

PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between plaintiff John Vratil (“Plaintiff”) and Defendant Joliet California, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company (“Joliet”) (“Defendant”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendant collectively as “Parties,” or individually as “Party.”

1. DEFINITIONS.

- 1.1 “Action” means the Plaintiff’s PAGA lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned *John Vratil and Joliet California, LLC*, initiated on August 23, 2023 and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, CASE NO. 23SMCV04124.
- 1.2 “Administrator” means Phoenix Class Action Administration Solutions (hereinafter “Phoenix”), the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.
- 1.3 “Administration Expenses Payment” means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s “not to exceed” bid submitted to the Court in connection with approval of this Settlement.
- 1.4 “Aggrieved Employee” means a person employed by Defendant Joliet as a worker in California, classified as a non-exempt hourly employee during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5 “Aggrieved Employee Data” means Aggrieved Employee identifying information in Defendant’s possession including the Aggrieved Employee’s name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number and number of PAGA Pay Periods.
- 1.6 “Aggrieved Employee Address Search” means the Administrator’s investigation and search for current Aggrieved Employee mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address database, skip traces and direct contact by the Administrator with Aggrieved Employees.
- 1.7 “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.
- 1.8 “Defense Counsel” means David A. Baldwin of Law Office of David Baldwin, Attorney for Defendant.
- 1.9 “Effective Date” means the date by when both of the following have occurred: (a) the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Approving the PAGA Settlement and (b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latter of: (a) the date upon which the deadline for seeking appellate review of the Judgment has passed without the filing of a timely appeal or a timely request for review; or (b) if an appeal, review or writ is sought from the Judgment, the date upon which all appellate and/or other proceedings resulting from the

appeal, review or writ have been finally terminated in such a manner as to permit the Judgment to take effect in substantially the form described herein.

- 1.10 “Gross Settlement Amount” means \$55,000.00 which is the total amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement, except as provided in Paragraph 8 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and the Administrator’s Expenses Payment.
- 1.11 “Individual PAGA Payment” means the Aggrieved Employee’s pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of Pay Periods the Aggrieved Employee worked during the PAGA Period.
- 1.12 “Judgment” means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.
- 1.13 “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subdivision (i).
- 1.14 “LWDA PAGA Payment” means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subdivision (i).
- 1.15 “Net Settlement Amount” means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: Plaintiff’s General Release Payment, the LWDA PAGA Payment, PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Aggrieved Employees as Individual PAGA Payments.
- 1.16 “PAGA Counsel” means Haig B. Kazandjian and Cathy Gonzalez of Haig B. Kazandjian Lawyers, APC, the attorneys representing the Plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.17 “PAGA Counsel Fees Payment” and “PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment” mean the amounts allocated to PAGA Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action.
- 1.18 “PAGA Pay Period” means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for DEFENDANT for at least one day during the PAGA Period.
- 1.19 “PAGA Period” means the period from April 21, 2022 through April 30, 2024. this Settlement Agreement.
- 1.20 “PAGA” means the Private Attorneys General Act (Lab. Code, § 2698. Et seq.).
- 1.21 “PAGA Notice” means Plaintiff’s April 21, 2023 letter to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subdivision (a).
- 1.22 “PAGA Penalties” means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the

Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees (\$6,577.50) and the 75% to LWDA (\$19,732.50) in settlement of PAGA claims.

1.23 “Plaintiff” means John Vratil, the named plaintiff in the Action.

1.24 “Plaintiff’s General Release Payment” means the amount allocated to Plaintiff John Vratil in exchange for his general release, for the release of all claims pending in arbitration, and in recognition of his actions in conferring a benefit upon the State of California in his effort and work in prosecuting the Action on behalf of the PAGA Aggrieved Employees.

1.25 “Approval Order” means the proposed Court Order Granting Approval of PAGA Settlement and entering Judgment thereon.

1.26 “Released PAGA Claims” means the claims being released by the Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel and as described in Paragraph 5 below.

1.27 “Released Parties” means Defendant and each of its former and present directors, officers, shareholders, owners, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, subsidiaries and/or affiliates.

1.28 “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.

1.29 “Defendant” means named Defendant Joliet California, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company (“Joliet”).

