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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE

DAVID CHRISTIAN OCHOA, as an
individual and on behalf of all similarly
situated employees,

Plaintiff,

v.

FCI LENDER SERVICES INC., and DOES 1-
50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 30-2023-01316140-CU-OE-CXC

CLASS ACTION

**JOINT STIPULATION OF CLASS
ACTION AND PRIVATE ATTORNEYS
GENERAL ACT SETTLEMENT AND
RELEASE**

Assigned to for all purposes:
Hon. Randall J. Sherman, Dept. CX105

Complaint Filed: March 30, 2023
Trial Date: None Yet Set

1 **JOINT STIPULATION OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE**

2 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED, by and among Plaintiff DAVID CHRISTIAN OCHOA,
3 on behalf of himself and the Settlement Class Members, on the one hand, and FCI LENDER
4 SERVICES INC., on the other hand, and subject to the approval of the Court, that the above-
5 captioned action is hereby being compromised and settled pursuant to the terms and conditions
6 set forth in this Joint Stipulation of Class Action Settlement and Release (the “Settlement”).

7 **1. DEFINITIONS**

8 Capitalized terms used in this Settlement shall have the meanings set forth below:

9 1.1. “Action” means the putative class and PAGA action entitled *Ochoa v. FCI Lender*
10 *Services, Inc.*, pending in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Orange, and
11 designated as Case No. 30-2023-01316140-CU-OE-CXC.

12 1.2. “Class Member(s)” means all employees currently and formerly employed by
13 Defendant in the state of California from October 31, 2020 through December 30, 2024.

14 1.3. “PAGA Member(s)” means all employees currently and formerly employed by
15 Defendant in the state of California from March 20, 2022 through December 30, 2024.

16 1.4. “Settlement Administrator” means Phoenix Settlement Administrators.

17 1.5. “Settlement Administration Costs” means the amount to be paid to the third-party
18 Settlement Administrator from the Gross Settlement Amount for the administration of the
19 Settlement. The Settlement Administration Costs amount is not to exceed Seven Thousand
20 Dollars (\$7,000.00). Any portion of the requested Settlement Administration Costs that is not
21 awarded to the Settlement Administrator shall be part of the Net Settlement Amount.

22 1.6. “Class Counsel” means Kevin Mahoney and John A. Young of the Mahoney Law
23 Group, APC.

24 1.7. “Class Counsel Fees” means reasonable attorneys’ fees for Class Counsel’s
25 litigation and resolution of this Action, in the amount of Twenty-Six Thousand Two Hundred and
26 Fifty Dollars (\$26,250.00) (or 33.33% of the Gross Settlement Amount). The Court shall
27 determine the amount of the Class Counsel Fees, and it shall be paid from the Gross Settlement
28 Amount. Any portion of the requested Class Counsel Fees that is not awarded to Class Counsel

shall be part of the Net Settlement Amount.

1.8. “Class Counsel Costs” means actual expenses incurred by Class Counsel for Class Counsel’s litigation and resolution of this Action, as supported by declaration, in an amount not to exceed Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00). The Court shall determine the amount of the Class Counsel Costs, and it shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. Any portion of the requested Class Counsel Costs that is not awarded to Class Counsel shall be part of the Net Settlement Amount.

1.9. “Class Information” means information regarding Settlement Class Members that Defendant will in good faith compile from its records and provide to the Settlement Administrator. Class Information shall be provided as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and shall include: each Settlement Class Member’s full name; last known address; last known home telephone number; social security number; all start and end dates of employment during the Class Period, and the total number of months each Settlement Class Member worked for Defendant during the Class Period. The number of months worked shall be calculated using Defendant’s payroll data during the Class Period whenever the hours worked for the month was greater than zero. Because social security numbers are included in the Class Information, the Settlement Administrator shall maintain the Class Information in confidence; access shall be limited to those with a need to use the Class Information as part of the administration of the Settlement, and transmission shall be through use of a secure, password-protected file.

1.10. “Class Period” means the period from October 31, 2020 through December 30, 2024.

1.11. “PAGA Period” means the period from March 20, 2022 through December 30, 2024.

1.12. “PAGA Released Claims” shall mean all claims, demands, rights, liabilities and causes of action for penalties under California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 against the Released Parties, based on Plaintiff’s letter to the Labor & Workforce Development Agency on March 20, 2023 and May 25, 2023 amended letter to the Labor & Workforce Development Agency, that arose during the PAGA Period, including but not limited to claims for

civil penalties for violations of Labor Code sections 2802 and 2698-2699.5, and claims under California Business & Professions Code section 17200, and applicable Wage Orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission, and all related claims for attorneys' fees and costs.

1.13. "Class Representative Service Award" means the amount that the Court authorizes to be paid to Plaintiff, not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to Plaintiff, in addition to Plaintiff's Individual Settlement Payment. The Class Representative Service Award to Plaintiff is in exchange for the Released Claims, Plaintiff's General Released Claims, and for Plaintiff's efforts and risks in assisting with the prosecution of the Action. The Class Representative Service Award shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. Any portion of the requested Class Representative Service Award that are not awarded to Plaintiff shall be part of the Net Settlement Amount.

1.14. "Court" means the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Orange.

1.15. "Defendant" mean FCI Lender Services, Inc., and each of its parent companies, subsidiaries, related companies, affiliates, dbas, current and former management companies, shareholders, officers, directors, supervisors, predecessors, successors, and assigns or any related entity that was the "employer" of Class Members.

1.16. "Defendant's Counsel" means George Straggas of Straggas Law Group, APC.

1.17. "Effective Date" means the date by when both of the following have occurred: the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement; and (b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (a) if no Class Member objects to the Settlement, the day the Court enters Judgment; (b) if one or more Class Members objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment; or if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur.

1.18. "Employee Taxes" means the employee's share of any and all applicable federal, state, and local payroll taxes on the portion of Settlement Class Members' Individual Settlement Payment that constitutes wages. The Employee Taxes shall be paid out of the Net Settlement

Amount.

1.19. “Employer Taxes” means the employer’s share of any and all applicable federal, state, and local payroll taxes on the portion of Settlement Class Members’ Individual Settlement Payment that constitutes wages. The Employer Taxes shall not be paid by Defendant separately but shall be paid out of the Gross Settlement Amount or Net Settlement Amount.

1.20. “Final Approval Hearing” means the hearing held on the motion for final approval of the Settlement.

1.21. “Final Approval Date” means the date which the Court grants final approval of the Settlement.

1.22. “Final Judgment” means the Court’s entry of an order of judgment in this Action following the Court’s final approval of the Settlement.

1.23. “Gross Settlement Amount” means the maximum amount Defendant shall have to pay in connection with this Settlement, by way of a common fund, which shall be inclusive of all Individual Settlement Amounts to Settlement Class Members, Class Counsel Fees, Class Counsel Costs, Settlement Administrator Costs, Class Representative Service Award, PAGA Allocation, Employee Taxes and Employer Taxes. Subject to Court approval and the terms of this Settlement, the Gross Settlement Amount Defendant shall be required to pay is Seventy-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$78,750.00). No portion of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant, and the Settlement does not require Settlement Class Members to submit claims as a prerequisite to receiving their Individual Settlement Payment. Regardless of any data relied upon in seeking court approval of this settlement, there is no escalator provision in this Agreement requiring Defendant to pay any amount whatsoever over and above the Gross Settlement Amount.

1.24. “Individual Settlement Payment” means the amount payable to each Settlement Class Member, as calculated pursuant to Paragraph 3.12.1 of the Settlement, from the Net Settlement Amount. Checks for Individual Settlement Payments shall specifically indicate that they are void if not negotiated within one hundred eighty (180) days of their issuance.

1.25. “PAGA Allocation” means Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), allocated from the

1 Gross Settlement Amount for the compromise of claims brought under the Labor Code Private
2 Attorney General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”). Per California Labor Code section 2699(i), Three
3 Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$3,750.00), representing 75% of the PAGA Allocation,
4 shall be paid to California’s Labor Workforce Development Agency. The remaining One
5 Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,250.00), representing 25% of the PAGA Allocation,
6 shall be part of the Net Settlement Amount and shall be distributed to PAGA Members.

7 1.26. “LWDA” shall mean the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

8 1.27. “LWDA PAGA Allocation” means Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars
9 (\$3,750.00), representing 75% of the PAGA Allocation, and is the amount payable from the Gross
10 Settlement Amount to California’s Labor Workforce Development Agency.

11 1.28. “PAGA Member Allocation” means One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars
12 (\$1,250.00), representing the PAGA Allocation, and is the amount payable to PAGA Members.
13 The PAGA Member Allocation shall be distributed in its entirety to PAGA Class Members
14 pursuant to paragraph 3.13.

15 1.29. “Net Settlement Amount” means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the Class
16 Counsel Fees, the Class Counsel Costs, the Class Representative Service Award, the Settlement
17 Administration Costs, the LWDA PAGA Allocation, and the PAGA Class Member Allocation.
18 The Net Settlement Amount shall be distributed in its entirety to Settlement Class Members, as
19 provided for in this Settlement.

20 1.30. “Notice of Objection” means a written statement of objection to the Settlement,
21 made and signed by a Settlement Class Member and includes the following: (1) the full name of
22 the Settlement Class Member; (2) the dates of employment of the Settlement Class Member; (3)
23 the last four digits of the Settlement Class Member’s Social Security number and/or the entire
24 Employee ID number; (4) the basis for the objection; and, (5) whether the Settlement Class
25 Member intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing. Settlement Class Members, regardless
26 of whether or not they submit a timely Notice of Objection, will have a right to appear at the Final
27 Approval Hearing, with or without an attorney, and have their objection(s) heard by the Court.

28 1.31. “Notice of Settlement” means the Notice of Proposed Class Action and Notice of

Private Attorney General Act Settlement (attached hereto as **Exhibit A**).

1.32. “Notice Packet” means the Notice of Proposed Class Action, Class Months Worked Dispute Form, and the Request To Be Excluded From Settlement form, to be provided in English.

1.33. “Settlement Class Members” means all Class Members who do not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion. “Parties” means Plaintiff and Defendant collectively; and “Party” shall mean any Defendant or Plaintiff, individually.

1.34. “Plaintiff” means David Christian Ochoa.

1.35. “Plaintiff’s General Released Claims” means, in addition to the Released Claims, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself, their respective, agents, spouses, executors, representatives, heirs, successors, assigns, and estates, in exchange for the terms and conditions of this Settlement, including the Class Representative Service Award requested or as otherwise authorized by the Court, shall also, as of the Effective Date, fully and forever release the Released Parties, to the full extent permitted by law, of and from any and all claims arising from their employment with Defendant, known and unknown, asserted and unasserted, which Plaintiff has or may have had against the Released Parties, whether sounding in tort, in contract, in law, in equity or otherwise, and including but not limited to all claims for violation of any local, state, or federal statute, rule, or regulation. Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes all rights and benefits afforded by section 1542 of the Civil Code of the State of California and do so understanding and acknowledging the significance of such specific waiver of section 1542. Section 1542 of the Civil Code of the State of California states as follows:

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.

Notwithstanding the above, Plaintiff’s General Released Claims do not include any workers’ compensation claims, claims that cannot be waived as a matter of law by signing this agreement, or enforce this agreement. No release in this Agreement is effective until the Gross

Settlement Amount is fully funded.

