Arrash T. Fattahi (SBN 333676)
arrash.fattahi@wilshirelawfirm.com
Lisa B. Iturriaga (SBN 339678)
lisa.iturriaga@wilshirelawfirm.com
Arman A. Salehi (SBN 351112)
arman.salehi@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM, PLC
660 S. Figueroa Street, Sky Lobby
Los Angeles, California 90017
Telephone: (213) 381-9988
Facsimile: (213) 381-9989

Attorneys for Plaintiff

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
Superior Court of California,
County of San Diego
5/8/2026 5:27:16 PM

Clerk of the Superior Court
By G. Lopez ,Deputy Clerk

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

SONIA MAGALI JOHNSON, individually, on behalf of all others similarly situated, and on behalf of the State of California and other aggrieved persons.

Plaintiff,

v.

R Q CONSTRUCTION, LLC, a Limited Liability Company; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 37-2023-00022858-CU-OE-CTL

Assigned for all purposes to:
Hon. Carolyn M. Caietti
Dept. C-70

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

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL HEARING
Date: May 8, 2026
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Dept: C-70

The Court has before it Plaintiff Sonia Magali Johnson's ("Plaintiff") Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement. Having reviewed the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement, the Declaration of Arrash T. Fattahi, the Class and PAGA Settlement Agreement (which is referred to here as the "Settlement Agreement"), and good cause appearing, the Court hereby finds and orders as follows:

1. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that the Settlement Agreement appears to be fair, adequate, and reasonable and therefore meets the requirements for preliminary approval. The Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement and the Settlement Class based upon the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement between Plaintiff and Defendant R Q Construction, LLC ("Defendant," and together with Plaintiff, the "Parties"), attached to the Declaration of Arrash T. Fattahi in Support of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement (and a copy submitted herewith) as **Exhibit 2**.

2. The Settlement falls within the range of reasonableness of a settlement which could ultimately be given final approval by this Court, and appears to be presumptively valid, subject only to any objections that may be raised at the Final Approval Hearing and final approval by this Court. The Court notes that Defendant has agreed to create a common fund of $150,000.00 to cover (a) settlement payments to class members who do not validly opt out; (b) a $10,000.00 allocation toward claims for civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA"), with 75% of which ($7,500.00) being paid to the State of California, Labor & Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and 25% ($2,500.00) being paid to eligible Aggrieved Employees; (c) a Class Representative Service Payment of up to $10,000.00; (d) Class Counsel's Fees, up to one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount ($52,500.00), and up to $25,000.00 in costs for actual litigation expenses incurred by Class Counsel; and (e) Settlement Administration Costs of up to $4,990.00.

3. The Court preliminarily finds that the terms of the Settlement appear to be within the range of possible approval, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 and applicable law. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that: (1) the Settlement amount is fair and reasonable to the class members when balanced against the probable outcome of further

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

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

5. The Court provisionally certifies for settlement purposes only the following class (the "Settlement Class"): "all persons employed by Defendant in California and classified as an hourly-paid non-exempt employee who worked for Defendant during the Class Period."

6. "Class Period" means the period from May 31, 2019 to March 1, 2025.

7. "Aggrieved Employees" means a person employed by Defendant in California and classified as an hourly-paid non-exempt employee who worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period. "PAGA Period" means the period from June 21, 2022 to March 1, 2025.

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

9. The Court appoints as class representative, for settlement purposes only, Plaintiff Sonia Magali Johnson. The Court further preliminarily approves Plaintiff's ability to request a Class Representative Service Payment up to $10,000.00.

10. 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 ($52,500.00), and costs not to exceed $25,000.00.

11. The Court appoints APEX Class Action Administration ("APEX") as the Settlement Administrator with reasonable administration costs estimated not to exceed $4,990.00.

12. The Court approves, as to form and content the Class Notice, attached to the Settlement Agreement (and a copy submitted herewith) as **Exhibit A**. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that the plan for distribution of the Class 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.

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

14. Any class member who does not timely and validly request exclusion from the Settlement may object to the Settlement Agreement.

