

03/13/2025

David W. Slayton, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

By: R. Arraiga Deputy

DOUGLAS HAN (SBN 232858)
SHUNT TATAVOS-GHARAJEH (SBN 272164)
WILLIAM WILKINSON (SBN 346777)
JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION
751 North Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 101
Pasadena, California 91103
Tel: (818) 230-7502
Fax: (818) 230-7259

Attorneys for Plaintiff

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

CHRISTOPHER ALCENDOR, individually,
and on behalf of other members of the general
public similarly situated;

Plaintiff,

v.

ALPHA EXPRESS LLC, a California limited
liability company; and DOES 1 through 100,
inclusive;

Defendants.

Case No.: 22STCV19286

Assigned for All Purposes to:
Honorable Elaine Lu
Department 9

CLASS ACTION

**[PROPOSED] AMENDED ORDER OF
FINAL APPROVAL AND JUDGMENT**

Hearing Date: March 6, 2025
Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m.
Hearing Place: Department 9

Complaint Filed: June 13, 2022
FAC Filed: July 6, 2023
Trial Date: None Set

1 The Court, having read the papers filed regarding Plaintiff Christopher Alcendor's
2 ("Plaintiff") Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement, and considering the papers
3 submitted in support of the motion, including the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement
4 ("Settlement Agreement," "Settlement," or "Agreement"), **FINDS AND ORDERS:**

5 On November 8, 2023, Plaintiff and Defendant Alpha Express LLC ("Defendant")
6 entered the Settlement Agreement to settle this lawsuit.

7 On August 6, 2024, the Court entered an order preliminarily approving the settlement of
8 this lawsuit ("Preliminary Approval Order"), consistent with the Code of Civil Procedure section
9 382 and Rule of Court 3.769, ordering notice to be sent to the Class Members, providing the
10 Class Members with an opportunity to object to the Settlement or exclude themselves from the
11 Class, and scheduling a Final Approval Hearing.

12 On March 6, 2025, the Court held a Final Approval Hearing to determine whether to give
13 final approval to the Settlement.

14 1. Incorporation of Other Documents. This Amended Order of Final
15 Approval and Judgment ("Order and Judgment") incorporates the Settlement Agreement. Unless
16 otherwise provided herein, all capitalized terms in this Order and Judgment shall have the same
17 meaning as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

18 2. Jurisdiction. Because adequate notice has been disseminated and the Class
19 Members have been given the opportunity to request exclusion, the Court has personal
20 jurisdiction with respect to the claims of all the Class Members. The Court also has subject
21 matter jurisdiction over this lawsuit, including jurisdiction to approve the Settlement and grants
22 final certification of the Class.

23 3. Final Class Certification. The Court finds that the Class satisfies all
24 applicable requirements of Code of Civil Procedure section 382, Rule of Court 3.769, and due
25 process. The Court certifies the Class consisting of all current and former hourly-paid or non-
26 exempt employees of Defendant within the State of California at any time during the period from
27 October 23, 2019, through July 18, 2023 ("Class," "Class Members," and "Class Period"). There
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are three hundred eighty-three (383) Class Members who did not submit valid and timely Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement (“Participating Class Members”).

4. Adequacy of Representation. Class Counsel fully and adequately represented the Class for the purposes of entering and implementing the Settlement and satisfied the requirements of Code of Civil Procedure section 382.

5. Class Notice. The Court finds that the Court Approved Notice of Class Action Settlement and Hearing Date for Final Court Approval (“Class Notice”) and its distribution to the Class Members were implemented pursuant to the Settlement and this Court’s Preliminary Approval Order. The Court finds that the Class Notice:

- a. Constitutes notice reasonably calculated to apprise the Class Members of:
 - (i) pendency of this lawsuit; (ii) material terms and provisions of the Agreement and their rights; (iii) their right to object to any aspect of the Agreement; (iv) their right to exclude themselves from the Agreement; (v) their right to receive settlement payments; (vi) their right to appear at the Final Approval Hearing; and (vii) binding effect of the orders and judgment in this lawsuit on all the Participating Class Members;
- b. Constitutes notice that fully satisfied the requirements of Code of Civil Procedure section 382, Rule of Court 3.769, and due process;
- c. Constitutes the best practicable notice to the Class Members under the circumstances of this lawsuit; and
- d. Constitutes notice reasonable, adequate, and sufficient to the Class Members.

6. Enforcement of Settlement. Nothing in this Order and Judgment shall preclude any action to enforce the terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement.

7. Final Settlement Approval. The terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement have been entered into in good faith and are the product of arm’s-length negotiations by experienced counsel who have carried out a meaningful investigation of the claims. The Settlement Agreement and all its terms and provisions are fully and finally approved as fair,

reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Parties. The Parties are directed to implement the Settlement Agreement according to its terms and provisions.

8. Binding Effect. The terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement and this Order and Judgment are binding on Plaintiff, Participating Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, and their spouses, heirs, registered domestic partners, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns. In addition, those terms shall have res judicata and other preclusive effect in all pending and future claims, lawsuits, or other proceedings maintained by or on behalf of any such persons to the extent those claims, lawsuits, or other proceedings involve matters that were or could have been raised in this lawsuit and are encompassed by the Released Class Claims and Released Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”) Claims.