1.36. “Preliminary Approval Date” means the date the Court enters the Preliminary Approval Order for the Settlement.

1.37. “Preliminary Approval Order” means the proposed order (filed concurrently with this Settlement and Plaintiff’s motion for preliminary approval of the Settlement), as may be amended by the Court, for preliminary approval of the Settlement.

1.38. “Released Claims”, as to both Plaintiff, and the Settlement Class Members, means any and all claims during the Class Period which were or reasonably could have been raised based on the facts alleged in the Action, including claims, demands, rights, liabilities, and causes of action for failure to reimburse for necessary business expenditures, violation of the Private Attorney General Act (California Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.*), civil and statutory penalties, interest, liquidated damages, attorney’s fees and costs, claims under California Labor Code sections 2802 and 2698-2699.5, and applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order, and claims under California Business & Professions Code sections 17200-17204. It is understood and agreed that Released Claims do not include claims for workers’ compensation, unemployment, or disability benefits of any nature, nor any claims, actions, or causes of action which may be possessed by Settlement Class Members under state or federal discrimination statutes, including, without limitation, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, California Government Code section 12940, *et seq.*; the Unruh Civil Rights Act, California Civil Code section 51, *et seq.*; the California Constitution; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000, *et seq.*; the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, *et seq.*; the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 1001, *et seq.*; and all of their implementing regulations and interpretive guidelines. No release in this Agreement shall become effective until the Gross settlement Amount is fully funded.

1.39. “Released Parties” means FCI Lender Services, Inc., and each of its parent companies, subsidiaries, related companies, affiliates, dbas, current and former management companies, shareholders, officers, directors, supervisors, members, predecessors, successors, insurers, attorneys, and assigns, or any related entity that was the “employer” of Class Members.

1.40. “Released Parties’ Release of Claims Against Representative Plaintiff” means Released Parties, as defined herein, do hereby, for themselves, and for their heirs, successors, predecessors, attorneys, agents, representatives and assigns, forever release the Plaintiff from any and all charges, complaints, claims, liabilities, obligations, promises, agreements, controversies, damages, actions, causes of action, suits, rights, demands, costs, losses, debts, and expenses (including attorneys’ fees and costs actually incurred) of any nature whatsoever, from the beginning of time through the date of their signature on this Settlement Agreement, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, including but not limited to all claims arising out of, based upon, or relating to Representative Plaintiff’s employment with Defendant and related to this Action.

1.41. Released Parties expressly waive and relinquish all rights and benefits afforded by section 1542 of the Civil Code of the State of California and do so understanding and acknowledging the significance of such specific waiver of section 1542. Section 1542 of the Civil Code of the State of California states as follows:

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.

1.42. Thus, subject to and in accordance with this Settlement Agreement, even if Released Parties may hereafter discover facts in addition to or different from those they now know or believe to be true, Released Parties shall be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever settled and released any and all claims against the Representative Plaintiff that could have been alleged against them, as well as any other claims, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent, that now exist, upon any theory of law or equity, including without limitation, conduct which is negligent, intentional, with or without malice, or a breach of any duty, law, or rule, without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts.

1.43. “Response Deadline” means the date sixty (60) days after the Settlement Administrator mails the Notice Packets to Settlement Class Members, and shall be the last date

on which Settlement Class Members may: (a) postmark Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, (b) postmark Months Worked Dispute, or (c) postmark written Objections to the Settlement.

1.44. “Settlement” means this Joint Stipulation of Class Action Settlement and Release.

1.45. “Settlement Class Member(s)” or “Settlement Class” means all non-exempt employees, currently and formerly employed by Defendant in the State of California at any time during the Class Period.

1.46. “Months Worked” shall mean the number of months each Class Member worked at FCI Lender Services, Inc. as an employee in California during the Class Period. As set forth in Paragraph 1.9, the number of months worked shall be calculated using Defendant’s payroll data during the Class Period whenever the hours worked for a month was greater than zero. The Settlement Administrator will calculate the number of Months Worked by relying on the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, referenced in Paragraph 1.9, which will set forth the number of Months Worked each Settlement Class Member worked for Defendant during the Class Period.

2. RECITALS

2.1. Class Certification. The Parties stipulate and agree to the conditional certification of this Action for purposes of this Settlement only. Should, for whatever reason, the Settlement not become final and effective, conditional Class Certification shall immediately be set aside (subject to further proceedings on motion of any Party to certify or decertify thereafter). The Parties’ willingness to stipulate to conditional Class Certification as part of the Settlement shall have no bearing on and shall not be admissible or considered in connection with the issue of whether a class should be certified in a non-settlement context in this Action, and shall have no bearing on and shall not be admissible or considered in connection with the issue of whether a class should be certified in any other lawsuit. Defendant expressly reserves its right to oppose class certification should this Settlement be modified or reversed on appeal or otherwise not become final and effective for any reason.

2.2. Procedural History. On March 20, 2023, Plaintiff submitted his PAGA letter to the LWDA alleging Defendant violated, among other provisions of the California Labor Code

and applicable wage law, Labor Code sections 2802 and 2698-2699.5, California Business & Professions Code section 17200, and applicable Wage Orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission. On March 30, 2023, Plaintiff filed a lawsuit in the Superior Court of California for the County of Orange as a proposed class action on behalf of all California employees of Defendant during the period of October 31, 2020 through the date of final judgment. In his initial complaint Plaintiff alleged that Defendant (1) failure to reimburse for necessary business expenditures; and (2) violations of Business and Professions Code Section 17200 et seq. Plaintiff sought recovery under the California Labor Code, the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order, and the California Business & Professions Code. On May 25, 2023, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint adding a cause of action under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”). On July 18, 2023, Plaintiff filed a Second Amended Complaint to further detail Plaintiff’s allegations against Defendant. On August 29, 2023, Plaintiff filed a Third Amended Complaint removing the term “alter-ego” and any reference to alleged loss of wages.

2.3. Settlement Negotiations. Through formal discovery, Defendant provided Plaintiff’s personnel file, Plaintiff’s time and pay records, Defendant’s employee handbooks utilized during the Class Period, the number of putative class members, months worked by putative class members, as well as other documents, allowing Class Counsel to construct a damage analysis. Plaintiff’s counsel also obtained the contact information for all putative class members that did not opt-out of providing their contact information to class counsel following the administration of the *Belaire-West* notice. Based on the information obtained through formal discovery, the Parties reached an agreement in principle to the basic terms of a class-action settlement agreement. The Settlement is the result of an informed and detailed evaluation of the total exposure and potential liability, in relation to the costs and risks associated with continued litigation of the Action. The Parties have engaged in sufficient discovery and investigation to assess the relative merits of the claims, defenses, and contentions of the Parties.

2.4. Benefits of Settlement to Settlement Class Members. Plaintiff and Class Counsel recognize the length of continued proceedings necessary to litigate the Parties’ disputes through

certification, trial, and any possible appeal. Plaintiff and Class Counsel have also taken into account the uncertainty and risk of the outcome of further litigation, the difficulties and delays inherent in such litigation, including, but not limited to, the risks related to a contested motion for class certification, potential motions for decertification, trial, and appeal. Plaintiff and Class Counsel are also aware of the burdens of proof necessary to establish liability for the claims asserted in the Action and the difficulties in establishing damages for the Class Members. Plaintiff and Class Counsel have also taken into account Defendant's agreement to enter into a settlement that confers relief upon Class Members. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff and Class Counsel have determined that this Settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable, and is in the best interests of the Class Members.

2.5. Defendant's Denial of Wrongdoing and Liability and Reasons for Settlement.

Defendant has denied and continues to deny each and all of the claims and contentions alleged in the Action. Defendant has repeatedly asserted, and continues to assert, defenses thereto, and has expressly denied, and continues to deny, any wrongdoing or legal liability arising out of any of the facts, conduct, and/or omissions alleged in the Action. Defendant has also denied, and continues to deny, *inter alia*, the allegations that the Class Members have suffered damage. Without limiting the foregoing, Defendant contends that the Class Members were properly reimbursed for any expenses required to incur; and that Defendant has not engaged in any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business practices in violation of California law. However, Defendant has concluded that any further defense of this litigation would be protracted and expensive for all Parties. Substantial amounts of time, energy, and resources of Defendant has been and, unless this Settlement is approved, will continue to be devoted to the defense of the claims asserted by Plaintiff and Class Members. Defendant has also taken into account the uncertainty and risks inherent in any litigation, especially in complex cases such as this Action. Based on the foregoing, Defendant has concluded that it is desirable and beneficial that the Action be fully and finally settled in the manner and upon the terms and conditions set forth in this Settlement. This will allow Defendant to dispose of burdensome and protracted litigation, permit the operation of Defendant's business without further expensive litigation, and put an end to the

1 distraction and diversion of its personnel regarding matters at issue in the Action.

2 2.6. No Admissions. The Parties understand and agree that this Settlement is the result
3 of a good faith compromise of disputed claims and allegations, and Defendant is entering into this
4 Settlement solely to resolve disputed matters. No part of this Settlement or any conduct or written
5 or oral statements made in connection with this Settlement, whether or not the Settlement is finally
6 approved and/or consummated, is or may be offered as or construed to be an admission or
7 concession of any kind by any of the Parties. In particular, but without limiting the generality of
8 the foregoing, nothing about this Settlement shall be offered or construed as an admission that
9 Defendant violated any of its obligations under the California Labor Code, applicable Industrial
10 Welfare Commission Wage Orders, Business and Professions Code or Private Attorney General
11 Act, or of liability in general, or any wrongdoing, impropriety, responsibility, or fault whatsoever
12 on the part of Defendant and/or the Released Parties. In addition, this Settlement shall not be
13 offered or be admissible in evidence against any of the Parties or any of the Released Parties,
14 except in any action or proceeding brought by or against Plaintiff, Class Members, or Defendant
15 to enforce the Settlement's terms, or by Defendant in defense of any claims brought by Plaintiff
16 or Class Members. The provisions of this paragraph shall become effective when this Settlement
17 is signed by all Parties, and shall be binding on the Parties and their counsel regardless of whether
18 the Settlement is preliminarily and/or finally approved or terminated for any reason, or rendered
19 null and void.

20 2.7. Class Members' Claims. Plaintiff claims that the Released Claims have merit and
21 give rise to liability on the part of Defendant. This Settlement is a compromise of disputed claims.
22 Nothing contained in this Settlement, and no documents referred to herein, nor any action taken
23 to carry out this Settlement, may be construed or used as an admission by or against Plaintiff,
24 Class Members or Class Counsel as to the merits or lack thereof of the claims asserted in the
25 Action.

26 2.8. Defendant's Defenses. Defendant has denied and continues to deny each and all
27 of the allegations, claims, and contentions of wrongdoing alleged by Plaintiff in the Action.
28 Defendant has expressly denied and continues to deny all charges of wrongdoing or liability

1 against them arising out of any of the conduct, statements, acts, or omissions alleged in the Action.
2 Defendant contends that Defendant complied in good faith with California and federal wage-and-
3 hour laws and has dealt legally and fairly with Plaintiff and Class Members. Defendant further
4 denies that, for any purpose other than settling this Action, these claims are appropriate for class
5 or representative treatment.

6 **3. TERMS OF SETTLEMENT**

7 The Parties agree as follows:

8 3.1. Binding Settlement. This Settlement shall bind the Parties and all Settlement Class
9 Members, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement and the Court's approval.