15. The Court orders the following Implementation Schedule:

Defendant to provide Class List and Data to the Settlement Administrator	Not later than 15 days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement
Settlement Administrator to mail the Notice Packets	In no event later than 14 days after receiving the Class Data
Response Deadline	60 calendar days after Notice is mailed out by the Settlement Administrator

Deadline to file Motion for Final Approval, Request for Attorneys' Fees and Costs, and Service Payment to Plaintiff	16 court days before hearing on Motion for Final Approval (Courtesy Copies Required)
Final Approval Hearing	December 18, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. in Department C-70

16. For purposes of the hearing on Plaintiff's Motion for Final Approval, the Court expects to be informed of the final hours worked and hourly rates billed by Plaintiff's counsel (particularly to support a 35% fee request), the total attorney fees and costs sought, as well as the total amount of time expended and tasks completed by the Class Representative on the case.

17. 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.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: 5/8/26

Carolyn M. Caietti

Hon. Carolyn M. Caietti
San Diego County Superior Court

EXHIBIT 2

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is made by and between plaintiff Sonia Magali Johnson ("Plaintiff") and defendant R Q Construction, LLC ("Defendant"). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendant collectively as "Parties," or individually as "Party."

1. DEFINITIONS.

1.1. "Action" means the lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned *Sonia Magali Johnson v. R Q Construction, LLC, et al.* initiated on May 31, 2023, and pending in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Diego (Case No. 37-2023-00022858-CU-OE-CTL).

1.2. "Administrator" means APEX Class Action Administration, the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.

1.3. "Administration Expenses Payment" means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator's "not to exceed" bid submitted to the Court in connection with Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.

1.4. "Aggrieved Employee" means a person employed by Defendant in California and classified as an hourly-paid non-exempt employee who worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period.

1.5. "Class" means all persons employed by Defendant in California and classified as an hourly-paid non-exempt employee who worked for Defendant during the Class Period.

1.6. "Class Counsel" means Arrash T. Fattahi and Arman A. Salehi of Wilshire Law Firm, PLC.

1.7. "Class Counsel Fees Payment" and "Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment" mean the amounts allocated to Class Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action.

1.8. "Class Data" means Class Member identifying information in Defendant's possession including the Class Member's name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, and number of Class Period Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods.

1.9. "Class Member" or "Settlement Class Member" means a member of the Class, as either a Participating Class Member or Non-Participating Class Member (including a Non-Participating Class Member who qualifies as an Aggrieved Employee).

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

1.10. "Class Member Address Search" means the Administrator's investigation and search for current Class Member mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address database, skip traces, and direct contact by the Administrator with Class Members.

1.11. "Class Notice" means the COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL, to be mailed to Class Members in English, with a Spanish translation, in the form, without material variation, attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

1.12. "Class Period" means the period from May 31, 2019 to March 1, 2025.

1.13. "Class Representative" means the named Plaintiff in the operative complaint in the Action seeking Court approval to serve as the Class Representative.

1.14. "Class Representative Service Payment" means the payment to the Class Representative for initiating the Action and providing services in support of the Action.

1.15. "Court" means the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego.

1.16. "Defendant" means Defendant R Q Construction, LLC.

1.17. "Defense Counsel" means Chad T. Wishchuk and Marlene C. Nowlin of Finch, Thorton & Baird, LLP.

1.18. "Effective Date" means the date by when both of the following have occurred: (a) the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement; and (b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (a) if no Participating Class Member objects to the Settlement, the day the Court enters Judgment; (b) if one or more Participating Class Members objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment; or if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur.

1.19. "Final Approval" means the Court's order granting final approval of the Settlement.

1.20. "Final Approval Hearing" means the Court's hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.

1.21. "Final Judgment" means the Judgment Entered by the Court upon Granting Final Approval of the Settlement.

1.22. "Gross Settlement Amount" means $150,000.00 which is the total amount

Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph 8 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Counsel Fees, Class Counsel Expenses, Class Representative Service Payment, and the Administrator's Expenses.

1.23. "Individual Class Payment" means the Participating Class Member's pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the Class Period.

1.24. "Individual PAGA Payment" means the Aggrieved Employee's pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the PAGA Period.

1.25. "Judgment" means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.

1.26. "LWDA" means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).

1.27. "LWDA PAGA Payment" means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).

1.28. "Net Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members as Individual Class Payments.

