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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 WILLIAM L. MARDER
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION
FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT**

Date: March 24, 2025

Time: 8:45 A.M.

Dept.: 3

Action Filed: May 16, 2023

Trial Date: November 5, 2024

DECLARATION OF WILLIAM L. MARDER

I, William L. Marder, hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I am an attorney at law duly admitted to practice before all courts in the State of California and am a partner of the law firm of the Polaris Law Group, one of the attorneys of record for Plaintiff Ryan Middlebrooks ("Plaintiff"), in the above-entitled action. I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein, and if called upon as a witness to testify thereto, I could and would competently do so.

2. Based on Class Counsel's independent investigation and evaluation, I am of the opinion that the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in the best interests of the Settlement Class Members, in light of all known facts and circumstances, and the expenses and risks inherent in litigation. The settlement was negotiated at arm's length and was facilitated by an experienced and neutral mediator. Thus, this settlement should be granted final approval.

3. I graduated from UCLA Law School in 1993 and was admitted to the California Bar in 1994. Since that time, I have acquired substantial experience in employment litigation. I have represented both plaintiffs and defendants. I estimate that I have handled more than 300 employment cases, litigating cases in state and federal courts.

4. I have defended large institutional employers in employment cases. From 1995-1997, as an associate at Bolling, Walter & Gawthrop in Sacramento, I represented the City of Sacramento, Yolo County, the City of Davis, Solano County, and other employers in employment litigation in state and federal courts.

5. From 1997-2000, I served as a Deputy County Counsel in San Benito, handling all of its employment matters. These matters include advising the county on compliance with wage and hour laws, arbitrations, and litigation.

6. From 2002-2006, I was a partner at Paxton O'Brien, LLP in Hollister, an AV rated firm, where I represented numerous plaintiffs and defendants in employment lawsuits.

7. In 2006, I co-founded the Polaris Law Group where I spend most of my time handling employment cases. I primarily represent employees.

8. I have been the sole trial attorney in two jury trials in which I represented a

1 plaintiff who prevailed on wrongful termination claims brought pursuant to the California Fair
2 Employment & Housing Act, California Government § 12900 *et seq.* These three cases are:
3 *Gamayo v. Drobny Law Offices*, Sacramento Superior Court Case No.: 34-2008-00005372CU;
4 and *Cherub Berlanga v. Willow Grove School District*, San Benito County Superior Case No.:
5 CU-09-00100.

6 9. I have been the sole trial attorney in two court trials in which I represented
7 plaintiffs who prevailed on wage and hour claims. These cases are: *Smith v. Joyce*, Monterey
8 County Superior Court Case No.: M74334; and *Nava v. Rodriguez*, San Benito County Superior
9 Court Case No.: CU-08-00022.

10 10. I have also been approved as class counsel in numerous cases including *Sison v.*
11 *Headway Technologies*, Case No. 1-13-CV-254591 and *Barrera v. Home Depot*, Northern
12 District of California Case No. C 12 5199 LHK.

13 11. To date, I have incurred approximately 20.1 hours in the prosecution of this
14 matter, with an hourly rate of \$900.00 per hour.

15 12. As of January 1, 2024, my hourly rate in class and representative actions is
16 \$900.00 per hour. Since at least 2020, I have been approved at an hourly rate of \$750.00 per hour
17 by various Courts. Examples of these Courts include the following cases: *Hernandez v. Wells*
18 *Fargo Bank*, Santa Clara County Superior Court Case No. 16CV299319, *Carrillo v. New*
19 *Balance Athletics, Inc.*, Santa Clara County Superior Court Case No. 19CV352469; *Ramirez v.*
20 *Walgreen Co.*, United States District Court, Northern District of California Case No. 18-cv-
21 03921-EJD, *Chavez v. Converse, Inc.*, United States District Court, Northern District of
22 California Case No. 15-cv-03746- NC; *Foster v. Schindler Elevator Corporation*, Alameda
23 County Superior Court Case No. RG19029640; *Foaad Hanna v. Equinix, LLC*, Santa Clara
24 County Superior Court Case No. 18CV339365; *Alicia Harris v. 24 Seven LLC*, Los Angeles
25 County Superior Court Case No. BC720144; *Mary Della Maggiora v. Watsonville Community*
26 *Hospital*, Santa Cruz County Superior Court Case No. 18CV00191; *Pittman v. Martinez Steel*
27 *Corporation*, San Bernardino County Superior Court Case No. CIVDS1823132; *Michael*
28 *Randolph v. Pacific Racing Association*, Alameda County Superior Court Case No.