9. Release by Participating Class Members. Effective on the date when Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount and funds all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments, all Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release the Released Parties from the Released Class Claims.

a. Release by Aggrieved Employee. Effective on the date when Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount and funds all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments, 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 the Released PAGA Claims.

b. Plaintiff’s Release. Effective on the date when Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount and funds all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments, in addition to the claims released under sections E(2) and E(3) of the Agreement, Plaintiff and his former and present spouses, representatives, agents,

attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns agree to a general release of any and all claims, transactions, primary rights, or occurrences against Released Parties. Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the Civil Code.

c. Released Parties. The Released Parties include Defendant and its past and present directors, officers, shareholders, owners, members, managing agents, attorneys, insurers, assigns, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors, successors, business partners, contracting partners, and clients.

10. Gross Settlement Amount. The Gross Settlement Amount is a no-reversionary sum of \$112,000. Employer's share of the payroll taxes on the taxable portion of the settlement payments shall be paid separately from the Gross Settlement Amount.

11. Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Court finds that the Class Counsel Fees Payment of \$37,333.33, to be paid by Defendant to Class Counsel out of the Gross Settlement Amount, to be reasonable and appropriate. The Court finds that the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment as reimbursement for actual litigation costs incurred of \$15,000, to be paid by Defendant to Class Counsel out of the Gross Settlement Amount, to be reasonable and appropriate. Such fees and costs are to be paid pursuant to the terms and provisions set forth in the Settlement Agreement. Defendant shall not be required to pay for any other attorneys' fees and expenses, costs, or disbursements incurred by Class Counsel or any other counsel representing Plaintiff or Class Members. Defendant shall also not be required to pay for any other attorneys' fees and expenses, costs, or disbursements incurred by Plaintiff or Class Members in connection with or related in any manner to this lawsuit, Settlement Agreement, settlement administration, and/or Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims.

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- 1 a. The Court has an independent right and responsibility to review the Class
2 Counsel Fees Payment and only award so much as it determines
3 reasonable. (See *Garabedian v. Los Angeles Cellular Telephone Co.*
4 (2004) 118 Cal.App.4th 123, 127-128.) The Class Counsel Fees Payment
5 of \$37,333.33 is one-third (1/3) of the common fund created for the
6 benefit of the Class and is supported by use of the percentage-fee method.
7 (See *Laffitte v. Robert Half International, Inc.* (2016) 1 Cal.5th 480, 504.)
8 Considering the results achieved, financial risk undertaken, difficult nature
9 of this litigation, skills required, percentage fees award in previous and
10 other cases, and contingent fees charged in the marketplace, the Court
11 finds that the Class Counsel Fees Payment is consistent with the
12 marketplace, is reasonable, and is approved.
- 13 b. The Court reviewed the Declaration of Douglas Han regarding the costs
14 expended in prosecuting this case. Under the terms of the Settlement,
15 Class Counsel may seek reimbursement of up to \$15,000 in litigation
16 costs. The Court finds that Class Counsel expended \$16,320.34 in
17 litigation costs, which slightly exceeds the maximum amount. Thus, the
18 Court approves the payment of the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses
19 Payment of \$15,000 from the common fund for the reimbursement of
20 Class Counsel's litigation costs.

21 12. Class Representative Service Payment. The Court finds that the Class
22 Representative Service Payment of \$5,000, to be paid by Defendant to Plaintiff out of the Gross
23 Settlement Amount, to be reasonable and appropriate. The Class Representative Service Payment
24 is to be paid pursuant to the terms and provisions set forth in the Agreement.

- 25 a. The rationale for making enhancement payments is class representatives
26 should be compensated for the expense and risk they incurred in
27 conferring a benefit on the Class. Criteria courts consider include: (i) risk
28 to the class representatives in commencing suit; (ii) notoriety and personal

difficulties; (iii) amount of time and effort spent by the class representatives; (iv) duration of the litigation; and (v) personal benefit (or lack thereof) enjoyed by class representatives.

- b. The Court reviewed Plaintiff's declaration outlining his involvement. Given that the risks inherent in the services as the class representative, duration of the case and time involved, and benefits created for the Class, the Court approves the payment of the Class Representative Service Payment of \$5,000 to Plaintiff.

13. Administration Expenses Payment. The Court finds that the Administration Expenses Payment of \$9,995, to be paid by Defendant to the Administrator out of the Gross Settlement Amount, to be reasonable and appropriate. The Administration Expenses Payment are to be paid pursuant to terms and provisions set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

- a. The Court reviewed the Declaration of Cassandra Polites from ILYM Group, Inc., the Court-approved Administrator. The Court finds that notice was provided to the Class pursuant to the Preliminary Approval Order, constitutes the best practicable notice to the Class, and satisfied due process. Thus, the Court approves the payment of the Administration Expenses Payment of \$9,995 for the Administrator's services in administering the Settlement.

14. PAGA Penalties. The Court finds that the PAGA Penalties of \$5,000, seventy-five percent (75%) of which (\$3,750) will be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency out of the Gross Settlement Amount and twenty-five percent (25%) of which (\$1,250) shall be distributed to the Aggrieved Employees, on a pro rata basis, to be reasonable and appropriate. The PAGA Penalties is to be paid pursuant to the terms and provisions set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

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1 15. Funding the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant shall fund the Gross
2 Settlement Amount by transmitting one-half (1/2) of the Gross Settlement Amount to the
3 Administrator no later than the Effective Date. Within three (3) calendar months after the first
4 funding, Defendant shall transmit the next one-fourth (1/4) of the Gross Settlement Amount to
5 the Administrator. Finally, within three (3) calendar months after the second funding, Defendant
6 shall transmit the final one-fourth (1/4) of the Gross Settlement Amount to the Administrator.
7 Within fourteen (14) calendar days after Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the
8 Administrator will mail checks to the appropriate entities and persons.

9 16. Fairness of the Settlement. As noted in the Preliminary Approval Order,
10 the Settlement is entitled to a presumption of fairness. In the moving papers, Plaintiff contends
11 that the Settlement was the product of arm's-length negotiations following extensive litigation,
12 discovery, and exchange of documentation. The negotiations were facilitated with the aid of Lisa
13 Klerman, an experienced and well-respected mediator.

14 a. The fairness of the Settlement is demonstrated by there being no
15 objections to and no requests for exclusion from the Settlement.

16 17. Uncashed Checks. The Class Members must cash or deposit their
17 settlement checks within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days after the checks are mailed to
18 them. Uncashed settlement checks will be canceled and transmitted to the California Controller's
19 Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Class Member.

20 18. Modification of the Agreement. The Participating Class Members are
21 authorized to agree to and adopt amendments to or modifications of the Agreement by an express
22 written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives and approved by the Court. Such
23 amendments or modifications shall be consistent with this Order and Judgment and cannot limit
24 the rights of the Participating Class Members under the Agreement.

25 19. Non-Appearance Case Review. The Court sets a non-appearance case
26 review on July 15, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in Department 9. By July 8, 2026, Plaintiff shall file a Final
27 report re: distribution of the settlement funds. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 384,
28 the compliance status report shall specify the total amount paid to the Class Members and the

1 residual of the unclaimed settlement funds that will be paid to the entity identified as the
2 recipient of such funds in the Settlement Agreement.

3 20. Retention of Jurisdiction. The Court has jurisdiction to enter this Order
4 and Judgment. This Court expressly retains jurisdiction for the administration, interpretation,
5 effectuation, and/or enforcement of the Settlement Agreement and of this Order and Judgment,
6 and for any other necessary purpose, including, without limitation:

- 7 a. Enforcing the terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement and
8 resolving any disputes, claims, or causes of action in this lawsuit that, in
9 whole or in part, are related to or arise out of the Settlement Agreement or
10 this Order and Judgment;
- 11 b. Entering such additional orders as may be necessary or appropriate to
12 protect or effectuate this Order and Judgment approving the Settlement
13 Agreement, and permanently enjoining Plaintiff from initiating or
14 pursuing related proceedings, or to ensure the fair and orderly
15 administration of the Settlement; and
- 16 c. Entering any other necessary or appropriate orders to protect and
17 effectuate this Court's retention of continuing jurisdiction.

18 The Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement, Class Counsel Fees Payment,
19 Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and Class Representative Service Payment is
20 GRANTED. The Administrator is directed to carry out the terms of the Settlement forthwith.

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1 THE PARTIES ARE ORDERED TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF THE
2 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT. PURSUANT TO RULES OF COURT 3.769, THE COURT
3 ENTERS FINAL JUDGMENT BASED UPON THE TERMS OF THIS ORDER AND
4 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND, WITHOUT AFFECTING THE FINALITY OF THIS
5 MATTER, RETAINS EXCLUSIVE AND CONTINUING JURISDICTION TO ENFORCE
6 THIS ORDER, THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, AND THE JUDGMENT THEREON.

7 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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9 DATED: 03/13/2025



HONORABLE ELAINE LU
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

**PROOF OF SERVICE
1013A(3) CCP**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is 751 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Ste. 101 Pasadena, California 91103. My electronic service address is award@justicelawcorp.com

On March 18, 2025, I served the foregoing document described as

AMENDED ORDER OF FINAL APPROVAL AND JUDGMENT

for the following case: **Alcendor v. Alpha Express LLC**
LWDA/Court Case No.: **LWDA Case No.: CM-958190-23**
Court Case No.: 22STCV19286
Los Angeles County Superior Court

on interested parties in this action by electronically submitting as follows:

State of California
Labor & Workforce Development Agency
800 Capitol Mall, MIC-55
Sacramento, California 95814

[X] BY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Pursuant to California Senate Bill No. 836, I caused the documents described above to be electronically submitted by and through the procedure stated on the website of the State of California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

[X] STATE

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Executed on March 18, 2025, at Pasadena, California.



Alex Ward