1.29. "Non-Participating Class Member" means any Class Member who opts out of the Settlement by sending the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.

1.30. "PAGA Pay Period" means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Period.

1.31. "PAGA Period" means the period from June 21, 2022 to March 1, 2025.

1.32. "PAGA" means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq.).

1.33. "PAGA Notice" means Plaintiff's June 21, 2023 letter to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a).

1.34. "PAGA Penalties" means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees ($2,500.00) and the 75% to LWDA ($7,500.00) in settlement of PAGA claims.

1.35. "Participating Class Member" means a Class Member who does not submit

a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.

1.36. "Plaintiff" means Sonia Magali Johnson, the named Plaintiff in the Action.

1.37. "Preliminary Approval" means the Court's Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.

1.38. "Preliminary Approval Order" means the proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement.

1.39. "Released Class Claims" means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.2 below.

1.40. "Released PAGA Claims" means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.3 below.

1.41. "Released Parties" means: Defendant and each of its former and present directors, officers, shareholders, owners, members, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, and assigns.

1.42. "Request for Exclusion" means a Class Member's submission of a written request to be excluded from the Class Settlement signed by the Class Member.

1.43. "Response Deadline" means 45 days after the Administrator mails Notice to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees, and shall be the last date on which Class Members may: (a) fax, email, or mail Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, or (b) fax, email, or mail his or her Objection to the Settlement. Class Members to whom Notice Packets are resent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator shall have an additional 14 calendar days beyond the Response Deadline has expired.

1.44. "Settlement" means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.

1.45. "Workweek" means any week during which a Class Member worked for Defendant for at least one day, during the Class Period.

2. RECITALS.

2.1 On May 31, 2023, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a Complaint alleging causes of action against Defendant for failure to pay minimum and straight time wages, failure to pay overtime wages, failure to provide meal periods, failure to authorize and permit rest periods, failure to timely pay final wages at termination, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, failure to indemnify employees for expenditures, and unfair business practices.

///

///

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

2.2 On September 8, 2023, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint, adding an additional cause of action for civil penalties under PAGA (the "Operative Complaint").

2.3 Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.

2.4 Defendant denies Plaintiff's claims and allegations in the Action, Operative Complaint, and/or PAGA Notice, denies any failure to comply with the laws identified in the Action, Operative Complaint, and/or PAGA Notice, and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged by Plaintiff in the Action, Operative Complaint, and/or PAGA Notice.

2.5 On March 20, 2024, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by Mark LeHocky, Esq., which ultimately led to the Parties' January 29, 2025 Agreement to settle the Action.

2.6 Prior to mediation and negotiating the Settlement, Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery, a sample of Defendant's timekeeping records, policies, and other information. Plaintiff's investigation was sufficient to satisfy the criteria for court approval set forth in *Dunk v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1801 and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116, 129-130 ("*Dunk/Kullar*").

2.7 The Court has not granted class certification.

2.8 The Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by the Settlement.

2.9 The Parties agree this Agreement reflects their good faith compromise of the claims raised in this action, based upon their assessment of the mutual risks and costs of further litigation and the assessments of their respective counsel.

3. MONETARY TERMS.

3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 8 below, Defendant promises to pay $150,000.00 and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount and to separately pay any and all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount (or any payroll taxes) prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 4.2 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant.

3.2. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Final Approval:

3.2.1. To Plaintiff: Class Representative Service Payment to the Class Representative of not more than $10,000.00 to Plaintiff (in addition to any Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment the Class Representative is entitled to receive as a Participating Class Member). Defendant will not oppose Plaintiff's request for a Class Representative Service Payment that does not exceed this amount. As part of the Motion for Final Approval, Plaintiff will seek Court approval for the Class Representative Service Payment no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Representative Service Payment less than the amount requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will pay the Class Representative Service Payment using IRS Form 1099s. Plaintiff assumes full responsibility and liability for employee taxes owed on the Class Representative Service Payment.

3.2.2. To Class Counsel: A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than 35% of the Gross Settlement Amount, which is currently estimated to be $52,500.00, and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than $25,000.00. Defendant will not oppose requests for these payments provided that do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will file a Motion for Final Approval no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Counsel Fees Payment and/or a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to Class Counsel or any other Plaintiff's Counsel arising from any claim to any portion any Class Counsel Fee Payment and/or Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. Class Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the Class Counsel Fees Payment and the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds Defendant harmless, and indemnifies Defendant, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these Payments.

