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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

CASSANDRA WALKER, FRANCES PARDO,
CHRISTIAN VERDUZCO, COLLIN JOHNSON,
and HANNAH GANSEN, as private attorneys
general,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

FITNESS ALLIANCE, LLC, a California limited
liability company; and DOES 1 through 50,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 37-2023-00020191-CU-OE-CTL

**DECLARATION OF CHRISTIAN
VERDUZCO IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO
APPROVE PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Hearing Date: November 7, 2024
Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m.

Judge: Hon. Joel R. Wohlfeil
Dept.: C-73

Action Filed: May 1, 2023

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1 I, Christian Verduzco, declare:

2 1. I am a competent adult, I have personal knowledge of the facts in this declaration, and I
3 am making this declaration on behalf of myself, as a named plaintiff, and in support of the Motion to
4 Approve Private Attorneys General Act Settlement.

5 2. I worked in California as a non-exempt employee of Defendant Fitness Alliance LLC
6 (“Fitness Alliance”) from October 2022 to November 2022.

7 3. I retained my attorneys who are experienced in PAGA representative action litigation and
8 claims against employers for violations of the California Labor Code. I have no personal relationship or
9 family ties to my attorneys or any officer of the Court. I am not aware of having any actual or potential
10 conflicts of interest with another PAGA Member in this case nor am I aware of having any actual or
11 potential conflicts of interest with Phoenix Settlement Administrators, the settlement administrator.

12 4. I was subject to Fitness Alliance’s policies and practices that have been alleged as unlawful
13 in the Complaint and the PAGA notice sent to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency. For
14 example, I was forced to work off the clock as I was subject to temperature checks before entering the
15 facility, I was texted and called by my managers while off the clock, and I was required to download
16 applications and utilize email off the clock as a part of my job duties. I often did not receive compliant
17 meal and rest breaks, which were frequently late, short, or interrupted. Further, I was not reimbursed for
18 the use of my personal cell phone which was an essential tool necessary to perform my job duties.

19 5. In bringing this case for myself, the State of California, and the other employees, I
20 understood a lot of work would be required and I was willing to, and did, do the work to keep the case
21 moving forward. For instance, before the complaint was filed I spoke to my attorneys several times and
22 discussed how Defendant implemented its company policies and procedures. I also assisted my attorneys
23 in their investigation into my claims by providing them documents and answering their questions. I
24 reviewed the complaint before it was filed and after it was filed, I was given access to an electronic file
25 sharing program that alerted me via email when important documents were filed so that I could review
26 them and keep up with the developments in the case. I was informed that the Defendant had the right to
27 take my deposition, and that the preparation and deposition itself could take multiple days. Although my
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1 deposition was not taken, I feel I would have been adequately prepared and comfortable to give testimony
2 on my experiences.

3 6. My attorneys explained to me the risks and benefits of bringing a representative action. I
4 understood that I took on the risk, both professionally and financially, in pursuing the case as a
5 representative PAGA action.

6 7. A mediation took place on February 23, 2024 with Tripper Ortman, a well-respected and
7 experienced mediator. The mediation resulted in an agreement to settle the action. I communicated with
8 my attorneys regarding the terms of the settlement which was reached between the parties and understood
9 that the recovery in this case was for the benefit of my fellow coworkers, not just for me, and therefore
10 wanted the best possible result to be obtained for the PAGA Members. I reviewed and signed the
11 Memorandum of Understanding on April 8, 2024.

12 8. I have been actively involved with this lawsuit. Although I did not keep time records, I
13 was in regular contact with my attorneys, reviewed court filings, and spent a significant amount of time
14 on the issues presented during the lawsuit and in the settlement process. I estimate that I spent
15 approximately 30-40 hours working on this case up until this point.

16 9. I reviewed the final PAGA Settlement Agreement and I believe it is fair and reasonable
17 given the facts of the case.

18 10. As part of the settlement it was necessary for me to sign a general release of claims I may
19 have against the Defendant. I believe the Service Award I have requested provides me with some
20 compensation for this agreed release and is also fair compensation for the service I performed and the
21 risks I undertook.

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23 Executed on Aug 16, 2024, at Santa Monica, California.
24 (city, state)

25 
26 Christian Verduzco (Aug 16, 2024 16:13 PDT)
27 Christian Verduzco
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