1 RG18908139; *Markham v. Quik Stop Markets, Inc.*, Santa Clara County Superior Court Case
2 No.19CV341582; *Siron v. Raypak, Inc.*, Ventura County Superior Court Case No. 56-2019-
3 005279959-CU-OE-VTA; *Carter v. Kline Services, Inc.*, San Bernardino County Superior Court
4 Case No. CIVDS 1828867, and *Prexxie Pascual and Arturo Fonseca v. Satellite Healthcare,*
5 *Inc.*, Santa Clara County Superior Court Case No. 19CV345211.

6 13. I was approved at an hourly rate of \$800.00 per hour in *Martinez and Acosta v.*
7 *City of Hope National Medical Center, et al.*, San Bernardino County Superior Court Case No.
8 CIVDS2015729, *Jaime Moen v. Genentech, Inc.*, San Diego County Superior Court Case No.
9 37-2021-00008619-CU-OE-CTL, *Murray v. Granite Wellness Centers et al.*, Nevada County
10 Superior Court Case No. CU20-084680, and *Smith, et al. v. Clean Harbors Environmental*
11 *Services, Inc.*, Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 34-2021-00292526.

12 14. I was approved at \$900 in *Bendorf v. Sea World LLC*, San Deigo County Superior
13 Court Case No. 37-2021-00034922-CU-OE-CTL. Thus, I believe an hourly rate of \$900.00 per
14 hour is reasonable. I do not currently have any clients to whom I charge an hourly rate as my
15 firm retains clients on a contingency basis where we do not recover attorneys' fees unless
16 successful in resolving the case.

17 15. As such, the total lodestar for my hours will be approximately \$18,090.00.
18 Attached as **Exhibit A** is a summary of my hours and tasks on this matter.

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

21 Executed on this 26th day of February 2025, at Hollister, California.

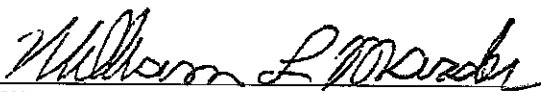
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23 William L. Marder
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EXHIBIT A

Middlebrooks v Fleetpride
William L. Marder Time and Task Chart

Hours	Description of Work
3.2	Perform client intake and interview; analyze and review documents provided by client upon receipt; confer with co-counsel re anticipated claims and discuss same with client.
0.4	Review file and client documents; review PAGA letter
1.3	Review and revise class action complaint.
1.5	Review/revise Special Interrogatories, Request for Production of Documents
1.2	Confer with counsel regarding data production and further data necessary for mediation; confer with client re anticipated mediation and next steps.
2.3	Review and revise mediation brief; confer with co-counsel and client re same.
1.6	Review/revise MOU; conference calls with co-counsel.
3.6	Review/revise Long Form Settlement Agreement; Multiple conferences with co-counsel regarding the same; confer with client re settlement process and anticipated timeline
1.4	Further draft and revise motion for preliminary approval and supporting documents; confer with client re his declaration in support of same.
1.1	Confer with co-counsel and client re notice process; filed questions re same.
2.5	Further draft and revise motion for final approval and supporting documents; confer with client re his declaration in support of same; confer with co-counsel re same.
20.1	TOTAL HOURS