

BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK DE BLOUW LLP

Norman B. Blumenthal (SBN 068687)

Kyle R. Nordrehaug (SBN 205975)

Aparajit Bhowmik (SBN 248066)

2255 Calle Clara

La Jolla, CA 92037

Telephone: (858) 551-1223

Facsimile: (858) 551-1232

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

MARIAH MACIAS, an individual, on behalf of
herself and on behalf of all persons similarly
situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS
CORPORATION, a California corporation; and
Does 1 through 50, Inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 34-2023-00337859-CU-OE-GDS

**DECLARATION MARIAH MACIAS
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
CLASS SETTLEMENT**

Hearing Date: February 7, 2025

Hearing Time: 9:00 AM

Judge: Lauri A. Damrell

Dept: 22

Complaint Filed: April 12, 2023

Trial Date: Not Set

1 I, Mariah Macias, declare as follows:

2 1. I am over the age of eighteen, a Plaintiff and a proposed Class Representative in the
3 above-entitled matter. I submit this declaration in support of the Motion for Preliminary
4 Approval of Class Settlement and in support of my application for a Class Representative
5 Service Payment.
6

7 2. I have personal knowledge of all the facts stated herein. I could and would competently
8 testify under oath to these facts in court if requested to do so.

9 3. During the class period I worked as a Behavior Assistant for Defendant Positive Behavior
10 Supports Corporation ("Defendant" or "PBS") in California and during that time period, I was
11 classified by PBS as a non-exempt employee.
12

13 4. I retained my attorneys who are experienced in both class action and PAGA
14 representative action litigation and claims against employers for violations of the California
15 Labor Code. I have no personal relationship or family ties to my attorneys or any officer of the
16 Court. I am not aware of having any actual or potential conflicts of interest with another class
17 member in this case nor am I aware of having any actual or potential conflicts of interest with
18 ILYM Group, Inc., the settlement administrator. I am not aware of any other pending matter or
19 action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by this settlement.
20

21 5. I decided to pursue this class action lawsuit and be a plaintiff/class representative because
22 I felt that my legal rights as an employee and others like me were violated. For example, I often
23 did not receive compliant meal and rest breaks which were late, interrupted or missed entirely. I
24 also did not receive all the meal and rest break premiums I was entitled to and when I did receive
25 premium payments, they were often an incorrect amount. Also, from time to time I worked off
26 the clock without compensation for my time worked.
27

1 6. I spoke to my attorneys several times and discussed how PBS implemented its company
2 policies and procedures. I also assisted my attorneys in their investigation into my claims by
3 providing them documents and answering their questions. I reviewed the complaint before it
4 was filed and after it was filed I was given access to an electronic file sharing program that
5 alerted me via email when important documents were filed so that I could review them and keep
6 up with the developments in the case which I understood was one of my duties as a class
7 representative. I was in contact with my attorneys to answer questions and help assist them with
8 preparing my written discovery response and then supplemental discovery responses. I would
9 also contact my attorneys from time to time if I had any questions about the case.
10

11 7. Even though this action is in the process of settling, I was and remain prepared to
12 perform all the duties of a class representative. I understand that as a class representative I have
13 assumed a fiduciary responsibility to prosecute this class action on behalf of the absent class
14 members. I have understood that as a fiduciary, I have a duty to prosecute this action for the
15 benefit of the class members and surrender any right to compromise the group action for an
16 individual gain.
17

18 8. I understood that being a plaintiff/class representative in this case meant that I was
19 seeking damages not only for myself but also other current and/or former non-exempt employees
20 working for PBS in California who make up the class. I felt that these individuals were not
21 aware of their labor law rights and even if they were they would probably be apprehensive about
22 speaking up or even simply because of the time, effort and risk involved in filing a class action
23 lawsuit.
24

25 9. I understood that being a part of this lawsuit involved risks. For example, my attorneys
26 explained to me that if the case went to trial and we lost, I could be held responsible to pay for all
27

1 or part of the attorney fees and costs paid by PBS to defend this lawsuit. Also, I knew there was
2 a risk that future employers, if they ever find out about this lawsuit, could hold it against me or
3 downgrade me as a potential hire. As the only named Plaintiff in this case it would not be
4 difficult for a future employer to become aware that I sued my employer for labor law violations.
5 Ultimately, I decided these risks were worth it and decided to fight for my rights and the rights of
6 others regardless of the risks, time and effort I spent on this case.
7

8 10. During the lawsuit I stayed in touch with my attorneys by phone and email. I also kept up
9 to date on important developments by reviewing court filings that were made available to me
10 electronically as I described above.

11 11. A mediation took place on June 11, 2024 with Hon. Brian Walsh (Ret.), a well-respected
12 and experienced mediator of wage and hour class actions. After the mediation the parties were
13 able to reach an agreement to settle the action. I communicated with my attorneys regarding the
14 terms of the settlement which was reached between the parties and understood that I was
15 representing absent class members and therefore wanted the best possible result to be obtained
16 for the class members and I believe a very positive result was in fact achieved via settlement. I
17 reviewed and signed the Memorandum of Understanding on June 25, 2024 and when the final
18 settlement papers were ready, I closely reviewed the Class Action and PAGA Action Settlement
19 Agreement, which I signed on October 9, 2024.
20

21 12. I have been actively involved with this lawsuit performing the duties described above.
22 Although I did not keep time records, I was in regular contact with my attorneys, reviewed court
23 filings, and spent a significant amount of time on the issues presented during the lawsuit and in
24 the settlement process. I estimate that I spent approximately 50-60 hours working on this case
25 up until this point. I believe I have been diligent and have done what is expected of a named
26
27

1 plaintiff and a proposed class representative to date and will continue to do so. I have and always
2 will maintain the best interest of the class members.

3 13. My attorneys explained to me that the settlement process involves a two-step review by
4 the Court to determine whether the settlement is fair before approving the settlement. I know
5 this process also involves notifying all class members of the settlement terms and of their rights
6 to make a claim for their settlement share, to opt out of the settlement or to object to the
7 settlement.
8

9 14. I believe I did the right thing by filing this case on behalf of the class members who,
10 subject to court approval, are in line to receive monetary payments as a result of this case and
11 settlement. This is money they may never have ever gotten if I did not pursue this action on their
12 behalf. I feel significant personal satisfaction to know that I played a role in the class members
13 being entitled to monetary payments as a result of the filing of this lawsuit. I also believe that
14 the requested Class Representative Service Payment of \$10,000 from the settlement is fair
15 compensation for the work I performed and the risks I undertook.
16

17 15. In light of all the time and effort I have spent on this case, the risk I undertook by suing
18 my employer, the exposure to being responsible for paying PBS's costs in the event we did not
19 win the case, the reputational risk that future employers may hold this lawsuit against me, the
20 general release and in light of the size of the settlement, I believe the request for \$10,000 as a
21 Class Representative service payment is fair and reasonable.
22

23 ///

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

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

3
4 Executed on 11/26/2024, at Santa Fe, New Mexico.
5 (city, state)

6 
7 [Mariah Macias Nov 26, 2024 12:37 MST](#)
8 Mariah Macias
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26