10 3.2. Release As To All Settlement Class Members and Plaintiff.

11 3.2.1. Release As To All Settlement Class Members. As of the Effective Date, all
12 Settlement Class Members, including Plaintiff, will be deemed to have fully, finally and forever
13 released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties from the
14 Released Claims during the Class Period. This release shall be binding on all Settlement Class
15 Members, including each of their respective attorneys, agents, executors, representatives,
16 guardians ad litem, heirs, successors, and assigns, and shall inure to the benefit of the Released
17 Parties, who shall have no further or other liability or obligation to any Class Member with respect
18 to the Released Claims, except as expressly provided herein. All PAGA Members, regardless of
19 whether they submit timely and valid Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, will release all
20 PAGA Released Claims alleged in the Action and based on the letters to the Labor & Workforce
21 Development Agency on March 20, 2023 and May 25, 2023, during the PAGA Period. Plaintiff
22 on behalf of the State of California and the LWDA will also release all PAGA Released Claims.

23
24 3.2.2. Release As To Plaintiff. As of the Effective Date, Plaintiff will be deemed
25 to have fully, finally and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged
26 any and all of Plaintiff's General Released Claims against the Released Parties. With respect to
27 the Plaintiff's General Released Claims only, Plaintiff shall be deemed to have, and by operation
28 of the Final Judgment shall have, in light of their respective Class Representative Service Award,

expressly waived and relinquished, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the provisions, rights, and benefits of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which section provides:

A general release does not extend to claims which 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.

Plaintiff may hereafter discover facts in addition to or different from those they now know or believe to be true with respect to the subject matter of the Plaintiff's General Released Claims, but upon the Effective Date, shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Final Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever settled and released any and all of the Plaintiff's General Released Claims, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent, which now exist, or heretofore have existed, upon any theory of law or equity now existing or coming into existence in the future. Plaintiff agrees not to sue or otherwise make a claim against any of the Released Parties for Plaintiff's General Released Claims.

3.3. Tax Liability. The Parties understand and agree that the Parties are not providing tax or legal advice. Defendant shall not be responsible for any Employer Taxes due as a result of the Settlement, if any. These payments shall be made from the Gross Settlement Amount or the Net Settlement Amount. Settlement Class Members shall remain responsible for any Employee Taxes due as a result of the Settlement. Settlement Class Members will assume any employee tax obligations or consequences that may arise from this Settlement and should consult with a tax expert if they have questions. However, Individual Settlement Payments will be allocated as follows: one hundred percent (100%) as reimbursement, interest and penalties (for which an IRS Form 1099 will be issued if required by applicable law). The Parties agree that, in the event that any taxing body determines that additional employee taxes are due from any Settlement Class Member, such Settlement Class Member assumes all responsibility for the payment of such taxes.

3.4. Circular 230 Disclaimer. The Parties acknowledge and agree that (1) no provision of this Settlement, and no written communication or disclosure between or among the Parties, Class Counsel or Defendant's Counsel and other advisers, is or was intended to be, nor shall any such communication or disclosure constitute or be construed, or be relied upon, as tax advice

1 within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as
2 amended); (2) the acknowledging Party (a) has relied exclusively upon his, her, or its own,
3 independent legal and tax counsel for advice (including tax advice) in connection with this
4 Settlement, (b) has not entered into this Settlement based upon the recommendation of any other
5 Party or any attorney or advisor to any other Party, and (c) is not entitled to rely upon any
6 communication or disclosure by any attorney or advisor to any other Party to avoid any tax penalty
7 that may be imposed on the acknowledging Party; and (3) no attorney or advisor to any other
8 Party has imposed any limitation that protects the confidentiality of any such attorney's or
9 adviser's tax strategies (regardless of whether such limitation is legally binding) upon disclosure
10 by the acknowledging Party of the tax treatment or tax structure of any transaction, including any
11 transaction contemplated by this Settlement.

12 3.5. Settlement Approval and Implementation Procedures. As part of this Settlement,
13 the Parties agree to the following procedures for obtaining the Court's preliminary approval of
14 the Settlement: conditionally certifying the Settlement Class, notifying Settlement Class Members
15 of the Settlement and distributing the PAGA Payment, obtaining the Court's final approval of the
16 Settlement, and processing the Individual Settlement Payments, as set forth below.

17 3.5.1. Preliminary Approval and Certification. As soon as practicable after
18 execution of this Settlement, pending the Court's availability, Plaintiff will submit this Settlement
19 to the Court for preliminary approval of the Settlement, in accordance with California Rules of
20 Court, Rule 3.769(c). Such submission will include this Settlement, the proposed Notice Packet,
21 the proposed Preliminary Approval Order, and any memoranda and evidence as may be necessary
22 for the Court to determine that this Settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable. The Parties agree
23 to request the Court to enter an order conditionally certifying the Settlement Class after the
24 preliminary approval hearing, in accordance with California Rules of Court, Rule 3.769(d).

25 3.5.2. Class Information. No more than fourteen (14) calendar days after the
26 entry of the Preliminary Approval Order by the Court, Defendant shall provide the Settlement
27 Administrator with the Class Information for purposes of mailing Notice Packets to Class
28 Members. Defendant shall also provide the Settlement Administrator a separate list of PAGA

Members and dates of PAGA Members' employment with Defendant.

3.5.3. Notice by First Class U.S. Mail. Upon receipt of the Class Information, the Settlement Administrator will perform a search on the National Change of Address database to update the Class Members' addresses. No more than ten (10) calendar days after receiving the Class Information from Defendant, as provided herein, the Settlement Administrator shall mail copies of the Notice Packet to all Settlement Class Members by regular First-Class U.S. Mail. The Settlement Administrator shall exercise its best judgment to determine the current mailing address for each Class Member. The address identified by the Settlement Administrator as the current mailing address shall be presumed to be the best mailing address for each Class Member. It will be conclusively presumed that if an envelope so mailed has not been returned within twenty (20) days of the mailing that the Class Member received the Notice Packet. The Settlement Administrator shall post the operative complaint in this Action, the Settlement Agreement preliminary approved by the Court and any amendments, the Notice Packet, Preliminary Approval Order, and Final Judgement on the Settlement Administrator's website for 180 day following the Final Approval Order.

3.5.4. Undeliverable Notices. Any Notice Packets returned to the Settlement Administrator as undeliverable on or before the Response Deadline shall be re-mailed to the forwarding address affixed thereto or as described in paragraph 3.5.5 of this Settlement.

3.5.5. For each Class Member whose Notice Packet is returned, and a forwarding address is not affixed thereto, there will be one skip trace by the Settlement Administrator. If an updated mailing address is identified, the Settlement Administrator shall resend the Notice Packet to the Class Member at the updated mailing address so identified. One supplemental Notice Packet shall be mailed to each Class Member whose original Notice Packet is returned as undeliverable to the Settlement Administrator, if a forwarding or updated address can be identified. Such re-mailing shall be made within five (5) business days of the Settlement Administrator receiving notice that the respective Notice Packet was undeliverable. Any requests to Defendant's Counsel by the Settlement Administrator for documents or information from Defendant must be responded to within a reasonable amount of time by Defendant's Counsel. It

1 is the intent of the Parties that reasonable means be used to locate the Class Members and apprise
2 them of their rights.

3 3.5.6. Class Members to whom Notice Packets are resent after having been
4 returned undeliverable to the Settlement Administrator shall have fourteen (14) calendar days
5 thereafter, or until the Response Deadline has expired, whichever is later, to mail the Request for
6 Exclusion, Months Worked Dispute Form, or a Notice of Objection. Notice Packets that are resent
7 shall inform the recipient of this adjusted deadline. The date of the postmark on the return
8 envelope shall be the exclusive means used to determine whether a Class Member has returned
9 his or her Request for Exclusion or Months Worked Dispute Form on or before the adjusted
10 deadline. Months Worked Dispute Forms must be submitted pursuant to Paragraph 3.6. It will
11 be conclusively presumed that if an envelope so mailed has not been returned within thirty (30)
12 days of the mailing, that the Class Member received the Notice Packet. If a Class Member's
13 Notice Packet is returned to the Settlement Administrator more than once as undeliverable, then
14 an additional Notice Packet shall not be re-mailed.

15 3.5.7. Compliance with the procedures specified in paragraphs 3.5.3 through
16 3.5.6 of this Settlement shall constitute due and sufficient notice to Class Members of this
17 Settlement and shall satisfy the requirement of due process. Nothing else shall be required of, or
18 done by, the Parties, Class Counsel, and Defendant's Counsel to provide notice of the proposed
19 Settlement.

20 3.6. Disputes. Class Members will have the opportunity during the 60-day response
21 period, should they disagree with Defendant's records regarding their months worked during the
22 Class Period, to provide a completed Class Months Worked Dispute Form (attached hereto as
23 **Exhibit B**), documentation and/or an explanation to show contrary months worked. Additional
24 time may be permitted if the Notice Packet is re-mailed. If there is a dispute, the Settlement
25 Administrator will consult with the Parties to determine whether an adjustment is warranted. The
26 Settlement Administrator shall determine the eligibility for, and the amounts of, any Individual
27 Settlement Payments under the terms of this Settlement. The Settlement Administrator shall make
28 the initial determination of the eligibility for and amount of any Individual Settlement Payment.

1 The Court shall have the right to review any decision made by the Settlement Administrator
2 regarding any dispute. The Parties are required to file with the Court all disputes submitted by
3 Class Members, all evidence submitted, and the resolution of the dispute(s).

4 3.7. Exclusions (Opt-Outs). The Notice Packet shall state that Class Members who
5 wish to exclude themselves from the Settlement must submit a Request for Exclusion Form
6 (attached hereto as **Exhibit C**) by the Response Deadline. A Class Member may submit a Request
7 To Be Excluded From Settlement form or a writing that contains: (1) the name, address, and the
8 last four digits of the Social Security number and/or the entire Employee ID number of the Class
9 Member requesting exclusion; (2) a clear statement requesting to be excluded from the Class
10 Settlement; (3) must be signed by the Class Member; and (4) must be postmarked by the Response
11 Deadline and returned to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address. If the Request for
12 Exclusion does not contain the information listed in (1)-(3), it will not be deemed a valid Request
13 for Exclusion from this Settlement. The date of the postmark on the return mailing envelope shall
14 be the exclusive means used to determine whether a Request for Exclusion has been timely
15 submitted. Any Class Member who requests to be excluded from the Settlement in accordance
16 with the provisions of this paragraph will not be entitled to any recovery under the Settlement and
17 will not be bound by the terms of the Settlement. Class Members who receive a Notice Packet
18 but fail to submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion on or before the Response Deadline,
19 which is sixty (60) days from the date of the mailing of the Notice Packet, shall be bound by all
20 terms of the Settlement and any Final Judgment entered in this Action if the Settlement is
21 approved by the Court. Any Class Member who does not request exclusion as set forth above is
22 deemed to have released all claims, including Released Claims against Released Parties, as set
23 forth herein and therefore by operation will be deemed a Settlement Class Member. Upon signing
24 the Agreement, the Parties or their counsel shall not seek to solicit or otherwise encourage
25 members of the Class to submit Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement. Class Counsel shall
26 not represent any Class Member with respect to any such Request for Exclusion. Class Members
27 who submit a valid Request for Exclusion may not also submit a Notice of Objection. PAGA
28 Members cannot opt out or submit a Request for Exclusion

1 3.8. Objections. The Notice Packet shall state that Class Members who wish to object
2 to the Settlement may submit a written statement of objection (“Notice of Objection”) to the
3 Settlement Administrator. The Notice of Objection must be signed by the Class Member and
4 state: (1) the full name of the Class Member; (2) the dates of employment of the Class Member;
5 (3) the last four digits of the Class Member’s Social Security number and/or the entire Employee
6 ID number; (4) the basis for the objection; and, (5) whether the Class Member intends to appear
7 at the Final Approval Hearing. The Notice of Objection may be postmarked by the Response
8 Deadline and returned to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address. Within five (5)
9 days of receiving a Notice of Objection from a Settlement Class Member, the Settlement
10 Administrator shall forward the Notice of Objection to Class Counsel and Defendant’s Counsel.
11 The Parties shall thereafter lodge the Class Member’s Notice of Objection with the Court. Class
12 Members, regardless of whether or not they submit a timely Notice of Objection, will have a right
13 to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, with or without an attorney, and have their objection(s)
14 heard by the Court. At no time shall any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise
15 encourage Class Members to file or serve written objections to the Settlement or to appeal from
16 the Final Judgment. Class Counsel shall not represent any Class Member with respect to any such
17 objection.