2. RECITALS.

2.1 On August 31, 2023, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a Complaint alleging a single cause of action seeking penalties under PAGA against Defendant for alleged violations of the California Labor Code for: Failure to provide employment records in violation of Labor Code sections 226, 432, and 1198.5; failure to pay overtime and double time in violation of Labor Code sections 510 and the applicable Wage Orders; failure to provide rest and meal periods in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7, 512(a), and the applicable Wage Orders; failure to pay minimum wage in violation of Labor Code sections 1182.12, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, and the applicable Wage Orders; failure to keep accurate payroll records and provide itemized wage statements in violation of Labor Code sections 226(a), 1174(d), 1198 and the applicable Wage Orders; failure to pay reporting time wages in violation of California Code of Regulations, Title 8, section 11050(5)(A); failure to pay split shift wages in violation of California Code of Regulations 11050(4)(C); failure to pay all wages earned on time in violation of Labor Code sections 201.3, and 204; failure to pay all wages earned upon discharge or resignation in violation of Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203; and failure to reimburse necessary, business-related expenses in violation of Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802. The Complaint is the operative complaint in the Action (the “Operative Complaint”). Defendant denies the allegations in the Operative Complaint, denies any

failure to comply with the laws identified in in the Operative Complaint and denies any and all liability for the cause of action alleged.

2.2 Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subdivision (a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.

2.3 Plaintiff obtained through informal discovery, time and wage records and relevant policies that applied to Defendant's Aggrieved Employees.

2.4 The Parties, PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action, specifically asserting PAGA claims on behalf of the Aggrieved Employees at issue, which may be extinguished or affected by this Settlement.

3. MONETARY TERMS.

3.1 Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 8 below, Defendant promises to pay \$55,000.00 and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 6.1 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant.

3.2 Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Order approving this Settlement:

3.2.1 To PAGA Counsel: PAGA Counsel Fees Payment of not more than 33.3%, which is currently estimated to be \$18,315.00, and PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$1,000.00 Defendant will not oppose requests for Court approval of these payments provided that they do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiff and/or PAGA Counsel seek approval of PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Litigation Expenses Payment in conjunction with seeking approval of this settlement agreement. If the Court approves a PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and/or a PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to PAGA Counsel or any other Plaintiff's Counsel arising from any claim to any portion any PAGA Counsel Fee Payment and/or PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. PAGA Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds Defendant harmless, and indemnifies Defendant, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these Payments.

3.2.2 To Plaintiff: Plaintiff John Vratil's General Release Payment of not more than

\$7,500.00. Defendant will not oppose requests for Court approval of this payment provided that it does not exceed this amount. Plaintiff and/or PAGA Counsel will seek approval of Plaintiff's General Release Payment in conjunction with seeking approval of this settlement agreement. If the Court approves a General Release Payment less than the amount requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to PAGA Counsel or Plaintiff arising from any claim to any portion of Plaintiff's General Release Payment. The Administrator will pay Plaintiff's General Release Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. Plaintiff assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on Plaintiff's General Release Payment and holds Defendant harmless, and indemnifies Defendant, from any dispute or controversy regarding Plaintiff's General Release Payment.

3.2.3 To the Administrator: An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed \$1,875.00 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the Administration Expenses are less or the Court approves payment less than \$1,875.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.

3.2.4 To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties in the amount of \$26,310.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% (\$19,732.50) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (\$6,577.50) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.

3.2.4.1 The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalties (\$6,577.50) by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Period Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

3.2.4.2 If the Court approves PAGA Penalties of less than the amount requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

4. SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.

4.1 Aggrieved Employee Pay Periods. Based on a review of its records to date, Defendant estimates there are 15 Aggrieved Employees who worked an approximate total 555 of PAGA Pay Periods through during the covered period.

4.2 Aggrieved Employee Data. Within 30 days of the Effective Date, Defendant will simultaneously deliver the Aggrieved Employee Data to the Administrator in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Aggrieved Employees' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Aggrieved Employee Data in confidence, use the

Aggrieved Employee Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose and restrict access to the Aggrieved Employee Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Aggrieved Employee Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify PAGA Counsel if it discovers that the Aggrieved Employee Data omitted employee identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Aggrieved Employee Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendant must send the Aggrieved Employee Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Aggrieved Employee Data.

4.3 Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant shall pay Gross Settlement Amount by transmitting the funds to the Claims Administrator according to the following payment schedule: Defendant to pay \$15,000.00 to the Claims Administrator within seven (7) days of the Parties' execution of the Settlement Agreement; Defendant to pay \$20,000.00 to the Claims Administrator thirty (30) days thereafter; Defendant to pay final \$20,000.00 to the Claims Administrator thirty (30) days thereafter. While court approval is pending, the previously mentioned payments will be held in a trust account by the Claims Administrator. If the Court approves the settlement, the funds will be released by the Claims Administrator to Plaintiff's Counsel, the Representative Class, and the LWDA respectively within five (5) days of the Court's order. If the Court does not approve the settlement, the monies in the escrow account will be returned to the Defendant and the Parties will revert to their positions prior to when the Settlement Agreement was executed.

