SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE Civil Complex Center 751 W. Santa Ana Blvd Santa Ana, CA 92701	
SHORT TITLE: Gutierrez vs. Groundworks Campaigns, Inc.	
CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/ELECTRONIC SERVICE	CASE NUMBER: **30-2023-01320761-CU-OE-CXC**

I certify that I am not a party to this cause. I certify that that the following document(s), Minute Order dated 10/22/26, Minute Order dated 10/22/26, was transmitted electronically by an Orange County Superior Court email server on October 22, 2026, at 4:26:31 PM PDT. The business mailing address is Orange County Superior Court, 700 Civic Center Dr. W, Santa Ana, California 92701. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1013b, I electronically served the document(s) on the persons identified at the email addresses listed below:

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Clerk of the Court, by: Lorena Mendez , Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF ORANGE
CIVIL COMPLEX CENTER

MINUTE ORDER

DATE: 10/22/2026 TIME: 04:22:00 PM DEPT: CX102

JUDICIAL OFFICER PRESIDING: Layne H. Melzer
CLERK: L. Mendez
REPORTER/ERM: None
BAILIFF/COURT ATTENDANT: None

CASE NO: **30-2023-01320761-CU-OE-CXC** CASE INIT.DATE: 04/21/2023
CASE TITLE: **Gutierrez vs. Groundworks Campaigns, Inc.**
CASE CATEGORY: Civil - Unlimited CASE TYPE: Other employment

EVENT ID/DOCUMENT ID: 74990858

EVENT TYPE: Chambers Work

APPEARANCES

There are no appearances by any party.

It appearing to the Court that through error or inadvertence, the minute order of this Court dated 10/22/2026, does not properly reflect the order of the Court. Said minute order is ordered corrected Nunc Pro Tunc as of 10/22/2026, as indicated below:

DELETE:
Plaintiff Kimberly Gil Gutierrez's Motion for Final Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement is CONTINUED to November 11, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. in Department CX102.

ADD:
Plaintiff Kimberly Gil Gutierrez's Motion for Final Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement is CONTINUED to **November 12, 2026** at 2:00 p.m. in Department CX102.

All other portions of the minute order dated 10/22/2026 remain in full force and effect.

Court orders clerk to give notice.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF ORANGE
CIVIL COMPLEX CENTER

MINUTE ORDER

DATE: 10/22/2026 TIME: 02:00:00 PM DEPT: CX102

JUDICIAL OFFICER PRESIDING: Layne H. Melzer
CLERK: L. Mendez
REPORTER/ERM: None
BAILIFF/COURT ATTENDANT: L. Morales

CASE NO: **30-2023-01320761-CU-OE-CXC** CASE INIT.DATE: 04/21/2023
CASE TITLE: **Gutierrez vs. Groundworks Campaigns, Inc.**
CASE CATEGORY: Civil - Unlimited CASE TYPE: Other employment

EVENT ID/DOCUMENT ID: 74945426

EVENT TYPE: Motion for Final Approval
MOVING PARTY: Kimberly Gil Gutierrez
CAUSAL DOCUMENT/DATE FILED: Motion - Other for final approval of class & representative action settlement, 09/29/2026

APPEARANCES
Ashlie E. Fox, from J. Gill Law Group, present for Plaintiff(s) remotely.
Amber Healy, from Buchalter, a Professional Corporation, present for Defendant(s) remotely.

Hearing held, all participants appearing remotely.

Tentative Ruling posted on the Internet.

The Court having fully considered the arguments of all parties, both written and oral, as well as the evidence presented, now modifies the tentative ruling as follows:

Plaintiff Kimberly Gil Gutierrez's Motion for Final Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement is **CONTINUED to November 11, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. in Department CX102.**

Except as modified herein, the tentative ruling is adopted as the Court's final ruling, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

107	**Gutierrez vs. Groundworks Campaigns, Inc.** **30-2023-01320761**

Motion for Final Approval Class/PAGA Settlement

Plaintiff Kimberly Gil Gutierrez's Motion for Final Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement is **CONTINUED to January 7, 2027 at 2:00 p.m. in Department CX102** in order to give Class Counsel an opportunity to address the issues identified below.

This is a putative wage-and-hour class action and PAGA matter.

On 4/21/2023, Plaintiff Kimberly Gil Gutierrez, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, filed a class action complaint against Defendant Groundworks Campaigns, Inc. (ROA #2.) Defendant answered on 8/15/2023. (ROA #20.)