18 3.9. Plaintiff’s Participation. By executing this Settlement, Plaintiff hereby stipulate
19 Plaintiff will not object to or exclude Plaintiff from the Settlement in any way.

20 3.10. No Solicitation of Settlement Objections or Exclusions. The Parties and their
21 counsel agree to use their best efforts to carry out the terms of this Settlement. Upon signing the
22 Agreement, the Parties or their counsel shall not seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class
23 Members to submit Notices of Objection to the Settlement or Requests for Exclusion from the
24 Settlement or to appeal from the Court’s Final Judgment.

25 3.11. Funding of the Gross Settlement Amount. This is a non-reversionary Settlement
26 in which Defendant is required to pay the entire Gross Settlement Amount and no additional
27 amounts. No portion of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant. Defendant is
28 note separately and solely responsible for any employer payroll taxes owed as a result of the

Settlement and any such taxes shall be paid from the Gross Settlement. Defendant shall fund the Gross Settlement Amount by no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the Effective Date. No release in this Settlement shall be effective until the Gross Settlement Amount is fully funded.

3.11.1. No more than five (5) business days after Defendant makes the Gross Settlement Amount payment, the Settlement Administrator shall provide the Parties with an accounting of all anticipated payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Net Settlement Amount shall be calculated by deducting from the Gross Settlement Amount the anticipated payments for (1) Class Representative Service Award, as specified in this Settlement and approved by the Court; (2) Class Counsel Fees, as specified in this Settlement and approved by the Court; (3) Class Counsel Costs, as specified in this Settlement and approved by the Court; (4) Settlement Administration Costs, as specified in this Settlement and approved by the Court; and (5) the LWDA PAGA Allocation, as specified in this Settlement and approved by the Court. The Net Settlement Amount shall be distributed in Individual Settlement Payments in accordance with Paragraphs 3.12, 3.12.1 and 3.13.

3.12. Individual Settlement Payments. Each Settlement Class Member shall be eligible to receive an Individual Settlement Payment, which is a share of the Net Settlement Amount, based on the number of months worked by the Settlement Class Member for Defendant during the Class Period, as a proportion of all months worked by all Class Members for Defendant during the Class Period. Individual Settlement Payments shall be paid by check pursuant to the formula set forth in Paragraph 3.12.1 and 3.13 below. Individual Settlement Payments shall be mailed by regular First-Class U.S. Mail to Settlement Class Members' last known mailing address no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after Defendant makes the payment of the Gross Settlement Amount. Individual Settlement Payments shall specifically indicate that they are void if not negotiated within one hundred eighty (180) days of their issuance. Individual Settlement Payments reflect settlement of a dispute regarding wages, interest, and penalties. Individual Settlement Payments will be allocated as follows: one-hundred percent (100%) as reimbursement, interest and penalties. The Settlement Administrator shall issue the appropriate tax documents associated with the Individual Settlement Payments.

1 3.12.1. Individual Settlement Payment Formula. After deducting the Class Counsel Fees
2 and Class Counsel Costs, the PAGA Allocation (to be distributed pursuant to Paragraph 3.13 to
3 PAGA Members only), Class Representative Service Award, ten dollars (\$10) per month to
4 Class Members for each month they worked remotely and utilized their home internet, and
5 Settlement Administration Costs, the remaining funds (the “Net Settlement Amount”), shall be
6 distributed as follows: The Settlement Administrator shall divide the Net Settlement Amount by
7 the total number of Months Worked Class Members worked for Defendant during the Class
8 Period in order to determine the amount each Settlement Class Member is entitled to for each
9 month he or she worked for Defendant (the “Month Amount”) during the Class Period. The
10 Settlement Administrator shall multiply the Month Amount by the estimated total number of
11 Months Worked that each Settlement Class Member worked for Defendant during the Class
12 Period. The product of each calculation represents the gross Individual Settlement Payment for
13 the respective Settlement Class Member. Within fourteen (14) calendar days after Preliminary
14 Approval, Defendant shall provide the Settlement Administrator with any information
15 reasonably necessary to perform the calculation of number of months worked for each Class
16 Member, and any other reasonably required information the Settlement Administrator requests
17 to perform the calculations required under this Settlement. Defendant shall have no
18 responsibility for deciding the validity of any Individual Settlement Payment or any other
19 payments made pursuant to this Settlement, shall have no involvement in or responsibility for
20 the determination or payment of Employee Taxes, and shall have no liability for any errors made
21 with respect to such Employee Taxes.

22 3.13. **PAGA Allocation & Related Release**. Out of the Maximum Settlement Amount
23 that is ultimately preliminarily approved, Defendant shall pay a total of Five Thousand Dollars
24 (\$5,000.00) to resolve the PAGA Claims (as defined below) of the Settlement Class (the “PAGA
25 Payment”). Of this amount, 75% (i.e. \$3,750) will be paid to the LWDA and 25% (i.e. \$1,250.00)
26 will be distributed on a pro rata per pay period basis to the PAGA Members who worked at any
27 time during the PAGA Period. Each PAGA Member’s Individual PAGA Payment will be
28 calculated based on the total number of months he or she worked during the PAGA Period. To

1 establish the month value, the Settlement Administrator will first determine the total number of
2 months worked by PAGA Members during the PAGA Period. 25% of the PAGA Settlement
3 Fund will then be divided by the total number of months worked by PAGA Members during the
4 PAGA Period to determine the month value. The PAGA Member Allocation represents the
5 portion of civil penalties awarded directly under PAGA, and shall be allocated as 100% penalties.
6 The Settlement Administrator will report the PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms. PAGA
7 Members will not be required to submit a claim form in order to be issued a check for their share
8 of the PAGA Payment. The PAGA Members will not have the opportunity to opt out of, or object
9 to, the PAGA Payment and release of the PAGA Claims. Upon receipt of the PAGA Payment,
10 PAGA Members shall be deemed to have released the PAGA claims as to civil penalties.

11 3.13.1. Settlement Class Members are not eligible to receive any compensation
12 other than the Individual Settlement Payment (and PAGA Payment for PAGA Members), and
13 they may only receive an Individual Settlement Payment if they do not submit a valid and timely
14 Request for Exclusion to opt out of the Settlement. PAGA Members will receive their portion
15 of the PAGA Payment regardless of whether they submit a valid and timely Request for
16 Exclusion to opt out of the Settlement. Plaintiff, however, is also eligible to receive a Class
17 Representative Service Award.

18 3.13.2. No benefit, including but not limited to pension benefits, shall increase or
19 accrue as a result of any payment made pursuant to this Settlement.

20 3.13.3. If an Individual Settlement Payment is returned to the Settlement
21 Administrator as undeliverable and does not have a forwarding address, the Settlement
22 Administrator shall promptly attempt to obtain a valid mailing address by performing a skip trace
23 search. If the returned Individual Settlement Payment has a forwarding address, or another
24 address is identified, the Settlement Administrator shall mail the Individual Settlement Payment
25 to the forwarding, or newly-identified, address. If an Individual Settlement Payment is returned
26 to the Settlement Administrator a second time as undeliverable, the Settlement Administrator
27 shall not attempt any further re-mailing of that Individual Settlement Payment, but shall hold
28 such Individual Settlement Payment until it becomes void. Any settlement checks that remain

1 uncashed one hundred eighty (180) calendar days after issuance shall be void (“Voided
2 Checks”).

3 3.13.4. Any settlement checks that are not cashed within one hundred eighty (180)
4 days after mailing shall thereafter be paid to the California State Controller in the name of the
5 Class Member who did not cash his or her check.

6 3.14. Class Representative Service Award. Defendant agrees not to oppose or object to
7 any application or motion by Plaintiff for Class Representative Service Award, not to exceed Five
8 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for each Plaintiff, as consideration for Plaintiff’s time and effort in
9 bringing and prosecuting this matter. The Class Representative Service Award shall be paid to
10 Plaintiff from the Gross Settlement Amount no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after
11 Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS
12 Form 1099 — MISC to Plaintiff for their Class Representative Service Award. Plaintiff shall be
13 solely and legally responsible for payment of all applicable taxes on their Class Representative
14 Service Award and shall hold Defendant harmless from any claim or liability for taxes, penalties,
15 or interest arising as a result of their Class Representative Service Award. The Class
16 Representative Service Award shall be in addition to Plaintiff’s Individual Settlement Payment
17 as a Settlement Class Member. If the Court awards lesser amounts than the Class Representative
18 Service Award requested, then any portion of the requested amount not awarded to Plaintiff shall
19 be added to the Net Settlement Amount. Plaintiff shall not have the right to revoke this agreement
20 to the Settlement on the grounds the Court did not approve any or all of their request for a Class
21 Representative Service Award; it shall remain binding. Any adjustments made by the Court to
22 the requested Class Representative Service Award shall not be deemed a material modification
23 of this Agreement.

24 3.15. Class Counsel Fees and Costs. Defendant agrees not to oppose or object to any
25 application or motion by Class Counsel for Class Counsel Fees in the amount of one-third of the
26 Gross Settlement Amount or Twenty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$26,250.00) and
27 Class Counsel Costs not to exceed Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) from the Gross Settlement
28 Amount. The Class Counsel Fees and Class Counsel Costs shall be paid no later than fifteen (15)

1 calendar days after the Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount. Class Counsel shall be
2 solely and legally responsible to pay all applicable taxes on the payments made pursuant to this
3 paragraph. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 — MISC to Class
4 Counsel for the payments made pursuant to this paragraph. This Settlement is not contingent upon
5 the Court awarding Class Counsel any particular amount in attorneys' fees and costs. Any amount
6 requested by Class Counsel for the Class Counsel Fees and Class Counsel Costs and not granted
7 by the Court shall become part of the Net Settlement Amount.

8 3.16. PAGA Allocation. Subject to Court approval, the Parties shall allocate a total of
9 Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) from the Gross Settlement Amount for the compromise of
10 claims brought under the Labor Code Private Attorney's General Act of 2004 (the "PAGA
11 Allocation").

