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13 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

14 **FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE**

15 JEANNETTE SANCHEZ, individually, and on
16 behalf of all others similarly situated,

17 *Plaintiff,*

18 v.

19 LAKEWOOD EYE PHYSICIANS AND
20 SURGEONS, INC., A MEDICAL GROUP, a
21 California corporation; and DOES 1 through 10,
22 inclusive,

23 *Defendants.*

Case No. 23STCV11175

Assigned for all purposes to:
Hon. Theresa M. Traber
Dept. 1

**~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT**

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL HEARING

Date: November 24, 2025
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Dept: 1

Complaint Filed: May 17, 2023
Trial Date: Not Set Yet

FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

11/25/2025

David W. Slayton, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

By: A. He Deputy

1 The Court has before it Plaintiff Jeannette Sanchez’s (“Plaintiff”) Motion for Preliminary
2 Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement. Having reviewed the Motion for Preliminary
3 Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement, the Declaration of Arrash T. Fattahi, the Class
4 Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Class Notice (which is referred to here as the
5 “Settlement Agreement”), and good cause appearing, the Court hereby finds and orders as
6 follows:

7 1. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that the Settlement Agreement appears to
8 be fair, adequate, and reasonable and therefore meets the requirements for preliminary approval.
9 The Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement and the Settlement Class based upon
10 the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement between Plaintiff and Defendant Lakewood Eye
11 Physicians and Surgeons, Inc., a Medical Group (“Defendant,” and together with Plaintiff, the
12 “Parties”), attached to the Declaration of Arrash T. Fattahi in Support of Plaintiff’s Motion for
13 Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement as **Exhibit 1**.

14 2. The Settlement falls within the range of reasonableness of a settlement which
15 could ultimately be given final approval by this Court, and appears to be presumptively valid,
16 subject only to any objections that may be raised at the Final Approval Hearing and final
17 approval by this Court. The Court notes that Defendant has agreed to create a common fund of
18 \$450,000.00 to cover (a) settlement payments to class members who do not validly opt out; (b)
19 a \$20,000.00 allocation toward civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act
20 (“PAGA”), with 75% of which (\$15,000.00) will be paid to the State of California, Labor &
21 Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) and 25% (\$5,000.00) being paid to eligible
22 Aggrieved Employees; (c) Service Payment of up to \$10,000.00 for Plaintiff; (d) Class
23 Counsel’s attorneys’ fees, not to exceed one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount
24 (\$150,000.00), and up to \$25,000.00 in costs for actual litigation expenses incurred by Class
25 Counsel; and (e) Settlement Administration Costs of \$5,990.00.

26 3. The Court preliminarily finds that the terms of the Settlement appear to be within
27 the range of possible approval, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 and
28 applicable law. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that: (1) the Settlement amount is fair

1 and reasonable to the class members when balanced against the probable outcome of further
2 litigation relating to class certification, liability and damages issues, and potential appeals; (2)
3 significant informal discovery, investigation, research, and litigation have been conducted such
4 that counsel for the Parties at this time are able to reasonably evaluate their respective positions;
5 (3) settlement at this time will avoid substantial costs, delay, and risks that would be presented
6 by the further prosecution of the litigation; and (4) the proposed Settlement has been reached as
7 the result of intensive, serious, and non-collusive negotiations between the Parties with the
8 assistance of a well-respected class action mediator. Accordingly, the Court preliminarily finds
9 that the Settlement Agreement was entered into in good faith.

10 4. A final fairness hearing on the question of whether the proposed Settlement,
11 attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel, payment to the LWDA for its share of the settlement
12 of claims for penalties under the PAGA, and the Class Representative Service Payment should
13 be finally approved as fair, reasonable and adequate as to the members of the Class is hereby
14 set in accordance with the Implementation Schedule set forth below.

15 5. The Court provisionally certifies for settlement purposes only the following class
16 (the "Settlement Class"): "all persons who were employed by Defendant in the State of
17 California and classified as non-exempt employees at any time during the Class Period."

18 6. "Class Period" means the period from May 17, 2019, through July 16, 2024,
19 subject to limitations in Section 8 of the Settlement Agreement (Class Size Estimates and
20 Escalator Clause).

21 7. The Court finds, for settlement purposes only, that the Settlement Class meets the
22 requirements for certification under California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 in that: (1) the
23 Settlement Class Members are so numerous that joinder is impractical; (2) there are questions
24 of law and fact that are common, or of general interest, to all Settlement Class Members, which
25 predominate over individual issues; (3) Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the
26 Settlement Class Members; (4) Plaintiff and Class Counsel will fairly and adequately protect
27 the interests of the Settlement Class Members; and (5) a class action is superior to other
28 available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

8. The Court appoints as Class Representative, for settlement purposes only, Plaintiff Jeannette Sanchez. The Court further preliminarily approves Plaintiff's ability to request a Class Representative Service Payment up to \$10,000.00.

9. The Court appoints, for settlement purposes only, Arrash T. Fattahi, Lisa B. Iturriaga, and Arman A. Salehi of Wilshire Law Firm, PLC as Class Counsel. The Court further preliminarily approves Class Counsel's ability to request attorneys' fees of up to one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount (\$150,000.00), and costs not to exceed \$25,000.00.

10. The Court appoints Apex Class Action Administration ("APEX") as the Settlement Administrator with reasonable administration costs estimated to be \$5,990.00.

11. The Court approves, as to form and content the Class Notice, attached to the Settlement Agreement as **Exhibit A**. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that plan for distribution of the Notice to Settlement Class Members satisfies due process, provides the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto.

12. The Parties are ordered to carry out the Settlement according to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

13. Any Class Member who does not timely and validly request exclusion from the Settlement may object to the Settlement Agreement.

14. The Court orders the following Implementation Schedule:

Defendant to provide Class List to the Settlement Administrator	No later than 21 days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement (Settlement Agreement, § 4.2.)
Settlement Administrator to mail the Notice Packets	No event later than 14 days after receipt of the Class Data (Settlement Agreement, § 7.4.2.)
Response Deadline	45 calendar days after Notice is mailed out by the Settlement Administrator (Settlement

	Agreement, § 7.4.4., 7.5.-7.7.)
Deadline for Administrator to Submit Declaration in Support of Motion for Final Approval	No later than 14 days before Plaintiff is required to file the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement (Settlement Agreement, § 7.8.5.)
Deadline to file Motion for Final Approval, Request for Attorneys' Fees and Costs, and Service Payment to Plaintiff	16 court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing (Settlement Agreement, § 10.)
Final Approval Hearing	<u>April 17</u> , 2026 at <u>10:30</u> a.m./p.m. (suggested April 13, 2026, or as soon thereafter as may be heard by this Court.)

15. The Court further ORDERS that, pending further order of this Court, all proceedings in this lawsuit, except those contemplated herein and in the settlement, are stayed.

16. The Court further ORDERS that Plaintiff is permitted to file a First Amended Class & Representative Action Complaint, attached to the Declaration of Arrash T. Fattahi in Support of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement as **Exhibit 3**.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: 11/25/2025



Hon. Theresa M. Traber
Los Angeles County Superior Court