The operative complaint is the first amended complaint, filed on 10/27/2025 pursuant to the stipulation and order, which alleges various Labor Code wage-and-hour violations and unfair business practices, including a claim for PAGA penalties. (ROA #91.)

On 10/10/2025, Plaintiff filed the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement. On 5/7/2026, at the second hearing on the matter, the Court granted the motion. (ROA #111.) On 5/26/2026, the Court entered the order granting preliminary approval. (ROA #122.)

On 9/29/2026, Plaintiff filed the instant Motion for Final Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement. The motion seeks approval of the Amended Joint Stipulation Re: Class Action and Representative Action Settlement ("Settlement Agreement"), which provides for the settlement of Plaintiff's class and PAGA claims for the non-reversionary gross settlement amount ("GSA") of $339,620. The GSA includes $20,000 allocated for PAGA penalties.

The Court concludes that an attorneys' fee award totaling $101,886.00 or 30% of the GSA, constituting a 0.38 multiplier against the lodestar amount, is fair, adequate, and reasonable for a class settlement of this size, including considering the action's contingent nature and the results achieved.

The Court also concludes that litigation costs should not include overhead or nonrecoverable items such as postage and printing. Therefore, the Court deducts $36.00 from the requested amount and awards $18,553.45.

The Court further concludes that a Service Award of $5,000 is fair, adequate, and reasonable for a class and settlement of this size, considering that there was nothing extraordinary about Plaintiff's contribution to the case.

The Court has identified the following issues with the moving papers, which must be addressed by Class Counsel before final approval can be granted:

1. There is no indication that the instant motion papers have been served on the LWDA in compliance with Labor Code section 2699(s)(2). Plaintiff is ordered to give notice of this ruling to the LWDA; to serve the LWDA with his original moving papers as well as any new papers filed for future hearings; and to file a proof of service showing such compliance.

2. The moving papers do not specify the final, actual number of PAGA aggrieved employees.
3. The moving papers do not specify the final, actual number of PAGA pay periods involved.
4. The moving papers do not provide a "low" estimate for PAGA payments.
5. Class Counsel must attest as to whether there is a fee-splitting agreement with any other counsel, and if so, what the terms of that agreement are, or confirm there is no such agreement.

Class Counsel must also provide a revised [Proposed] Order of Final Approval and Judgment with the following revisions:

1. The specific awards and disbursements should be revised to reflect the amounts set forth in this order.
2. The date for the approval hearing should be updated to reference the continued hearing date.
3. The proposed order and judgment should state the correct exhibit number (i.e., 3, not 1) for the clean, fully executed version of the Amended Settlement Agreement attached to ROA #104.
4. In addition to stating the class definition and period, the proposed order and judgment should also include the number of class members, along with the definition, PAGA period, and number of aggrieved employees.
5. The proposed order and judgment must specify that the two class members who have validly excluded themselves will not be bound by the settlement or judgment.
6. The proposed order and judgment must state that 2 class members submitted workweek disputes and how the disputes were resolved.
7. The proposed order and judgment should use the same term to describe the enhancement award as the term used in the Settlement Agreement (i.e., "Service Award"), not a different term ("Incentive Award").
8. The proposed order and judgment should state that the Court's continuing jurisdiction is pursuant to both California Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6 and California Rules of Court, rule 3.769(h).
9. The proposed order and judgment should state that the settlement administrator's final report should be filed at least 16 court days before the Final Accounting hearing.
10. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure 384.5 and Government Code section 68520, subdivision (a), because the Settlement Agreement provides for distribution of uncashed funds to a cy pres recipient, Legal Aid at Work, the proposed order and judgment must contain (1) the causes of action resolved by the judgment, with a summary of the underlying allegations; and (2) the purpose of the distribution to the cy pres recipient and how the cy pres recipient plans to expend the funds or proceeds received, if known.

The Court further refers Class Counsel to the "Guidelines for Approval of Class Action Settlements & PAGA Settlements" posted on the Court's website for Department CX102, available at https://voypubapps.occourts.org/complex-civil-calendar.

Class Counsel must file supplemental papers addressing the Court's concerns no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the continued hearing date. Counsel must also provide redlined versions of all revised papers and an explanation of how the pending issues were resolved with precise citation to any revisions. A supplemental declaration or brief that simply asserts the issues have been resolved is insufficient and will result in a further continuance. If supplemental papers addressing all of the Court's concerns cannot be filed by the pre-hearing deadline, Class

	Counsel must request a continuance. Failure to do so may result in the issuance of an Order to Show Cause re Monetary Sanctions. Plaintiff is ordered to give notice of this ruling, including to the LWDA, within five (5) court days, and file proof of service.