12 3.17. LWDA PAGA Allocation. The LWDA PAGA Allocation shall be Three
13 Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$3,750.00), representing 75% of the PAGA Allocation,
14 and shall be paid to California's Labor Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") from the
15 Gross Settlement Amount by the Settlement Administrator no later than fifteen (15) calendar days
16 after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount. The remaining One Thousand Two Hundred
17 Fifty Dollars (\$1,250.00), representing 25% of the PAGA Allocation, shall be distributed to
18 PAGA Members.

19 3.18. Defendant's Option to Terminate Settlement. If, after the Response Deadline and
20 before the Final Approval Hearing, ten percent (10%) or more of the number of Settlement Class
21 Members submit timely and valid Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, Defendant shall
22 have, in its sole discretion, the option to terminate this Settlement. Defendant shall exercise its
23 option to terminate, if they wish, prior to the Final Approval Hearing, provided the Settlement
24 Administrator has provided Defendant the number and percentage of valid and timely Requests
25 for Exclusion no later than fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If
26 Defendant decides to void the Settlement, then the Settlement and conditional class certification
27 shall be considered void, and neither the Settlement, conditional class certification, nor any of the
28 related negotiations or proceedings, shall be of any force or effect, and the Parties shall stand in

the same position, without prejudice, as if this Settlement had been neither entered into nor filed with the Court. Should Defendant void the Settlement under this paragraph, Defendant shall be responsible for all Settlement Administration Costs incurred by the Settlement Administrator through the date that Defendant notifies the Settlement Administrator that they are exercising the option to terminate the Settlement.

3.19. Settlement Administration Costs. The Settlement Administrator shall be paid for the costs of administration of the Settlement from the Gross Settlement Amount. Such costs of administration are not to exceed Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00), unless the court approves a higher amount. No fewer than twenty (20) days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, the Settlement Administrator shall provide the Parties with a statement detailing the costs of administration. The Settlement Administrator, on Defendant's behalf, shall have the authority and obligation to make payments, credits and disbursements, including payments and credits in the manner set forth in this Settlement, to Settlement Class Members, calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in this Settlement and orders of the Court. The Parties agree to cooperate in the administration of the Settlement and to make all reasonable efforts to control and minimize the costs and expenses incurred in administration of the Settlement. The Parties each represent they do not have any financial interest in the Settlement Administrator or otherwise have a relationship with the Settlement Administrator that could create a conflict of interest. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for: processing and mailing all payments described in the Settlement to the Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Settlement Class Members and Verified Settlement Class Members, the LWDA, tax authorities,; printing and mailing the Notice Packets to the Settlement Class Members as called for in this Settlement and ordered by the Court; receiving and reporting Notice of Objections and Requests for Exclusion submitted by Class Members; providing declaration(s) as necessary in support of preliminary and/or final approval of this Settlement; and other tasks as the Parties mutually agree or the Court orders the Settlement Administrator to perform. The Settlement Administrator shall keep the Parties timely apprised of the performance of all Settlement Administrator responsibilities. Any legally mandated tax reports, tax forms, tax filings, or other tax documents required by administration of this Settlement

shall be prepared by the Settlement Administrator. Any expenses incurred in connection with such preparation shall be Settlement Administration Costs. The Settlement Administrator shall be paid the Settlement Administration Costs no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount.

3.20. Final Approval Hearing. At a reasonable time following the Response Deadline, the Court shall hold the Final Approval Hearing, where objections, if any, may be heard, and the Court shall determine amounts properly payable for (i) the Class Counsel Fees, (ii) the Class Counsel Costs, (iii) the Class Representative Service Award, (iv) the LWDA PAGA Allocation; and (v) the Settlement Administration Costs.

3.21. Entry of Final Judgment. If the Court approves this Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing, the Parties shall request that the Court enter the Final Judgment after the Gross Settlement Amount has been fully funded, with the Court retaining jurisdiction over the Parties to enforce the terms of the judgment. If the Court grants Final Approval to the Settlement, notice of Final Approval shall be posted on the Settlement Administrator's website, at www.phoenixclassaction.com.

3.22. No Effect on Employee Benefits. Amounts paid to Plaintiff or other Settlement Class Members pursuant to this Settlement will not count as earnings or compensation for purposes of any benefits (e.g., pensions or retirement plans) sponsored by Defendant. It is expressly understood and agreed that the receipt of Individual Settlement Payments and/or PAGA Payments shall not entitle any Settlement Class Member to additional compensation or benefits under any collective bargaining agreement or under any bonus, contest, or other compensation or benefit plan or agreement in place during the period covered by the Settlement, nor shall it entitle any Settlement Class Member to any increased pension and/or retirement, or other deferred compensation benefits. It is the intent of the Parties that payments from Net Settlement Amount provided for in this Settlement are the sole payments to be made by Defendant to Settlement Class Members in connection with this Settlement, with the sole exception of Plaintiff's Class Representative Service Award, and that the Settlement Class Members are not entitled to any new or additional compensation or benefits as a result of having received funds from the Net

1 Settlement Amount. Furthermore, the receipt of Individual Settlement Payments by Settlement
2 Class Members shall not, and does not, by itself establish any general, special, or joint
3 employment relationship between and among the Settlement Class Member(s) and Defendant.

4 3.23. Nullification of Settlement. In the event: (i) the Court does not enter the
5 Preliminary Approval Order as specified herein; (ii) the Court does not grant final approval of the
6 Settlement as provided herein; (iii) the Court does not enter a Final Judgment as provided herein;
7 or (iv) the Settlement does not become final for any other reason, this Settlement shall be null and
8 void and any order or judgment entered by the Court in furtherance of this Settlement shall be
9 treated as void from the beginning. In such a case, the Parties and any funds to be awarded under
10 this Settlement shall be returned to their respective statuses as of the date and time immediately
11 prior to the execution of this Settlement, and the Parties shall proceed in all respects as if this
12 Settlement had not been executed. In the event an appeal is filed from the Court's Final Judgment,
13 or any other appellate review is sought, administration of the Settlement shall be stayed pending
14 final resolution of the appeal or other appellate review.

15 3.24. No Admission by the Parties. Defendant denies any and all claims alleged in this
16 Action and denies all wrongdoing whatsoever. This Settlement is not a concession or admission,
17 and shall not be used against Defendant as an admission or indication, with respect to any claim,
18 of any fault, concession, or omission by Defendant. Neither this Settlement, nor any of its terms
19 and conditions, nor any of the negotiations connected with it, is a concession or admission, and
20 none shall be used against Defendant as an admission or indication with respect to any claim of
21 any fault, concession, or omission by Defendant, or that class certification is proper under the
22 standard applied to contested certification motions. The Parties stipulate and agree to the
23 certification of the Settlement for settlement purposes only. The Parties further agree that this
24 Settlement will not be admissible in this or any other proceeding as evidence that either: (i) a class
25 action should be certified or (ii) Defendant is liable to Plaintiff or any Class Member, other than
26 according to the terms of this Settlement.

27 3.25. Dispute Resolution. Except as otherwise set forth herein, all disputes concerning
28 the interpretation, calculation or payment of settlement claims, or other disputes regarding

compliance with this Settlement shall be resolved as follows:

3.25.1. If Plaintiff or Class Counsel, on behalf of Plaintiff or any Settlement Class Members, or Defendant at any time believe that the other Party or Parties have breached or acted contrary to the Settlement, that Party shall notify the other Party or Parties in writing of the alleged violation.

3.25.2. Upon receiving notice of the alleged violation or dispute, the responding Party shall have ten (10) days to correct the alleged violation and/or respond to the initiating Party with the reasons why the Party disputes all or part of the allegation.

3.25.3. If the response does not address the alleged violation to the initiating Party's satisfaction, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith for up to ten (10) days to resolve their differences.

3.25.4. Prior to the Court's involvement pursuant to paragraph 3.35, if the Parties still cannot resolve a dispute, the Parties shall utilize the services of a mediator in a good-faith to attempt to mediate and resolve the dispute.

3.25.5. If the Parties are unable to resolve their differences after twenty (20) days, either Party may file an appropriate motion for enforcement with the Court.

3.26. Exhibits and Headings. The terms of this Settlement include the terms set forth in Exhibits A, B, and C, which are attached to this Settlement and incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth in this paragraph. Any Exhibits to this Settlement are an integral part of the Settlement. The descriptive headings of any paragraphs or sections of this Settlement are inserted for convenience of reference only and do not constitute a part of this Settlement.

3.27. Interim Stay of Proceedings. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

3.28. Amendment or Modification. This Settlement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument signed by all the Parties and counsel for all Parties or their successors-in-

1 interest.

2 3.29. Entire Settlement. This Settlement and any attached Exhibits constitute the entire
3 agreement among these Parties, and no oral or written representations, warranties, or inducements
4 have been made to any Party concerning this Settlement or its exhibits, other than the
5 representations, warranties, and covenants contained and memorialized in the Settlement and its
6 exhibits. No other prior or contemporaneous written or oral agreements may be deemed binding
7 on the Parties.

8 3.30. Authorization to Enter into Settlement. Counsel for all Parties warrant and
9 represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this
10 Settlement and to take all appropriate actions required or permitted to be taken by such Parties
11 pursuant to this Settlement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents required
12 to effectuate the terms of this Settlement. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each
13 other and use their best efforts to affect the implementation of the Settlement. In the event the
14 Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to
15 implement the Settlement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to
16 effectuate the terms of this Settlement, the Parties may seek the assistance of the Court to resolve
17 such disagreement. The person signing this Settlement on behalf of Defendant represents and
18 warrants that he or she is authorized to sign this Settlement on behalf of Defendant. Plaintiff
19 represents and warrants Plaintiff is authorized to sign this Settlement and that Plaintiff has not
20 assigned any claim, or part of a claim, covered by this Settlement to a third-party.

21 3.31. No Prior Assignments. The Parties and their counsel represent, covenant, and
22 warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported
23 to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity any portion of any liability, claim, demand,
24 action, cause of action or right herein released and discharged.

25 3.32. California Law Governs. All terms of this Settlement and the exhibits hereto shall
26 be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of California.

27 3.33. This Settlement is Fair, Adequate and Reasonable. The Parties believe this
28 Settlement is a fair, adequate, and reasonable settlement of the Action and have arrived at this

1 Settlement after extensive arms-length negotiations, taking into account all relevant factors,
2 present and potential.

3 3.34. Jurisdiction of the Court. In accordance with California Rule of Court 3.769(h)
4 and Civil Code of Procedure section 664.6, the Parties agree that the Court shall retain jurisdiction
5 with respect to the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of the terms of this Settlement
6 and all orders and judgments entered in connection therewith, and the Parties and their counsel
7 hereto submit to the jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of interpreting, implementing, and
8 enforcing this Settlement and all orders and judgments entered in connection therewith.

9 3.35. Invalidity of Any Provision. Before declaring any provision of this Settlement
10 invalid, the Court shall first attempt to construe the provision to be valid to the fullest extent
11 possible, consistent with applicable precedents.

12 3.36. Waiver of Certain Appeals. The Parties agree to waive appeals and to stipulate to
13 conditional class certification for purposes of this Settlement only.

14 3.37. Cooperation. The Parties agree to cooperate fully with one another to accomplish
15 and implement the terms of this Settlement. Such cooperation shall include, but not be limited
16 to, execution of such other documents and the taking of such other action as may be reasonably
17 necessary to fulfill the terms of this Settlement. The Parties to this Settlement shall use their best
18 efforts, including all efforts contemplated by this Settlement and any other efforts that may
19 become necessary by Court order, or otherwise, to effectuate this Settlement and its terms.