3.2.3. To the Administrator: An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed $4,990.00 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the Administration Expenses are less or the Court approves payment less than $4,990.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.

3.2.4. To Each Participating Class Member: An Individual Class Payment calculated by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Participating Class Member's Workweeks.

3.2.4.1. Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. 33% of each

Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portions are subject to tax withholding and will be reported on an IRS W-2 Form. The 67% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of claims for interest and penalties (the "Non-Wage Portion"). The Non-Wage Portions are not subject to wage withholdings and will be reported on IRS 1099 Forms. Participating Class Members assume full responsibility and liability for any employee taxes owed on their Individual Class Payment.

3.2.4.2. Effect of Non-Participating Class Members on Calculation of Individual Class Payments. Non-Participating Class Members will not receive any Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will retain amounts equal to their Individual Class Payments in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis.

3.2.5. To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties in the amount of $10,000.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% ($7,500.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% ($2,500.00) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.

3.2.5.1. The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalties by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

3.2.5.2. If the Court approves PAGA Penalties of less than the amount requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

4. SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.

4.1. Class Workweeks and Aggrieved Employee Pay Periods. Based on a review of its records to date, Defendant estimates there are approximately 77 Class Members who collectively worked a total of approximately 8,774 Workweeks, and 52 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total of approximately 4438 PAGA Pay Periods.

4.2. Class Data. Not later than 15 days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendant will simultaneously deliver the Class Data to the Administrator, in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Class Members' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Class Data in confidence, use the Class Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Class Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Class Data to effect and

perform under this Agreement. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify Class Counsel if it discovers that the Class Data omitted class member identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Class Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendant must send the Class Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Class Data.

4.3. Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount, and also fund the amounts necessary to fully pay Defendant's share of payroll taxes, by transmitting the funds to the Administrator within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date.

4.4. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within 14 days after Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment. Disbursement of the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and the Class Representative Service Payment shall not precede disbursement of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments.

4.4.1. The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual Class Payments and/or Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Class Members via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (not less than 180 days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided. The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. The Administrator will send checks for Individual Settlement Payments to all Participating Class Members (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator will send checks for Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees including Non-Participating Class Members who qualify as Aggrieved Employees (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator may send Participating Class Members a single check combining the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment. Before mailing any checks, the Settlement Administrator must update the recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.

4.4.2. The Administrator must conduct a Class Member Address Search for all other Class Members whose checks are returned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within 7 days of receiving a returned check the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Class Member Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to deliver checks to Class Members whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Class Member whose original check was lost or misplaced, requested by the Class Member prior to the void date.

4.4.3. For any Class Member whose Individual Class Payment check is

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to Legal Aid at Work ("Cy Pres Recipient"), a charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Section 384, subdivision (b), subject to Court approval. The Parties, Class Counsel, and Defense Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the intended Cy Pres Recipient.

4.4.4. The payment of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendant to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to Class Members (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses) beyond those specified in this Agreement.

5. **RELEASES OF CLAIMS**. 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, Plaintiff, Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, and Class Counsel will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

5.1 Plaintiff's Release. Upon funding of the settlement, to the fullest extent permitted by law, Plaintiff and her respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns generally, fully, finally, and forever waive, release, and discharge Released Parties from any and all claims, demands, obligations, actions, causes of action, liabilities, debts, promises, agreements, demands, attorneys' fees, losses and expenses, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, filed or unfiled, they may have or have had against Defendant arising out of any known or unknown fact, condition or incident occurring prior to the date of this Agreement including, without limitation, any claims, demands, charges, causes of action, or complaints arising out of or in connection with Plaintiff's employment with Defendant or the cessation thereof. This release includes, without limiting the generality of the foregoing: any and all claims, demands, causes of action, obligations, charges, liabilities, attorneys' fees, costs, compensatory and punitive damages, and all claims for any other type of relief relating to, arising out of, or based upon: claims of harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation in violation of State or Federal law; all claims for failure to accommodate and/or failure to engage in the interactive process; violations, interference with and/or retaliation for requesting and taking a leave of absence under State or Federal law; all claims of violation of public policy, including a claim for wrongful and/or constructive termination of employment; all claims for fraud or misrepresentation; all claims based on tort and/or breach of contract, whether written or oral, express or implied, and any covenant of good faith and fair dealing; all claims for unpaid wages, commissions, or other benefits, including minimum wage, regular, overtime, double time, vacation, associated penalties and/or premiums, and expense reimbursement; all claims for rest or meal periods and associated penalties and/or premiums; all claims for stock options; all claims for inaccurate wage statements; all claims for the alleged failure to pay all wages at separation; all claims for failure to timely provide documents for review and/or inspection; any claim for unlawful or unfair business practices; and claim regarding rights created in response to COVID-19, and any other applicable laws, regulations, and rules; all claims for emotional distress; and any and all claims and potential claims

