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FILED
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

DEC 20 2024

E. Eisebedt

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

SCOTT ALLEN ATHEY, as an individual and
on behalf of all employees similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

WALKER EVANS ENTERPRISES, a
California Corporation; and DOES 1 through 50,
inclusive,

Defendants

Case No.: CVRI2301534

[Assigned for all purposes to Hon. Harold W.
Hopp, Dept. 1]

**AMENDED ~~PROPOSED~~ FINAL
APPROVAL ORDER AND JUDGMENT**

Date: November 15, 2024
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Courtroom: Dept. 1
Judge: Hon. Harold W. Hopp

Action Filed: March 27, 2023
Trial Date: Not Set

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3 This matter has come before the Honorable Harold W. Hopp in Department 1 of the above -
4 entitled Court, located at 4050 Main Street, Riverside, California 92501, on Plaintiff Scott Allen Athey's
5 ("Plaintiff") motion for final approval of Class and PAGA representative action settlement ("Motion for
6 Final Approval"). Tunyan Law, APC appeared on behalf of Plaintiff, and Varner & Brandt LLP
7 appeared on behalf of Defendant Walker Evans Enterprises ("Defendant").

8 On June 17, 2024, the Court entered the order granting preliminary approval of class and PAGA
9 representative action settlement ("Preliminary Approval Order"), thereby preliminarily approving the
10 settlement of the above-entitled action ("Action") in accordance with the AMENDED JOINT
11 STIPULATION OF CLASS AND PAGA REPRESENTATIVE ACTION SETTLEMENT
12 ("Settlement", "Agreement" or "Settlement Agreement") which is attached as **Exhibit 1** to the
13 Supplemental Declaration of Lilit Tunyan in Support of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of
14 Class and PAGA Representative Action Settlement ["Tunyan Decl."], at Exhibit 1) filed on June 6, 2024.

15 Having reviewed the Settlement Agreement and duly considered the parties' papers and
16 oral argument, and good cause appearing,
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19 **THE COURT HEREBY ORDERS, ADJUDGES, AND DECREES AS FOLLOWS:**

20 1. This Order incorporates by reference the definitions in the Agreement, and all capitalized
21 terms defined therein shall have the same meaning in this Order as set forth in the Agreement.

22 2. The Court finds that the terms of the proposed Settlement are fair, reasonable, and
23 adequate, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 and California Rule of Court 3.769, et
24 seq. have been satisfied with respect to the Class and the Settlement. The Court hereby makes final its
25 earlier provisional certification of the Class for settlement purposes, as set forth in the Preliminary
26 Approval Order.

27 3. The following persons are certified as Class Members solely for the purpose of entering
28 a settlement in this matter:

1 All individuals employed by Defendant in California and classified as “non-
2 exempt” at any time during the Class Period (the “Class Period” is September 22, 2021
3 to August 31, 2023) who did not submit timely exclusion requests to the Settlement
4 Administrator.

4. The PAGA Employee is defined as follows:

5 All Class Members that worked at any time during the PAGA Period (the “PAGA
6 Period” is March 27, 2022 to August 31, 2023.) All PAGA Employees are “aggrieved
7 employees” as defined pursuant to PAGA. PAGA Employees cannot opt out of the
8 settlement of the PAGA claim.

5. The Notice Packet, comprised of the Notice of Class Action Settlement (“Class
9 Notice”), Exclusion Form (“Exclusion Form”), and Objection Form (“Objection Form”), that was
10 provided to the Class Members, fully and accurately informed the Class Members of all material
11 elements of the Settlement and of their opportunity to participate in, object to or comment thereon, or to
12 seek exclusion from, the Class Settlement; was the best notice practicable under the circumstances; was
13 valid, due, and sufficient notice to all Class Members; and complied fully with the laws of the State of
14 California, the United States Constitution, due process and other applicable law. The Notice Packet
15 fairly and adequately described the Settlement and provided the Class Members with adequate
16 instructions and a variety of means to obtain additional information.