4.4 Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within 14 days after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, the PAGA Counsel Expenses Payment. Disbursement of the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment shall not precede disbursement of Individual PAGA Payments.

4.4.1 The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Aggrieved Employees via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (not less than 180 days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided. The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. Before mailing any checks, the Settlement Administrator must update the recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.

4.4.2 The Administrator must conduct an Aggrieved Employee Address Search for all Aggrieved Employees whose checks are returned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within 7 days of receiving a returned check, the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Aggrieved Employee Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to deliver checks to Aggrieved Employees whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Aggrieved Employee whose original check was lost or

misplaced, requested by the Aggrieved Employee prior to the void date.

4.4.3 For any Aggrieved Employee whose Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Aggrieved Employee.

4.4.4 The payment of Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendant to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to the Aggrieved Employees (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses) beyond those specified in this Agreement.

5. RELEASES OF CLAIMS. Effective on the date when Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

5.1 Plaintiff's Release. Plaintiff and his respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys (including PAGA Counsel), heirs, administrators, successors and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all claims, transactions or occurrences that occurred during the PAGA Period, including, but not limited to: all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice. Plaintiff's Release does not extend to any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time or based on occurrences outside the PAGA Period. Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff's Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff's discovery of them.

5.1.1 Plaintiff's Waiver of Rights Under Civil Code Section 1542. For purposes of Plaintiff's Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

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.

5.2 Release by Aggrieved Employees:

All Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties that

were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the alleged violations of the Labor Code, including Failure to provide employment records in violation of Labor Code sections 226, 432, and 1198.5; failure to pay overtime and double time in violation of Labor Code sections 510 and the applicable Wage Orders; failure to provide rest and meal periods in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7, 512(a), and the applicable Wage Orders; failure to pay minimum wage in violation of Labor Code sections 1182.12, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, and the applicable Wage Orders; failure to keep accurate payroll records and provide itemized wage statements in violation of Labor Code sections 226(a), 1174(d), 1198 and the applicable Wage Orders; failure to pay reporting time wages in violation of California Code of Regulations, Title 8, section 11050(5)(A); failure to pay split shift wages in violation of California Code of Regulations 11050(4)(C); failure to pay all wages earned on time in violation of Labor Code sections 201.3, and 204; failure to pay all wages earned upon discharge or resignation in violation of Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203; and failure to reimburse necessary, business-related expenses in violation of Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice for the time period of April 21, 2022 through the date of approval of this Settlement Agreement.

5.3 Release by PAGA Counsel:

PAGA Counsel release on behalf of their present and former attorneys, employees, agents, successors and assigns the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA Fees incurred in connection with the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice, Case No. 23SMCV04124.

6. MOTION OR STIPULATION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT. The Parties agree to jointly prepare and file a stipulation or motion for approval of this Settlement.

- 6.1 Plaintiff's Responsibilities. Plaintiff will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all documents necessary for obtaining approval of this Settlement under Labor Code section 2699, subdivision (f)(2)) including a stipulation for approval of this settlement along with a draft proposed Order/Judgment Granting Approval of PAGA Settlement.
- 6.2 Responsibilities of PAGA Counsel. PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the stipulation for approval of this Settlement no later than [30] days after the full execution of this Agreement and, if necessary, obtaining a prompt hearing date for the motion and appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the motion. PAGA Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Order approving the settlement to the Administrator.
- 6.3 Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed stipulation or motion for approval of this Settlement and/or the supporting declarations and documents, PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does not grant the motion for approval of this Settlement or conditions its approval on any material change to this Agreement,

PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

7. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

- 7.1 Selection of Administrator. The Parties have jointly selected Phoenix to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, Phoenix agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for payment of Administration Expenses. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.
- 7.2 Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports state and federal tax authorities.
- 7.3 Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1.
- 7.4 Administrator Duties. The Administrator has a duty to perform or observe all tasks to be performed or observed by the Administrator contained in this Agreement or otherwise.

8. AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE SIZE ESTIMATES AND ESCALATOR CLAUSE

Based on its records, Defendant estimates that, as of the date of this Settlement Agreement, there are 15 Aggrieved Employees who worked an approximate total of 555 Pay Periods for the period from April 21, 2022 through the date of approval of the Settlement Agreement. Should the number of Pay Periods from the start of the PAGA Period through the date of approval increase by more than 15%, Defendant will either (a) increase the Gross Settlement Amount by one percent (1%) for every one percent (1%) increase in pay periods over the fifteen percent (15%) threshold (e.g. if the number of Pay Periods during this period increases by 16 %, the Gross Settlement Amount shall increase by 1 %), or (b) elect to set the end date for the PAGA Period on the date when the total pay periods for the PAGA Period would be 2,300.