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

generally relating to Plaintiff's employment with Defendant and/or the cessation thereof, including any alleged violation of any federal, state or other governmental statute, regulation, ordinance, or executive order including without limitation:

(1) The Civil Rights Acts of 1866, 1964, and 1991, as amended;
(2) 42 U.S.C. § 1981;
(3) The California Fair Employment and Housing Act;
(4) Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;
(5) The Fair Labor Standards Act (including the Equal Pay Act);
(6) The California and United States Constitutions;
(7) The California Business and Professions Code;
(8) The Employee Retirement Income Security Act, as amended;
(9) The California Family Rights Act;
(10) The Americans with Disabilities Act;
(11) The Family Medical Leave Act;
(12) The California Pregnancy Discrimination Act;
(13) The California Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders;
(14) The National Labor Relations Act;
(15) The Immigration Reform and Control Act;
(16) California Occupational Safety and Health Act, or the Federal equivalent;
(17) The Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act;
(18) The Families First Coronavirus Response Act;
(19) COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave; and
(20) The California Labor Code.

Plaintiff's general releases described above shall be collectively referred to in this Agreement as "Plaintiff's Releases." Plaintiff acknowledges and agrees that Plaintiff's Releases include, without limitation, all claims, transactions, and/or occurrences that occurred during the Class Period or PAGA Period, including, but not limited to: (a) all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained, in the Actions, Operative Complaint, and/or PAGA Notices; and (b) all PAGA claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged based on facts contained in the Actions, Operative Complaint, and PAGA Notices. Plaintiff's Releases do not extend to any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any claims that cannot be waived as a matter of law such as claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time, or based on occurrences outside the Class Period. Plaintiff by executing this Agreement further represents and acknowledges she is currently unaware of any basis to make a claim for workers' compensation benefits at this time, and Plaintiff represents, warrants and affirms no factual basis exists for a claim for increased compensation under California Labor Code section 132a based upon all facts and circumstances surrounding their alleged employment with Defendant and/or alleged employment with Released Parties and its termination. Plaintiff acknowledges that she may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that they now know or believe to be true but agree, nonetheless, that Plaintiff's Releases shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff's discovery of them. Plaintiff's Releases in all respects have been voluntarily and knowingly executed

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

with the express intention of effecting the legal consequences provided in California Civil Code section 1541, that is, the extinguishment of obligations herein designated.

5.1.1 Plaintiff's Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542. For purposes of Plaintiff's Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, and that if known by him or her would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or Released Party.

5.2 Release by Participating Class Members: All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the Class Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and ascertained in the course of the Action including any and all violations of California's Labor Code and Unfair Competition Law based on Defendant's failure to pay for all hours worked (including minimum, straight time, overtime, and double time wages), failure to provide meal periods, failure to authorize and permit rest periods, failure to timely pay final wages at termination, failure to furnish accurate itemized wage statements, failure to indemnify employees for expenditures, civil penalties under PAGA based on the alleged Labor Code violations, and all damages, interest, penalties, attorneys' fees, costs, and other amounts recoverable under said causes of action under California law, to the extent permissible, including, but not limited to, the California Labor Code and the applicable Wage Orders. Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.

5.3 Release by Aggrieved Employees: 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 all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice, and ascertained in the course of the Action including the failure to pay minimum and straight time wages, failure to pay overtime and double time wages, failure to provide meal periods, failure to authorize and permit rest periods, failure to timely pay final wages at termination, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, and failure to indemnify employees for expenditures, and any claims for PAGA penalties premised on the following Labor Code sections: 201, 202, 203, 204. 226, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, and 2802.