20 3.38. Publicity. Plaintiff agrees not to disclose or publicize the Settlement Agreement
21 contemplated herein, the facts of the Settlement Agreement, its terms or contents, or the
22 negotiations underlying the Settlement Agreement, in any manner or form, directly or indirectly,
23 to any person or entity, except to Settlement Class members and as shall be contractually required
24 to effectuate the terms of the Settlement Agreement as set forth herein. However, for the limited
25 purpose of allowing Class Counsel to prove adequacy as class counsel in other actions, Class
26 Counsel may disclose the names of the Parties in this Action, the venue/case number of this
27 Action, and a general description of the Action, to a court in a declaration by Class Counsel. Class
28 Counsel may also include a general description of the Settlement on their respective websites, but

may not include the name(s) of any of the Parties, including the Defendant, or any of the Released Parties, or the case name or case number of the Action.

3.39. Mutual Preparation. The Parties have had a full opportunity to negotiate the terms and conditions of this Settlement. Accordingly, this Settlement will not be construed more strictly against one party than another merely by virtue of the fact that it may have been prepared by counsel for one of the Parties, it being recognized that, because of the arm's-length negotiations between the Parties, all Parties have contributed to the preparation of this Settlement.

3.40. Representation by Counsel. The Parties acknowledge that they have been represented by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Settlement, and that this Settlement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel, and reviewed in full. Further, Plaintiff and Class Counsel warrant and represent that there are no liens on the Settlement.

3.41. All Terms Subject to Final Court Approval. All amounts and procedures described in this Stipulation are subject to final Court approval.

3.42. Notices. Unless otherwise specifically provided, all notices, demands or other communications in connection with this Settlement shall be: (1) in writing; (2) deemed given on the third business day after mailing; and (3) sent via United States registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff:

Kevin Mahoney, Esq.
John A. Young, Esq.
MAHONEY LAW GROUP
249 East Ocean Boulevard, Suite 814
Long Beach, CA 90802
Telephone: (562) 590-5550
Facsimile: (562) 590-8400

To Defendant:

George Straggas, Esq.
STRAGGAS LAW GROUP
6 Venture, Ste. 235
Irvine, CA 92618
Telephone: (949) 660-9100
Facsimile: (949) 660-9144

1 3.43. Execution by Settlement Class Members. It is agreed that it is impossible or
2 impractical to have each Settlement Class Member execute this Settlement. The Notice of
3 Settlement will advise all Settlement Class Members of the binding nature of the release and such
4 shall have the same force and effect as if each Settlement Class Member executed this Settlement.

5 3.44. Execution by Plaintiff and Defendant. Plaintiff and Defendant, by signing this
6 Settlement, are bound by the terms herein.

7 3.45. Binding Agreement. The Parties warrant that they understand and have full
8 authority to enter into this Settlement, and further intend that this Settlement will be fully
9 enforceable and binding on all Parties, and agree that it will be admissible and subject to
10 disclosure in any proceeding to enforce its terms, notwithstanding any mediation confidentiality
11 provisions that otherwise might apply under federal or state law.

12 3.46. Counterparts. This Settlement shall become effective upon its execution by all
13 of the undersigned. Plaintiff and Defendant may execute this Settlement in counterparts, and
14 execution of counterparts shall have the same force and effect as if each had signed the same
15 instrument. Copies of the executed Settlement shall be effective for all purposes as though the
16 signatures contained therein were original signatures.

17 3.47. The Parties, Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel represent that they are not
18 aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or
19 affected by the Settlement.
20

21 Dated: _____

On behalf of FCI Lender Services, Inc.

22 _____
23

24 Printed: _____

25 Title: _____

26 03 / 04 / 2025
27 Dated: _____

David Christian Ochoa

David Christian Ochoa
28 _____

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18 aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or
19 affected by the Settlement.
20

21 Dated: March 4, 2025

On behalf of FCI Lender Services, Inc.

22 
23 _____

24 Printed: Michael W. Griffith

25 Title: President & CEO

26
27 Dated: _____

David Christian Ochoa
28 _____

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Exhibit A

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION AND PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL
ACT (“PAGA”) SETTLEMENT**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE
OCHOA V. FCI LENDER SERVICES, INC., CASE NO. 30-2023-01316140-CU-OE-CXC**

A court authorized this notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

**ATTENTION: IF YOU HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED BY FCI LENDER SERVICES, INC.,
AS AN EMPLOYEE IN CALIFORNIA AT ANY TIME DURING THE PERIOD
BEGINNING OCTOBER 31, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 30, 2024, YOU ARE
ENTITLED TO A SHARE OF A PROPOSED CLASS ACTION AND PAGA
SETTLEMENT.**

*FCI Lender Service’s records show that, between October 31, 2020
through December 30, 2024 you worked <<months worked>> as an employee.*

*FCI Lender Service’s records show that, between October 31, 2020 through
December 30, 2024 you worked remotely <<months worked>> as an employee.*

*Based on these records, your estimated minimum settlement payment is
<<estimated amount>>.*

TO UNDERSTAND YOUR RIGHTS, READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

- A proposed class and PAGA action settlement (the “Settlement”) has been reached between Plaintiff David Christian Ochoa (“Plaintiff”), on behalf of themselves and the below-defined Settlement Class, and Defendant FCI Lender Services, Inc. (“Defendant”).
- The Settlement resolves a class action and PAGA lawsuit (the “Action”) about Plaintiff’s allegations that Defendant failed to reimburse for necessary business expenditures and is liable for unreimbursed business expenditures and civil penalties. Plaintiff also alleged a PAGA cause of action pursuant to the California Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Cal. Lab. Code § 2698 *et seq.* The claim was brought on behalf of the State of California and all employees, who work or worked for Defendant at any time during the PAGA Period (March 20, 2022 through December 30, 2024). You have been identified as one of the employees on whose behalf the case was brought.
- Defendant denies all liability to Settlement Class Members, asserts that it properly reimbursed employees and fully complied with all applicable wage and hour laws; has not engaged in any unfair business practices; and has entered into the Settlement solely for purposes of resolving this dispute.
- The Settlement provides for settlement payments based on the number of months you worked while employed by Defendant and worked remotely for Defendant between October 31, 2020 through December 30, 2024.

Your estimated minimum settlement payment and covered months worked during the relevant period are stated above and described further below.

OVERVIEW OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS UNDER THE SETTLEMENT	
DO NOTHING	You will automatically receive a settlement payment in exchange for which, whether or not you cash or deposit the payment, you will be bound by all terms of the Settlement and any Final Judgment entered in this Action if the Settlement receives final approval by the Court, and you will give up your rights to be part of any other lawsuit against Defendant involving the same or similar legal claims as the ones in this Action, based on the facts alleged in this Action. You will be mailed a settlement check at the address where this notice was mailed (unless you timely provide a forwarding address to the Settlement Administrator). The settlement check will include your Individual Class Settlement amount and PAGA Settlement amount (if you worked during the PAGA Period).
EXCLUDE YOURSELF FROM THE CLASS	Submit a request for exclusion post marked no later than [Response Deadline]. This is the only way for you to be part of any other lawsuit against Defendant involving the same or similar legal claims as the ones in this Action. If you submit a Request for Exclusion, you will <u>not</u> receive a class settlement payment and you will <u>not</u> be bound by the terms of the Settlement. If you request to be excluded from the Settlement, you will still receive a PAGA individual payment if you worked during the PAGA Period and shall be bound by the PAGA release.
OBJECT	If you wish to object to the Settlement, you may submit a written Objection and any supporting papers to the Settlement Administrator. The Objection may be postmarked no later than [Response Deadline]. You may also attend the Final Approval Hearing, with or without an attorney, to voice your objections (whether you had previously mailed a written objection or not). No written objection is required prior to appearing at the Final Approval Hearing.
GO TO THE HEARING	All Class Members have the option of attending the Final Approval Hearing. You may also attend the Final Approval Hearing, with or without an attorney, to voice your objections, if any (whether you had previously mailed a written objection or not). You can still submit a claim form. If the Court approves the Settlement, you will be bound by it.

- These rights and options, and how to exercise them, are explained in more detail in this notice.

- The Court handling this Action still has to decide whether to grant final approval of the Settlement. Settlement payments will only be issued if the Court grants final approval of the Settlement.
- Additional information regarding the Settlement is available through the Settlement Administrator or Class Counsel, whose contact information is provided in this notice.

BASIC INFORMATION

1. Why Did I Get This Notice?

Defendant's records show that you are, or have been, employed by Defendant at some point in California during the period from October 31, 2020 through December 30, 2024. This notice explains the Action, the Settlement, and your legal rights.

The lawsuit is known as *Ochoa v. FCI Lender Services, Inc.*, and is pending in the Superior Court of California for the County of Orange, Case No. 30-2023-01316140-CU-OE-CXC (the "Action").

2. What is the Action About?

The Action generally involves claims under California's Labor Code and the PAGA. Plaintiff is a former employee of Defendant. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant failed to indemnify for business expenditures, including using personal cell phone and home internet to complete work for Defendant. As a result, Plaintiff alleges that Plaintiff and Settlement Class Members (defined in response to Question 4 below) are entitled to recover reimbursement of business expenditures, and penalties. Defendant denies that it engaged in any wrongful conduct or that it violated the law in any way, and it believes that Plaintiff and the Settlement Class were properly reimbursed for necessary business expenditures.

3. Why is This A Class Action?

Class action lawsuits are generally used where a large number of individuals are believed to be affected. In a class action, one or more persons, called the "Plaintiff" sue on behalf of people who have similar alleged claims. All of these people are a "class" or "class members." Once the class is certified, the Court resolves the issues for all class members, except for those who exclude themselves from the class. Class certification does not mean that there was any wrongdoing on the part of Defendant. On **[insert date]**, the Honorable Randall J. Sherman issued an order conditionally certifying the Settlement Class for settlement purposes only.

4. Who Is In The Settlement Class?

"Settlement Class Members" or "Settlement Class" means all employees currently and formerly employed by Defendant in the State of California at any time from October 31, 2020 through December 30, 2024, that have not elected to be excluded.

5. Why Is There A Settlement?

After conducting thorough investigation, including review of policies, payroll records, time records and personnel files, both sides have agreed to the Settlement as described in this notice to avoid the cost and risk of further litigation. The Settlement does not mean that any law was broken or that Defendant engaged in any wrongdoing. Defendant denies all of the claims asserted in the Action and denies that it has violated any laws. A settlement permits the parties to avoid the cost, delay, and uncertainty of trial, and permits eligible Class Members to receive some compensation sooner, rather than engaging in years of further litigation – including motions for summary judgment, trial, and an appeal – with the possibility of no recovery at all. The Settling Parties disagree on both liability and damages, and do not agree on the average amount of damages, if any, that would be recoverable if Plaintiff were to prevail at trial on each claim. Nonetheless, Defendant has concluded that further defense of this Action would be protracted and expensive, and that it is desirable that this Action be fully and finally settled upon the terms and conditions approved by the Court in order to limit further expense and avoid the burden of protracted litigation. Defendant entered into a proposed Settlement without in any way admitting to or acknowledging any fault, liability or wrongdoing of any kind. There has been no adverse determination by any court against Defendant or anyone else on the merits of the claims asserted in the Complaint.

THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS—WHAT YOU GET

6. What Does The Settlement Provide?

Under the terms of the Settlement, Defendant agrees to pay a Gross Settlement Amount of Seventy-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$78,750.00). If there are no objections and no appeals, Defendant will fund the Gross Settlement Amount no later than thirty (30) days of the Effective Date. The Effective Date is the date by when both of the following have occurred: the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement; and (b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (a) if no Class Member objects to the Settlement, the day the Court enters Judgment; (b) if one or more Class Members objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment; or if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur. Individual Settlement Payments will be mailed by regular First-Class U.S. Mail to Settlement Class Members' last known address no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount.

Deducted from this Gross Settlement Amount will be sums approved by the Court for attorneys' fees, not to exceed Twenty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$26,250.00), which is 33-1/3% of the Gross Settlement Amount; attorneys' actual costs, not to exceed Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00); Class Representative Enhancement Award to the Plaintiff for Plaintiff's service as Plaintiff and class representative, not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00); a payment of Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$3,750.00) to the State of California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") for alleged civil penalties; and the fees and expenses of the Settlement Administrator, Phoenix Settlement Administrators, not to exceed

Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00), ten dollars (\$10) per month to Class Members that worked remotely and utilized their home internet, which will result in a net amount payable by Defendant for distribution to Settlement Class Members who do not opt out (“The Net Settlement Amount”). The remaining One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,250.00) of the PAGA Allocation, will be paid to Class Members who worked during the PAGA Period based on the number of pay periods worked by the Class Member during the PAGA Period.

Individual Class Settlement Payment Formula: The Net Settlement Amount will be distributed to Settlement Class Members who do not opt out of the Settlement (“Participating Class Members”), as follows: Compensable months will be all months in which Participating Class Members worked for Defendant in California during the Class Period. The Settlement Administrator shall divide the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of months all Participating Class Members worked during the Class Period in California for Defendant in order to determine the amount to which each Participating Class Member is entitled for each month he or she was employed by Defendant (the “Month Amount”) during the Class Period. Months are determined by the Settlement Administrator calculating the number of months each Participating Class Member worked at Defendant during the Class Period. The Settlement Administrator will multiply the Monthly Amount by the total number of months that each Participating Class Member worked during the Class Period for Defendant to arrive at the gross Individual Settlement Payment for each Participating Class Member.

No benefit, including but not limited to pension benefits, shall increase or accrue as a result of any payment made as a result of the Settlement.

The Parties recognize that the settlement amounts to be paid to the Participating Class Members are for reimbursement of business expenditures. The Parties agree that the Participating Class Member payments shall be reported on IRS Form 1099 and its state and local equivalents. In the event payments do not meet the \$600 minimum reporting requirements, you may not receive an IRS Form 1099. **The Parties are neither providing tax or legal advice, nor making representations regarding tax obligations or consequences, if any, related to any settlement amounts to be paid to the Participating Class Members. Each Participating Class Member will assume any employee tax obligations or consequences that may arise from any settlement amount paid to him or her and should consult with a tax expert if he or she has questions.**

Individual Class Settlement Payment to Participating Class Members: Each Participating Class Member shall be eligible to receive an Individual Settlement Payment, which is a share of the Net Settlement Amount, based on the number of months worked by the Participating Class Member for Defendant during the Class Period, as a proportion of all months worked by all Participating Class Members for Defendant during the Class Period. Further, Participating Class Members that worked remotely are expected to receive ten dollars (\$10.00) for each month they worker remotely. In no event will the Gross Value of the Settlement exceed the amount set forth above in this Paragraph 6.

Individual PAGA Settlement Payment Formula: The Settlement Administrator shall divide the PAGA Allocation to be distributed to Class Members that worked during the PAGA Period

regardless of whether they opt-out of the Individual Class Settlement Payment. Twenty-Five percent (25%) of the PAGA Allocation or a total of One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,250.00) shall be distributed *pro rata* to Class Members by the total number of pay periods they worked during the PAGA Period. Each Class Member's Individual PAGA Payment will be calculated based on the total number of months he or she worked during the PAGA Period. To establish the month value, the Settlement Administrator will first determine the total number of months worked by Class Members during the PAGA Period. Twenty-Five percent (25%) of the PAGA Allocation will then be divided by the total number of months worked by Class Members during the PAGA Period to determine the month value. The product of each calculation represents the gross Individual PAGA Settlement Payment for the respective Class Member.

Individual Settlement payments and Individual PAGA Settlement payments will be reported on IRS Form 1099 as payment of penalties.

DEFENDANT'S RECORDS INDICATE YOU WORKED APPROXIMATELY [INSERT MONTHS] MONTHS DURING THE SETTLEMENT CLASS PERIOD.

DEFENDANT'S RECORDS INDICATE YOU WORKED REMOTELY APPROXIMATELY [INSERT MONTHS] MONTHS DURING THE SETTLEMENT CLASS PERIOD.

DEFENDANT'S RECORDS INDICATE YOU WORKED APPROXIMATELY [INSERT MONTH] MONTHS DURING THE PAGA PERIOD.

BASED ON YOUR TOTAL MONTHS WORKED DURING THE CLASS PERIOD AND THE PAGA PERIOD, YOUR ESTIMATED INDIVIDUAL SETTLEMENT PAYMENT IS [INSERT AMOUNT].

To the extent any Participating Class Member disputes any aspect of his or her payment, that Participating Class Member must complete a month dispute report form and produce supporting evidence to the Settlement Administrator and it must be postmarked no later than [Response Deadline]. Late month dispute forms will not be considered. The Settlement Administrator shall make the initial determination of the eligibility for and amount of any Individual Settlement Payment. The Court shall have the right to review any decision made by the Settlement Administrator regarding any dispute. The Parties are required to file with the Court all disputes submitted by Class Members, all evidence submitted, and the resolution of the dispute(s).

Once the Settlement becomes final (as described in response to Question 17 below), the process of funding the Gross Settlement Amount (as described above) will begin. The Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members will be made within fifteen (15) calendar days after Defendant fully funds the Settlement. Again, Defendant will fund the Gross Settlement Amount no later than thirty (30) days after the Effective Date (defined above). Additionally, any settlement checks that are not cashed within one hundred eighty (180) days after mailing shall thereafter be paid to the California State Controller in the name of the Class Member who did not cash his or her check.

7. What Am I Giving Up In Exchange For Settlement Benefits?

In exchange for the consideration provided, Plaintiffs and each member of the Settlement Class who does not submit a valid Request for Exclusion (defined in response to Question 10 below) will release Defendant, and each of its parent companies, subsidiaries, related companies, affiliates, dbas, current and former management companies, shareholders, members, agents (including any investment bankers, accountants, insurers, reinsurers, attorneys and any past, present or future officers, directors and employees) predecessors, successors, and assigns, or any related entity that was the “employer” of Class Members (collectively, the “Released Parties”) from any and all claims during the Class Period which were or reasonably could have been raised based on the facts alleged in the Action, including claims, demands, rights, liabilities, and causes of action for failure to reimburse for necessary business expenditures, violation of the Private Attorney General Act (California Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.*), civil and statutory penalties, interest, liquidated damages, attorney’s fees and costs, claims under California Labor Code sections 2802 and 2698-2699.5, and applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order, and claims under California Business & Professions Code sections 17200-17204. It is understood and agreed that Released Claims do not include claims for workers’ compensation, unemployment, or disability benefits of any nature, nor any claims, actions, or causes of action which may be possessed by Settlement Class Members under state or federal discrimination statutes, including, without limitation, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, California Government Code section 12940, *et seq.*; the Unruh Civil Rights Act, California Civil Code section 51, *et seq.*; the California Constitution; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000, *et seq.*; the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, *et seq.*; the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 1001, *et seq.*; and all of their implementing regulations and interpretive guidelines.

HOW TO GET A SETTLEMENT PAYMENT

8. How Do I Get A Settlement Payment?

If you do not exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will automatically receive a class settlement payment in exchange for which, whether or not you cash or deposit the payment, you will be bound by all terms of the Settlement and any Final Judgment entered in this Action if the Settlement receives final approval by the Court; and you will give up your rights to be part of any other lawsuit against the Released Parties involving the same or similar legal claims as the ones in this case, based on the facts alleged in the Action. You will be mailed a settlement check at the address where this notice was mailed (unless you timely provide a forwarding address to the Settlement Administrator). If you worked during the PAGA Period, you will also receive a PAGA Payment and will be bound by the release of PAGA claims. You cannot opt out of the PAGA Payment or release of the claims under PAGA for Labor Code violations listed Section 7.

9. When Will I Get My Check?

Checks will be mailed to Participating Class Members after the Gross Settlement Amount is fully funded (as described in response to Question 6 above). If the judge approves the Settlement

after a hearing on **[insert date]** (see “The Court’s Final Approval Hearing” section below), there may be appeals. If there are any appeals, resolving them could take some time, so please be patient. Please also be advised that you will have only 180 days from the date that your settlement check is issued to cash it. If you do not cash your settlement check within 180 days of the date of its issuance, your Individual Settlement Payment will be voided. **Assuming there are no appeals, it is estimated that you will receive your settlement check within approximately ninety (90) days after the Court grants final approval of the Settlement** (see “The Court’s Final Approval Hearing” section below).

EXCLUDING YOURSELF FROM THE SETTLEMENT

10. How Do I Ask The Court to Exclude Me From the Settlement Class?

If you do not wish to participate in the Settlement (“opt out”), you must complete and send a timely Request for Exclusion form. The Request for Exclusion must be signed, dated, and mailed by First Class U.S. Mail, or the equivalent, postmarked no later than **[Response Deadline]** to:

**Phoenix Settlement Administrators
P.O. Box 7208
Orange, CA 92863**

Requests for Exclusion that do not include all required information and/or that are not timely submitted will be deemed null, void, and ineffective. Settlement Class Members who fail to submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion on or before the above-specified deadline shall be bound by all terms of the Settlement and any Final Judgment entered in the Action if the Settlement is approved by the Court. Finally, this request for exclusion will not apply to your Individual PAGA Settlement Payment if you worked during the PAGA Period. You will receive your Individual PAGA Settlement Payment regardless of your request for exclusion and you will be bound by the PAGA release if the Settlement is approved.

11. If I Exclude Myself, Can I Get Anything From the Class Settlement?

No. If you exclude yourself now, you will not get anything from the settlement. If you ask to be excluded within the time allowed for a Request for Exclusion, you will not get an Individual Class Settlement Payment and you will not be bound by the Settlement. However, as stated in section 10, even if you submit a request for exclusion from the Class Action Settlement, it will not apply to your Individual PAGA Settlement Payment if you worked during the PAGA period and you will receive your Individual PAGA Settlement Payment regardless of your request for exclusion and you will be bound by the PAGA release if the Settlement is approved.

12. If I Don’t Exclude Myself, Can I Sue Later?

No, not for the Released Claims. Unless you exclude yourself, you give up the right to sue the Released Parties for the claims that were or could have been brought based on the facts as alleged in this Action. You must exclude yourself from the Class Action Settlement within the time indicated in the response to Question 10 above if you wish to start or continue your own lawsuit.