6. No Class Members submitted any Requests for Exclusion, Notices of Objection or
17 Workweek Disputes.

7. The Court hereby grants final approval of the Settlement and finds that it is reasonable
19 and adequate, and in the best interests of the Class as a whole. More specifically, the Court finds that the
20 Settlement was reached following meaningful discovery and investigation conducted by Tunyan Law,
21 APC (“Class Counsel”); that the Settlement is the result of serious, informed, adversarial, and arms-
22 length negotiations between the parties; and that the terms of the Settlement are in all respects fair,
23 adequate, and reasonable. In so finding, the Court has considered all of the evidence presented, including
24 evidence regarding the strength of Plaintiff’s claims; the risk, expense, and complexity of the claims
25 presented; the likely duration of further litigation; the amount offered in the Settlement; the extent of
26 investigation and discovery completed; and the experience and views of Class Counsel. The Court has
27 further considered the absence of Notices of Objection and Requests for Exclusion from the Class
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1 Settlement submitted by Class Members. Accordingly, the Court hereby directs that the Settlement be
2 affected in accordance with the Settlement Agreement and the following terms and conditions.

3 8. A full opportunity has been afforded to the Class Members to participate in the Final
4 Approval Hearing, and all Class Members and other persons wishing to be heard have been heard. The
5 Class Members also have had a full and fair opportunity to exclude themselves from the Class
6 Settlement. Accordingly, the Court determines that all Class Members who have not submitted a valid
7 and timely Request for Exclusion (“Settlement Class Members”) and the State of California and all
8 hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of Defendant in California from March 27, 2022 to August 31,
9 2023 (“PAGA Employees”) are bound by this Final Approval Order and Judgment.

10 9. The Court finds that payment of Settlement Administration Fees in the amount of
11 **\$6,950.00** is appropriate for the services performed and costs incurred and to be incurred for the notice
12 and settlement administration process. It is hereby ordered that the Settlement Administrator, ILYM
13 Group, Inc., shall issue payment to itself in the amount of \$6,950.00, in accordance with the terms set
14 forth in Settlement Agreement.

15 10. Plaintiff Scott Allen Athey is appointed as the representative of the class (“Class
16 Representative”). The Court finds that the Service Payment sought is fair and reasonable for the work
17 performed by Plaintiff on behalf of the Class, the State of California, and the PAGA Employees. It is
18 hereby ordered that the Settlement Administrator issue payment in the amount of **\$10,000.00** to Plaintiff
19 for his Service Payment, according to the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

20 11. The Court finds that the allocation of **\$10,000.00** toward penalties under the California
21 Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA Payment”), is fair, reasonable, and appropriate, and
22 hereby approved. The Settlement Administrator shall distribute the PAGA Payment as follows: the
23 amount of **\$7,500.00** to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA Payment”),
24 and the amount of **\$2,500.00** to be distributed on a pro rata basis to PAGA Employees, according to the
25 terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

26 12. The Court appoints Tunyan Law, APC as counsel for the Class (“Class Counsel”). The
27 Court finds that the request for attorneys’ fees in the amount of **\$58,333.33** to Class Counsel falls within
28 the range of reasonableness, and the results achieved justify the award sought. The requested attorneys’

1 fees to Class Counsel are fair, reasonable, and appropriate, and are hereby approved. It is hereby ordered
2 that the Settlement Administrator issue payment in the amount of \$58,333.33 to Class Counsel for
3 attorneys' fees, in accordance with the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

4 13. The Court finds that reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses in the amount of
5 \$17,714.09 to Class Counsel is reasonable, and hereby approved. It is hereby ordered that the Settlement
6 Administrator issue payment in the amount of \$17,714.09 to Class Counsel for reimbursement of
7 litigation costs and expenses, in accordance with the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

8 14. The Court hereby enters Judgment by which Settlement Class Members shall be
9 conclusively determined to have given a release of any and all Released Class Claims against the
10 Released Parties, and all PAGA Members shall be bound by the Settlement and may not recover PAGA
11 penalties for any alleged violation covered by the Settlement Agreement. See *Arias v. Superior Court*
12 (2009) 46 Cal.4th 969.