9. CONTINUING JURISDICTION OF THE COURT. The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing settlement administration matters and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.

- ~~9.1~~ Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment

and PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, the Parties, their respective counsel waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If another party appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.

10. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

- 10.1 No Admission of Liability or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by Defendant that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that Defendant has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendant's defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree that representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If for any reason the Court does not approve this Settlement, Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiff reserves the right to contest Defendant's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement and Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation (except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement).
- 10.2 Integrated Agreement. Upon execution by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement together with its attached exhibits shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement, superseding any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants or inducements made to or by any Party.
- 10.3 Attorney Authorization. PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff and Defendant, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.
- 10.4 Cooperation. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts, in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying the Settlement Agreement, submitting supplemental evidence and supplementing points and authorities as requested by the Court. In the event the Parties are unable to agree upon the form or content of any document necessary to implement the Settlement, or on any modification of the Agreement that may become necessary to implement the Settlement, the Parties will seek the assistance of a mediator and/or the Court for resolution.

- 10.5 No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered or purported to assign, transfer or encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.
- 10.6 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, PAGA Counsel, Defendant nor Defense Counsel are providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.
- 10.7 Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.
- 10.8 Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 10.9 Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the state of California, without regard to conflict of law principles.
- 10.10 Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.
- 10.11 Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made and orders entered during Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.
- 10.12 Use and Return of Aggrieved Employee Data. Information provided to PAGA Counsel pursuant to Evidence Code section 1152, and all copies and summaries of the PAGA Data provided to PAGA Counsel by Defendant in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute or California Rules of Court rule. Not later than 90 days after the Administrator discharges its obligation to pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy all paper and electronic versions of Aggrieved Employee Data received from Defendant unless, prior to the Administrator's payment of all Settlement Funds, Defendant makes a written request to PAGA Counsel for the return, rather than the destruction, of Aggrieved Employee Data.
- 10.13 Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.

10.14 Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to “days” in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.

10.15 Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff:

HAIG B. KAZANDJIAN LAWYERS, APC
Haig B. Kazandjian, Esq. Bar No.: 278622
haig@hbklawyers.com
Cathy Gonzalez, Esq., Bar No.: 310625
cathy@hbklawyers.com
801 North Brand Boulevard, Suite 970
Glendale, California 91203
Telephone: (818) 696-2306
Facsimile: (818) 696-2307

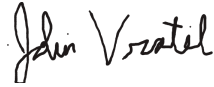
To Defendant:

LAW OFFICE OF DAVID BALDWIN
David Baldwin, Esq. Bar No.: 301970
David@davidbaldwinlaw.com
333 S. Grand, Suite 3310
Los Angeles, California 90071
Telephone: (323) 595-3989
Facsimile: (323) 417-5176

10.16 Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

10.17 Stay of Litigation. 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 Code of Civil Procedure section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under Code of Civil Procedure section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

DATED: 06 / 27 / 2024



John Vratil, for himself and as a
Representative of other Aggrieved Employees

DATED: 7/13/24

Joliet California, LLC

By: 

Title & Name: Benjamin Adams, managing member

By: 

Title & Name: Meza, Luis, managing member

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

DATED: 06/27/2024

HAIG B. KAZANDJIAN LAWYERS, APC

By: 

Haig B. Kazandjian, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees

DATED: July 16, 2024

LAW OFFICE OF DAVID BALDWIN

By: 

David Baldwin, Esq.
Attorney for Defendant, Joliet California, LLC

Title	PAGA Settlement Agreement (Final) 5.22.24.pdf
File name	PAGA%20Settlement...%29%205.22.24.pdf
Document ID	fa4346be8f22ab9d8090440cea1000b4b391b88e
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Document History



SENT

06 / 27 / 2024

20:57:02 UTC

Sent for signature to John Vratil (jav.90094.0@gmail.com)
from jasmine@hbklawyers.com
IP: 35.129.93.189



VIEWED

06 / 27 / 2024

21:02:40 UTC

Viewed by John Vratil (jav.90094.0@gmail.com)
IP: 164.68.240.117



SIGNED

06 / 27 / 2024

21:04:56 UTC

Signed by John Vratil (jav.90094.0@gmail.com)
IP: 164.68.240.117



COMPLETED

06 / 27 / 2024

21:04:56 UTC

The document has been completed.