6. **MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL.** Class Counsel will expeditiously prepare and file the motion for preliminary approval ("Motion for Preliminary Approval").

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

6.1 Plaintiff's Responsibilities. Plaintiff will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all documents necessary for obtaining Preliminary Approval, including: (i) a draft of the notice, and memorandum in support, of the Motion for Preliminary Approval that includes an analysis of the Settlement under *Dunk/Kullar* and a request for approval of the PAGA Settlement under Labor Code Section 2699, subd. (f)(2); (ii) a draft proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval; (iii) a signed declaration from Plaintiff confirming willingness and competency to serve and disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members and the Administrator; (iv) a signed declaration from each Class Counsel firm attesting to competency to represent the Class Members; its timely transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (initial notice of violations (Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a)), Operative Complaint (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(2)); and (v) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members and the Administrator. In their Declarations, Plaintiff and Class Counsel shall aver that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.

6.2 Responsibilities of Counsel. Class Counsel is responsible for expeditiously finalizing the Motion for Preliminary Approval within a reasonable period of time after full execution of this Agreement; obtaining a prompt hearing date for the Motion for Preliminary Approval; and for appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the Motion for Preliminary Approval. Class Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Preliminary Approval to the Administrator.

6.3 Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed Motion for Preliminary Approval and/or the supporting declarations and documents, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does not grant Preliminary Approval or conditions Preliminary Approval on any material change to this Agreement, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

7. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

7.1 Selection of Administrator. The Parties have jointly selected APEX Class Action Administration ("APEX") to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, APEX agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for payment of Administration Expenses. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.

7.2 Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports state and federal tax authorities.

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

7.3 Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1.

7.4 Notice to Class Members.

7.4.1 No later than three (3) business days after receipt of the Class Data, the Administrator shall notify Class Counsel that the list has been received and state the number of Class Members, PAGA Members, Workweeks, and Pay Periods in the Class Data.

7.4.2 Using best efforts to perform as soon as possible, and in no event later than 14 days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator will send to all Class Members identified in the Class Data, via first-class United States Postal Service ("USPS") mail, the Class Notice, with Spanish translation, substantially in the form attached to this Agreement as Exhibit A. The first page of the Class Notice shall prominently estimate the dollar amounts of any Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment payable to the Class Member, and the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if applicable) used to calculate these amounts. Before mailing Class Notices, the Administrator shall update Class Member addresses using the National Change of Address database.

7.4.3 Not later than 3 business days after the Administrator's receipt of any Class Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the Class Notice using any forwarding address provided by the USPS. If the USPS does not provide a forwarding address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class Member Address Search, and re-mail the Class Notice to the most current address obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further attempts to locate or send Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by the USPS a second time.

7.4.4 The deadlines for Class Members' written objections, Challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional 14 days beyond the 45 days otherwise provided in the Class Notice for all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.

7.4.5 If the Administrator, Defendant or Class Counsel is contacted by or otherwise discovers any persons who believe they should have been included in the Class Data and should have received Class Notice, the Parties will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith. in an effort to agree on whether to include them as Class Members. If the Parties agree, such persons will be Class Members entitled to the same rights as other Class Members, and the Administrator will send, via email or overnight delivery, a Class Notice requiring them to exercise options under this Agreement not later than 14 days after receipt of Class Notice, or the deadline dates in the Class Notice, whichever are later.

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

7.5 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs).

7.5.1 Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) the Class Settlement must send the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail, a signed written Request for Exclusion not later than 45 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed). A Request for Exclusion is a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative that reasonably communicates the Class Member's election to be excluded from the Settlement and includes the Class Member's name, address and email address or telephone number. To be valid, a Request for Exclusion must be timely faxed, emailed, or postmarked by the Response Deadline.

7.5.2 The Administrator may not reject a Request for Exclusion as invalid because it fails to contain all the information specified in the Class Notice. The Administrator shall accept any Request for Exclusion as valid if the Administrator can reasonably ascertain the identity of the person as a Class Member and the Class Member's desire to be excluded. If the Administrator has reason to question the authenticity of a Request for Exclusion, the Administrator may demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity. The Administrator's determination of authenticity shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.