13 15. It is hereby ordered that Defendant shall deposit the Gross Settlement Amount and the
14 employer's share of payroll taxes in connection with the wages portion of the Settlement Shares
15 ("Employer Taxes") into an account established by the Settlement Administrator within twenty-one (21)
16 calendar days after the Effective Date, in accordance with the terms and methodology set forth in the
17 Settlement Agreement.

18 16. It is hereby ordered that the Settlement Administrator shall prepare and mail Individual
19 Settlement Payment checks, minus applicable withholding, to the Settlement Class Members and
20 Individual PAGA Payment checks, to the PAGA Employees within fourteen (14) calendar days after
21 Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount, according to the methodology and terms set forth in
22 the Settlement Agreement. It is hereby ordered that any envelope transmitting an Individual Settlement
23 Payment check to a Settlement Class Member shall bear the notation, "YOUR CLASS ACTION
24 SETTLEMENT CHECK IS ENCLOSED."

25 17. Each check issued to a Settlement Class Member and/or PAGA Member for his or her
26 Individual Settlement Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment shall be negotiable for a period of one
27 hundred and eighty (180) calendar days from the date the checks are issued, and thereafter, shall be
28 cancelled. The funds associated with such cancelled checks shall be transmitted by the Settlement

1 Administrator to Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino, located at 588 W 6th Street, San Bernardino,
2 California 92410, subject to the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure § 384(b).

3 18. The Court approves Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino as a *cy pres* recipient.

4 19. It is hereby ordered that the Settlement Administrator shall mail a reminder postcard to
5 any Settlement Class Member or PAGA Employee whose Settlement check has not been negotiated
6 within sixty (60) calendar days after the date of the initial mailing.

7 20. It is hereby ordered that if any of Class Members or PAGA Employees are current
8 employees of Defendant, and the Settlement check mailed to those employees is returned to the
9 Settlement Administrator as being undeliverable, and the Settlement Administrator is unable to locate a
10 valid mailing address, the Settlement Administrator shall arrange with Defendant to have those checks
11 delivered to the employees at their place of employment.

12 21. After entry of this Final Approval Order and Judgment, pursuant to California Rules of
13 Court, Rule 3.769(h), the Court shall retain jurisdiction to construe, interpret, implement, and enforce the
14 Settlement Agreement and this Final Approval Order and Judgment, to hear and resolve any contested
15 challenge to a claim for settlement benefits, and to supervise and adjudicate any dispute arising from or
16 in connection with the distribution of settlement benefits.

17 22. Notice of entry of this Final Approval Order and Judgment shall be given to the Class
18 Members by the Settlement Administrator by posting a copy of the Final Approval Order and Judgment
19 on the Settlement Administrator's website for a period of at least ninety (90) calendar days after the date
20 of entry of this Final Approval Order and Judgment. Individualized notice is not required.

21 23. A Final Compliance Hearing is set for **November 3, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.** in Department 1
22 of the Riverside County Superior Court, located at 4050 Main Street, Riverside, California 92501. Class
23 Counsel shall submit a final accounting report in the form of a declaration from the Settlement
24 Administrator regarding the status of the settlement administration at least five (5) court days prior to the
25 Final Compliance Hearing. The declaration shall describe the date the checks were mailed, the total
26 number of checks mailed to Settlement Class Members and PAGA Members, the average amount of
27 those checks, the number of checks that remain uncashed, the total value of those uncashed checks, the
28 average amount of the uncashed checks, and the date of transmitting those checks to the *cy pres*

1 recipient. The declaration shall also be accompanied by a proposed amended judgment that complies
2 with Code of Civil Procedure section 384.5.

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4 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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6 Dated: 6/21/24



Hon. Harold W. Hopp
RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE