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9 AMAIRANI GOMEZ

10 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

11 **FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE**

12 **(UNLIMITED JURISDICTION)**

13 AMAIRANI GOMEZ,

14 *Plaintiff,*

15 vs.

16 FOCUS INDUSTRIES, INC., a California
17 corporation; STAN SHIBATA, an
18 individual; and DOES 1 to 25, inclusive,

19 *Defendants.*

Case No.: 30-2023-01336931-CU-OE-CXC

**DECLARATION OF AMAIRANI GOMEZ
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION
FOR APPROVAL OF PAGA
SETTLEMENT**

*Assigned for All Purposes to
Hon. Randall J. Sherman, Department CX105*

Action filed: 07/17/2023

Hearing Date: 06/13/2025

Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m.

Hearing Dept: CX105

DECLARATION OF AMAIRANI GOMEZ IN SUPPORT OF
PAGA SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE

I, AMAIRANI GOMEZ , declare and state as follows:

1. I am a resident of the State of California and am over 18 years of age. I am the named Plaintiff in this action and am represented by Maralle Messrelan of MM Law, APC in this action. Except as otherwise stated, I have personal knowledge of all matters set forth in this declaration and could and would competently testify thereto if called upon to do so as a witness.

2. I first started working for Defendants in or around in or around November 2022 as an assembly worker at its facility located at 25301 Commercentre Drive in Lake Forest, California. My employment with Defendants ended on or around March 31, 2023.

3. I understand that this lawsuit is a Private Attorney General action, otherwise known as a PAGA lawsuit. I understand that I am the Plaintiff and that Defendants Focus Industries, Inc. and Stan Shibata (collectively “FOCUS”) are the Defendants. I understand that my name is on the cover of the lawsuit. I understand that I am the representative of other FOCUS employees. As the representative in this lawsuit, I have duties to the State of California and other employees like me who were not paid for all hours worked at the correct rates of pay, provided all required meal and rest periods, and reimbursed for necessary business expenses, such as tools and personal mobile phones for work purposes. I also understand that my lawsuit is on behalf of the State of California. I have fairly represented the other employees and the State throughout this lawsuit. I don’t have any disagreements with the other FOCUS employees I represent. I am not aware of any reason why I can’t make the best decisions for them in this lawsuit.

4. When I agreed to hire my attorneys to file this lawsuit, I also agreed that I would be the representative of the other employees and the State of California. I agreed that the interests of the other employees and the State in the lawsuit are as important as my personal interests in suing FOCUS. I agreed that I would do what is in the best interest of the other employees and the State when deciding whether or not to settle this lawsuit. I also agreed to actively participate in the lawsuit. I also understand that there will only be a settlement of the lawsuit if the Court allows it.

5. The PAGA statute does not forbid service awards. Courts frequently award them in PAGA-only cases as well. The work I have done on this case includes hiring my attorneys, speaking with my attorneys on many occasions by phone, explaining what my employment at

1 FOCUS was like, explaining what my employment at FOCUS had in common with other
2 employees who worked for FOCUS, explaining my claims to my attorneys, participating in
3 mediation, and communicating with my attorneys about the settlement agreement and related
4 documents. Despite this, I am **not** asking for a service award for my involvement and the time I
5 spent assisting my counsel with the PAGA action.

6 6. I negotiated an individual settlement of my individual wage and hour claims,
7 sexual harassment, race discrimination, retaliation, and wrongful constructive discharge claims
8 after the Parties had agreed to the Settlement of the PAGA action.

9 7. As part of my individual settlement, I signed a general release of all claims,
10 whether known or unknown, that I may have against Defendants, not only PAGA claims.

11 8. I don't believe that my individual settlement has any bearing on whether I have
12 served the Aggrieved Employees' best interests and will continue to do so. Nevertheless, I am
13 willing to provide it to the Court *in camera* if the Court so requests.

14 I declare under the penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California that the
15 foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

16 Executed on October 21, 2024 at Laguna Hills, California.

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Amairani Gomez (Oct 21, 2024 16:11 PDT)

18 AMAIRANI GOMEZ,
19 Declarant
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