qualifying workweeks each class member worked. These are further factors  
8 weighing in favor of preliminary approval.

9  
10 V. PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATION OF THE CLASS IS APPROPRIATE

11 Provisional certification is appropriate with preliminary approval where the class has not  
12 been certified yet. (Rules of Court, rule 3.769(d), see also *Newberg on Class Actions* §§ 13:16-  
13 13:18 (5th ed. 2011-2017). To certify a settlement class, there should be an ascertainable class and  
14 a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact. (*Vasquez v. Superior Court*  
15 (1971) 4 Cal. 3d 800, 809-811.)

16  
17 A. There is an Ascertainable and Sufficiently Numerous Class

18 The class members are easily identifiable from Defendants' records. The information  
19 exchanged shows a class size of 64 class members which meets the numerosity requirement.

20  
21 B. There is a Well-Defined Community of Interest / Commonality

22 The community of interest requirement involves three factors: (1) predominant common  
23 questions of law or fact; (2) class representatives with claims or defenses typical of the class; and  
24 (3) class representatives who can adequately represent the class. (*Linder v. Thrifty Oil Co.* (2000)  
25 23 Cal.4th 429, 435.) The predominance factor tests whether a proposed class is sufficiently  
26 cohesive to warrant adjudication by representation. (See, e.g., *Clothesrigger, Inc. v. GTE Corp.*  
27 (1987) 191 Cal. App. 3d 605.)

28 Common issues of fact and law predominate because the action concerns the same

violations, namely not providing compliant meal and rest periods, not paying all wages owed, and derivative waiting time, wage statement, and PAGA penalties. To the extent any individual questions exist about unpaid wages, these issues go to damages and not liability, which does not preclude the maintenance of the suit as a class action. (*Vasquez, supra*, 4 Cal.3d at p. 815.)

C. Plaintiff's Claims are Typical, and the Adequacy Requirement is Met

Plaintiff's claims at this stage are typical of the class because she was subject to the same alleged non-compliant policies and procedures as they worked at the studio locations. Also, adequacy of representation is met with two conditions: first, named plaintiff must be represented by counsel qualified to conduct the pending litigation; second, named plaintiff's interests cannot be antagonistic to those of the class. (*Classen v. Weller* (1983) 145 Cal. App. 3d 27, 46-47.)

Frontier Law Center has significant experience prosecuting wage and hour class actions as explained in the attached declaration. Second, Plaintiff is not aware of any conflicts of interest with the class. Thus, the typicality and adequacy requirements are met.

VI. THE PROPOSED CLASS NOTICE IS ACCEPTABLE

Rules of Court, rule 3.769(f) requires that class members be provided with notice of the final approval hearing, as well as an explanation of the proposed settlement and objection procedures. Procedural due process requires notice reasonably calculated to apprise interested parties of the pendency of the action affecting their interests and an opportunity to present their objections. (*Ryan v. Cal. Interscholastic Fed'n – San Diego Section* (2001) 94 Cal. App. 4th 1048, 1072.) A notice that meets this standard and is neutrally worded satisfies due process. (*Phillips Petroleum Co. v. Shutts* (1985) 472 U.S. 797, 812.)

A. The Notice is Accurate, and Informative, and Appropriate

The proposed notice which is derived from the Los Angeles model provides all the information needed to make a fully informed decision about the settlement. The notice summarizes the lawsuit, including the contentions and denials of the parties.

1 The notice also explains the terms and conditions of the settlement in plain language and in  
2 an informative and coherent manner. The notice explains the process class members should follow  
3 if want to exclude themselves.

4 The notice provides that class members may also at the fairness hearing to object,  
5 and it provides that class members who do not object or exclude themselves will have waived all  
6 objections to the settlement. Finally, the notice will include an estimated calculation of the class  
7 member's estimated share of the net settlement amount based on his or her number of qualifying  
8 workweeks, and it explains the process for disputing the number of qualifying workweeks.

9  
10 B. The Notice Plan Satisfies Due Process

11 The proposed notice plan is consistent with Rule of Court 3.769(f), is the best notice  
12 practicable, and is the method to give the best actual notice to the class members. After preliminary  
13 approval, Defendants will provide the class list to the settlement administrator, who will then send  
14 the notice within fifteen days of receiving the class list.

15 If any notice is returned as undeliverable without a forwarding address the administrator  
16 will perform a skip trace to locate a better mailing address. If the administrator obtains a more  
17 current address from the skip trace, it will resend the notice to that address. Procedural due process  
18 is satisfied with the proposed notice plan.

19  
20 VII. THE REQUESTED ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS ARE REASONABLE

21 Although the request for attorney fees and costs will be filed in conjunction with the motion  
22 for final approval, in general an award of attorney's fees in common fund wage and hour class  
23 action settlements should start with the percentage method. (See *Laffitte v. Robert Half Int'l.* (2016)  
24 1 Cal. 5th 480, 503.) An award of 33% of the common fund for attorneys' fees is supported by the  
25 fact that typical attorney fee contingency agreements provide that attorneys will recover 33% if the  
26 case is resolved before trial and 40% if the case is tried." (*Fernandez v. Victoria Secret Stores LLC*,  
27 2008 WL 8150856 at \*16 n. 59 (C.D. Cal. July 21, 2008). Plaintiff respectfully requests the court  
28 to consider the above when analyzing the settlement, in addition to the other factors above.

1 VIII. CONCLUSION

2 Plaintiff respectfully requests the court to grant preliminary approval, to provisionally  
3 certify the class, to direct that notice is sent to the class members, to appoint Plaintiff as the class  
4 representative and Frontier Law Center as class counsel, appoint Phoenix Class Action  
5 Administration Solutions as the settlement administrator, and to set a fairness hearing in  
6 approximately three to four months.

7  
8 Date: April 2, 2024

FRONTIER LAW CENTER

9  
10 /s/ Adam Rose  
11 Attorney for Plaintiff  
12 Michelle Velasquez  
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