7.5.3 Every Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion is deemed to be a Participating Class Member under this Agreement, entitled to all benefits and bound by all terms and conditions of the Settlement, including the Participating Class Members' Releases under Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of this Agreement, regardless of whether the Participating Class Member actually receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.

7.5.4 Every Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion is a Non-Participating Class Member and shall not receive an Individual Class Payment or have the right to object to the class action components of the Settlement. Because future PAGA claims are subject to claim preclusion upon entry of the Judgment, Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release the claims identified in Paragraph 5.3 of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.

7.6 Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks. Each Class Member shall have 45 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if any) allocated to the Class Member in the Class Notice. The Class Member may challenge the allocation by communicating with the Administrator via fax, email or mail. The Administrator must encourage the challenging Class Member to submit supporting documentation. In the absence of any contrary documentation, the Administrator is entitled to presume that the Workweeks contained in the Class Notice are correct so long as they are consistent with the Class

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

Data. The Administrator's determination of each Class Member's allocation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. The Administrator shall promptly provide copies of all challenges to calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel and the Administrator's determination the challenges.

7.7 Objections to Settlement.

7.7.1 Only Participating Class Members may object to the class action components of the Settlement and/or this Agreement, including contesting the fairness of the Settlement, and/or amounts requested for the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Class Representative Service Payment.

7.7.2 Participating Class Members may send written objections to the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail. In the alternative, Participating Class Members may appear in Court (or hire an attorney to appear in Court) to present verbal objections at the Final Approval Hearing. A Participating Class Member who elects to send a written objection to the Administrator must do so not later than 45 days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice was re-mailed).

7.7.3 Non-Participating Class Members have no right to object to any of the class action components of the Settlement.

7.8 Administrator Duties. The Administrator has a duty to perform or observe all tasks to be performed or observed by the Administrator contained in this Agreement or otherwise.

7.8.1 Website, Email Address and Toll-Free Number. The Administrator will establish and maintain and use an internet website to post information of interest to Class Members including the date, time and location for the Final Approval Hearing and copies of the Settlement Agreement, Motion for Preliminary Approval, the Preliminary Approval Order, the Class Notice, the Motion for Final Approval, and the Final Approval Order and the Judgment. The Administrator will also maintain and monitor an email address and a toll-free telephone number to receive Class Member calls, faxes and emails.

7.8.2 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-outs) and Exclusion List. The Administrator will promptly review on a rolling basis Requests for Exclusion to ascertain their validity. Not later than 5 days after the expiration of the deadline for submitting Requests for Exclusion, the Administrator shall email a list to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel containing (a) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have timely submitted valid Requests for Exclusion ("Exclusion List"); (b) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have submitted invalid Requests for Exclusion; (c) copies of all Requests for Exclusion from Settlement submitted (whether valid or invalid).

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

7.8.3 Weekly Reports. The Administrator must, on a weekly basis, provide written reports to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel that, among other things, tally the number of: Class Notices mailed or re-mailed, Class Notices returned undelivered, Requests for Exclusion (whether valid or invalid) received, objections received, challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods received and/or resolved, and checks mailed for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments ("Weekly Report"). The Weekly Reports must include provide the Administrator's assessment of the validity of Requests for Exclusion and attach copies of all Requests for Exclusion and objections received.

7.8.4 Workweek and/or Pay Period Challenges. The Administrator has the authority to address and make final decisions consistent with the terms of this Agreement on all Class Member challenges over the calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods. The Administrator's decision shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.

7.8.5 Administrator's Declaration. Not later than 14 days before the date by which Plaintiff is required to file the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, the Administrator will provide to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its due diligence and compliance with all of its obligations under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, its mailing of Class Notice, the Class Notices returned as undelivered, the re-mailing of Class Notices, attempts to locate Class Members, the total number of Requests for Exclusion from Settlement it received (both valid or invalid), the number of written objections and attach the Exclusion List. The Administrator will supplement its declaration as needed or requested by the Parties and/or the Court. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration(s) in Court.

