

Larry W. Lee (State Bar No. 228175)
Max W. Gavron (State Bar No. 291697)
Kwanporn “Mai” Tulyathan (State Bar No. 316704)
DIVERSITY LAW GROUP, P.C.
515 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1250
Los Angeles, CA 90071
(213) 488-6555
(213) 488-6554 facsimile
lwlee@diversitylaw.com
mgavron@diversitylaw.com
ktulyathan@diversitylaw.com

William L. Marder (State Bar No. 170131)
bill@polarislawgroup.com
Polaris Law Group
501 San Benito Street, Suite 200
Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 531-4214
(831) 634-0333 facsimile

Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SHASTA

RYAN MIDDLEBROOKS, as an individual
and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

FLEETPRIDE, INC., an Alabama
corporation; and DOES 1 through 50,
inclusive,

Defendants

Case No. 23CV-0202247

(Assigned to the Hon. Stephen H. Baker, Dept. 3)

**DECLARATION OF LARRY W. LEE IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF’S MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Date: September 9, 2024

Time: 8:30 A.M.

Dept.: 3

Action Filed: May 16, 2023

Trial Date: November 5, 2024

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28

I, Larry W. Lee, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney at law, duly licensed to practice before all Courts in the State of California, and am with the law firm Diversity Law Group, counsel of record for Plaintiff Ryan Middlebrooks (“Plaintiff”). I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth below and if called to testify I could and would do so competently.

2. Based on their own independent investigation and evaluation, the Parties and their respective counsel are of the opinion that settlement for the consideration and on the terms set forth in the Joint Stipulation Re: Class Action and Representative Action Settlement (“Settlement,” “Agreement,” or “Settlement Agreement”) is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interests of the Settlement Class and Defendant in light of all known facts and circumstances and the expenses and risks inherent in litigation.

3. From the inception of the case, Class Counsel have zealously represented the interests of the Settlement Class. Class Counsel engaged in significant discussions with opposing counsel to obtain informal data on behalf of the Settlement Class. This settlement was obtained for the benefit of the Settlement Class, as opposed to the individual Class Representative.

4. I have spent significant time researching and pursuing the claims that have been alleged in this action. The Parties engaged in informal discovery and participated in the exchange of data and documents. Based on my review of all the documents and information, and based on my experience in class action litigation, I believe this settlement to be fair, adequate, and reasonable.

5. I was retained based upon a contingency fee arrangement wherein Plaintiff's counsel agreed to advance all costs and receive no fee unless a recovery was accomplished. For example, my office has expended costs to file this instant action, effect service of process, and pay other litigation related costs. Had Plaintiff failed to prevail on this case, counsel for Plaintiff would have spent a significant amount of time, money and other resources without any benefit or return. In addition, had Plaintiff also failed to prevail in the present case, Defendant would have been able to seek attorney's fees and costs in connection with their defense of the case.

1 6. My qualifications are as follows: I received my J.D. from Arizona State
2 University College of Law in 2003. During law school, I was a summer associate at the law firm
3 of Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison. I graduated cum laude from Arizona State University College
4 of Law in the top 10% of my class. While I was in law school, I was the Associate Managing
5 Editor of the Arizona State University College of Law, Law Journal. Upon graduation, I
6 practiced law as an associate at the Los Angeles County offices of Ogletree Deakins Nash
7 Smoak & Stewart, P.C., a national employment defense law firm that represents a significant
8 number of Fortune 500 companies.

9 7. My firm's primary focus is employment law. I have handled a number of wage
10 and hour matters including class actions and multiple-plaintiff actions. I have a practice that
11 encompasses cases throughout the State of California, including but not limited to the Los
12 Angeles Superior Courts, the Orange County Superior Courts, the San Francisco County
13 Superior Courts, the San Diego County Superior Courts, and the United States District Courts for
14 the Central, Eastern, Northern, and Southern Districts of California.

15 8. I have been named as class counsel in a number of class actions that have been
16 granted final approval by the Superior Courts of Los Angeles County, Orange County, San
17 Francisco County, Alameda County, Contra Costa County, Monterey County, San Bernardino
18 County, Santa Clara County, Sonoma County, and other counties, as well as the United States
19 District Court for the Central, Eastern, and Northern Districts of California, including but not
20 limited to the following class actions: *Chan Lanier v. Citigroup, Inc. et al.*, San Francisco
21 Superior Court Case No. CGC-05-445143; *Naqvi v. Acoustic Home Loans et al.*, Orange County
22 Superior Court Case No. 05CC00263; *Ortega v. AIG*, Central District of California Case No. CV
23 06-0196-RSWL (PJWx); *Universal Protection Overtime Cases*, Orange County Superior Court,
24 Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4480; *Hernandez v. CVS Corp. et al.*, Judicial
25 Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4539; *Padilla v. Safeway*, San Benito County Superior
26 Court Case No. CU-16-00182; *Valles v. Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula*,
27 Monterey County Superior Court Case No. 17CV003452; *DirecTv Wage and Hour Cases*, Santa
28 Clara Superior Court Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4850; *Perez v. Standard*

1 *Drywall, Inc.*, Alameda County Superior Court Case No. RG15761142; and *Davis v. Nugget*
2 *Market, Inc.*, Yolo County Superior Court Case No. CV-18-558.

3 9. My co-counsel and I will adequately represent the Settlement Class Members in
4 this action. Plaintiff's Counsel have and will zealously represent Plaintiff and the Settlement
5 Class and pursue this lawsuit to its conclusion. I have no conflicts with the Settlement Class and
6 will adequately represent the Settlement Class.

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

9 Executed on this 9th day of August 2024, at Los Angeles, California.

10
11 
12 _____
13 Larry W. Lee
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28