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

13. Do I Have a Lawyer In This Case?

The Court has appointed the following lawyers to serve as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class:

Kevin Mahoney, Esq.
kmahoney@mahoney-law.net
John A. Young (SBN: 299808)
jyoung@mahoney-law.net
MAHONEY LAW GROUP, APC
249 East Ocean Boulevard, Suite 814
Long Beach, CA 90802
Telephone No.: (562) 590-5550
Facsimile No.: (562) 590-8400

14. How Will The Costs of the Lawsuit and The Settlement Be Paid?

Subject to court approval, Defendant agrees to pay, as part of the Gross Settlement Amount, Twenty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$26,250.00) in attorneys' fees, and up to Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) in actual costs, to Class Counsel. The Court may award less than these amounts. If lesser amounts are awarded, the difference will be returned to the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members. All attorneys' fees and costs will be paid from the Class Settlement Amount.

In addition, and subject to Court approval, Defendant agrees to pay Plaintiff, as part of the Gross Settlement Amount, a total of up to Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to Plaintiff, as a Class Representative Service Award for Plaintiff's participation in this lawsuit and for taking on the risk of litigation. Defendant also agrees to pay, as part of the Gross Settlement Amount, the Settlement Administrator's costs and fees associated with administering the Settlement, not to exceed Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00). The Court may award less than these amounts. If lesser amounts are awarded, the difference will be included in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members. In no event will the Gross Value of the Settlement exceed the amount set forth in Paragraph 6, above.

OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENT

15. How Do I Object to the Settlement?

Any Settlement Class Member may object to the proposed Settlement for any reason by completing a written objection. The written objection may be mailed to the Settlement

Administrator at the following address by regular U.S. Mail, or the equivalent, postmarked no later than **[Response Deadline]**:

**Phoenix Settlement
Administrators
P.O. Box 7208
Orange, CA 92863
(800) 523-5773**

A written objection must be signed by the Settlement Class Member and must state: (1) the full name of the Settlement Class Member; (2) the dates of employment of the Settlement Class Member; (3) the last four digits of the Settlement Class Member's Social Security number and/or the entire Employee ID number; (4) the basis for the objection; and, (5) whether the Settlement Class Member intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing. If a Settlement Class Member wishes to appear at the Court's Final Approval Hearing (see response to Question 17 below) and orally present his or his objection to the Court, they may do so whether or not they submitted a written objection to the Settlement Administrator. They may also hire counsel to represent them at the final approval hearing. Any Settlement Class Member who submits an objection or appears at the Final Approval Hearing to submit a verbal objection remains eligible to receive monetary compensation from the Settlement. Settlement Class Members who submit Requests for Exclusion may not object to the proposed Settlement.

16. What's The Difference Between Objecting and Asking to be Excluded?

Objecting is simply telling the Court you do not like something about the Settlement. Excluding yourself is telling the Court that you do not want to be part of the Settlement Class.

THE COURT'S FINAL APPROVAL HEARING

The Court will hold a hearing to decide whether to approve the Settlement. Whether you have filed an objection on time or not, you may attend and you may ask to speak, but you don't have to.

It is not necessary for you to appear at this hearing. You may appear and speak at the hearing if you want to do so, remotely or in-person. You can arrange for a remote appearance via Zoom through the Court's online check-in process available through the court's website at <https://www.occourts.org/mediarelations/civil.html>. Any attorney who will represent you must file a notice of appearance with the Court and serve the notice of appearance on Class Counsel and counsel for Defendant on or before **[one week before the hearing]**. You will be solely responsible for the fees and costs of your own attorney.

17. When and Where Will the Court Decide Whether to Approve the Settlement?

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing on **[insert time/date]** in Department CX-105 at the Superior Court of California for the County of Orange, located at **751 W. Santa Ana Blvd, Santa Ana, CA 92701**. The hearing may be moved to a different date and/or time without additional notice. At this hearing, the Court will consider whether the Settlement is fair,

reasonable, and adequate. If there are objections, the Court will consider them. The Court will only listen to people who ask to speak at the hearing. The Court will also decide how much should be paid for Class Counsel's fees and costs, the Settlement Administrator's costs, the PAGA Allocation, and Plaintiffs' Class Representative Service Award. After the hearing, the Court will decide whether to approve the Settlement. If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, the date which the Court grants final approval of the Settlement will be the Final Approval Date. We do not know how long these decisions will take.

18. Do I Have to Come to the Hearing?

No. Class Counsel will answer any questions the judge may have. But you are welcome to come at your own expense. If you send an objection, you don't have to come to Court to talk about it, however, you are welcome to do so. As long as you mailed your written objection on time, the Court will consider it. You may also pay another lawyer to attend and represent you, but it is not required.

19. May I Speak At The Hearing?

If a Settlement Class Member wishes to appear at the Final Approval Hearing and orally present his or his objection to the Court, they may do so regardless of whether or not they submitted a written objection.

IF YOU DO NOTHING

20. What Happens If I Do Nothing At All?

If you do nothing, you will automatically receive a payment from this Settlement (assuming the Settlement is approved and not successfully appealed) as described above and you will be bound by the release of the claims described above and in the Settlement. If the Court grants final approval to the Settlement, notice of the final approval shall be posted on the Settlement Administrator's website at www.phoenixclassaction.com.

GETTING MORE INFORMATION

21. How Do I Get More Information?

This notice summarizes the Settlement. More details are in the Settlement. You may contact Class Counsel or the Settlement Administrator for more information. This notice summarizes the Settlement. More details are in the Settlement. You may contact Class Counsel by email at jyoung@mahoney-law.net or by phone at (562) 590-5550, or visit the Settlement Administrator website at [www.phoenixclassaction.com/\[INSERT BY ADMINISTRATOR\]](http://www.phoenixclassaction.com/[INSERT BY ADMINISTRATOR]) for more information about the Action, including the operative complaint, Plaintiff's PAGA notice to the LWDA, the Notice Packet, the Preliminary Approval Order, and Final Judgment (following Final approval of the Settlement). The Settlement Administrator's Office phone number is (800) 523-5773 if you wish to speak with a Settlement Administrator representative. You may also view the entire case file, you can go to the Clerk's Office of the Superior Court of California for the County of Orange, located at 751 W. Santa Ana Blvd, Santa Ana, CA 92701 or review the

Court's docket for this case by using the URL for the Court: <https://civilwebShopping.occourts.org/Login.do>. Review the Civil Case Access page and Accept Terms to proceed. Input the Case number (30-2023-01316140-CU-OE-CXC), year filed (2023), check the "reCAPTCHA" I'm not a robot box, and click search. You can review the Case Summary, Register of Actions, Participants, Hearings, and purchase any documents. Please note documents from the Action are available on the Settlement Administrator's website and available upon request from Class Counsel.

**PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE, EMAIL OR WRITE THE COURT, THE
OFFICE OF THE CLERK FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS
SETTLEMENT**

Exhibit B

CLASS MONTHS WORKED DISPUTE FORM

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA – ORANGE
OCHOA V. FCI LENDER SERVICES, INC.

Indicate Name/Address Changes, if any:

<<Name>>
«Address»>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip Code>>
XX - XX - _ _ _ _

INSTRUCTIONS

IF YOU WERE EMPLOYED BY FCI LENDER SERVICES, INC. (“DEFENDANT”) AS AN EMPLOYEE, BETWEEN OCTOBER 31, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 30, 2024 THEN YOU ARE A SETTLEMENT CLASS MEMBER.

The amount of your estimated Settlement Payment is based upon the months you worked for Defendant in California between October 31, 2020 through December 30, 2024. “Months Worked” shall mean the number of months each Class Member worked for Defendant from October 31, 2020 through December 30, 2024. The number of months applicable to your claim is set forth below. If you believe that the number of months stated is incorrect, you may dispute the number of months by submitting a completed Dispute Form with supporting document on or before [60 days after initial mailing]. **If you believe that the number of months stated below is correct, you do not have to do anything.**

If you have moved or may move in the future, you must immediately send your new address to the Settlement Administrator at the address listed above; otherwise, your individual settlement payment may not reach you. It is your responsibility to keep a current address on file with the Settlement Administrator to ensure receipt of your settlement payment.

I. YOUR COMPENSABLE MONTHS WORKED

Defendant’s records show that during the Class Period (October 31, 2020 through December 30, 2024), you worked as employee, in California, which qualifies you as a Settlement Class Member and your total number of months in this position are: <<**NUMBER OF MONTHS**>>.

Defendant’s records show that during the Class Period (October 31, 2020 through December 30, 2024), you worked as employee, in California, remotely which qualifies you as a Settlement Class Member and your total number of months in this position are: <<**NUMBER OF MONTHS**>>.

II. YOUR ESTIMATED SETTLEMENT PAYMENT

Based upon the above numbers of months, your estimated pre-tax Settlement Payment is <<**INSERT**>>.

III. CHALLENGE TO MONTHS WORKED

If you wish to dispute the data listed above, you must postmark your dispute and provide all supporting information and/or documentation to the Settlement Administrator by <<**NOTICE PERIOD DEADLINE**>>.

Check a box below **ONLY** if you wish to dispute the dates listed above:

☐ I wish to dispute the number of months listed above. I believe the correct amount of months I worked is _____. I have also included information and/or documentary evidence that support my dispute (such as paystubs, time records, tax documents). I understand that, by submitting this dispute, I hereby authorize the Settlement Administrator to review Defendant's records and make a determination as to the validity of my dispute based upon Defendant's records as well as the records and information that I submit to the Settlement Administrator. The Court shall have the right to review any decision made by the Settlement Administrator regarding any dispute. The Parties are required to file with the Court all disputes submitted by Class Members, all evidence submitted, and the resolution of the dispute(s).

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United States of America that the information I provided in this Months Worked Dispute Form is true and correct.

Dated: _____

Signature: _____

Print or Type Name: _____

MAIL TO:

OCHOA V. FCI LENDER SERVICES, INC.
Settlement Administrator
c/o

Phoenix Settlement Administrators
P.O. Box 7208
Orange, CA 92863

IF YOU ARE CONTESTING THE AMOUNT OF YOUR ELIGIBLE MONTHS, TO CHALLENGE THE NUMBER OF MONTHS WORKED YOU MUST SIGN AND POSTMARK AND RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR ON OR BEFORE
«NOTICE PERIOD DEADLINE».

Exhibit C

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF ORANGE

DAVID CHRISTIAN OCHOA, as an
individual and on behalf of all similarly
situated employees,

Plaintiff,

v.

FCI LENDER SERVICES INC., and DOES
1-50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 30-2023-01316140-CU-OE-CXC

**REQUEST TO BE EXCLUDED FROM
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT¹**

Assigned for all purposes:
Hon. Randall J. Sherman, Dept. CX105

**ONLY COMPLETE THIS FORM IF YOU *DO NOT* WANT TO RECEIVE RECOVERY
FROM THE SETTLEMENT**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Last 4 Digits of SSN: _____

I wish to be excluded from the Class Action Settlement of the case *Ochoa v. FCI Lender Services, Inc.* Case No. 30-2023-01316140-CU-OE-CXC, currently pending in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Orange. I understand by signing below I will not receive any payment from this Settlement and will not be releasing any claims at issue in this action.

Dated: _____

(signature)

If you wish to be excluded from the Settlement, please complete and sign this Request for Exclusion form and mail it to *Ochoa v. FCI Lender Services, Inc.*, c/o Phoenix Class Action Administration at P.O. Box 7208, Orange, CA 92863 no later than [**DATE set by Court**].

¹ **DO NOT SUBMIT THIS FORM IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE A SETTLEMENT PAYMENT.**