7.8.6 Final Report by Settlement Administrator. Within 10 days after the Administrator disburses all funds in the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will provide Class Counsel and Defense Counsel with a final report detailing its disbursements by employee identification number only of all payments made under this Agreement. At least 15 days before any deadline set by the Court, the Administrator will prepare, and submit to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its disbursement of all payments required under this Agreement. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration in Court.

8. **ESCALATOR CLAUSE.** Defendant represents that there are no more than 8,774 workweeks worked by the Class Members during the Class Period. If it is determined that the actual number of workweeks worked by the Class Members during the Class Period exceeds 9,652 (10% more than 8,774), Defendant shall increase the Maximum Settlement Amount by the percentage increase in the number of workweeks worked by the class members above 10% (e.g. if the number of workweeks increases by 12%, the Gross Settlement Amount will increase by 2%).

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

9. **DEFENDANT'S RIGHT TO WITHDRAW.** If the number of valid Requests for Exclusion identified in the Exclusion List exceeds 10% of the total of all Class Members, Defendant may, but is not obligated, elect to withdraw from the Settlement. The Parties agree that, if Defendant withdraws, the Settlement shall be void ab initio, have no force or effect whatsoever, and that neither Party will have any further obligation to perform under this Agreement; provided, however, Defendant will remain responsible for paying all Settlement Administration Expenses incurred to that point. Defendant must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its election to withdraw not later than seven (7) days after the Administrator sends the final Exclusion List to Defense Counsel; late elections will have no effect.

10. **MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.** Not later than 16 court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff will file in Court, a Motion for final approval of the Settlement that includes a request for approval of the PAGA settlement under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l), a Proposed Final Approval Order and a proposed Judgment (collectively "Motion for Final Approval"). Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve any disagreements concerning the Motion for Final Approval.

10.1 Response to Objections. Each Party retains the right to respond to any objection raised by a Participating Class Member, including the right to file responsive documents in Court no later than five (5) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered or accepted by the Court.

10.2 Duty to Cooperate. If the Court does not grant Final Approval or conditions Final Approval on any material change to the Settlement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), the Parties will expeditiously work together in good faith to address the Court's concerns by revising the Agreement as necessary to obtain Final Approval. The Court's decision to award less than the amounts requested for the Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Administrator Expenses Payment shall not constitute a material modification to the Agreement within the meaning of this paragraph.

10.3 Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court. The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.

10.4 Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment reflected set forth in this Settlement, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Participating Class Members who did not object to the Settlement as provided in this Agreement, waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs, and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If an objector appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.

10.5 Appellate Court Orders to Vacate, Reverse, or Materially Modify Judgment. If the reviewing Court vacates, reverses, or modifies the Judgment in a manner that requires a material modification of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), this Agreement shall be null and void. The Parties shall nevertheless expeditiously work together in good faith to address the appellate court's concerns and to obtain Final Approval and entry of Judgment, sharing, on a 50-50 basis, any additional Administration Expenses reasonably incurred after remittitur. An appellate decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of the Class Representative Service Payment or any payments to Class Counsel shall not constitute a material modification of the Judgment within the meaning of this paragraph, as long as the Gross Settlement Amount remains unchanged.

11. AMENDED JUDGMENT. If any amended judgment is required under Code of Civil Procedure section 384, the Parties will work together in good faith to jointly submit and a proposed amended judgment.

12. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

12.1 No Admission of Liability, Class Certification or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by Defendant that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that Defendant has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendant's defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree that class certification and representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason the Court does grant Preliminary Approval, Final Approval or enter Judgment, Defendant reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reasons, and Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiff reserves the right to move for class certification on any grounds available and to contest Defendant's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement and Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation (except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement).

12.2 Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree that, until the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement is filed, they and each of them will not disclose, disseminate and/or publicize, or cause or permit another person to disclose, disseminate or publicize, any of the terms of the Agreement directly or indirectly, specifically or generally, to any person, corporation, association, government agency, or other entity except: (1) to the Parties' attorneys, accountants, or spouses, all of whom will be instructed to keep this

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

Agreement confidential; (2) counsel in a related matter; (3) to the extent necessary to report income to appropriate taxing authorities; (4) in response to a court order or subpoena; or (5) in response to an inquiry or subpoena issued by a state or federal government agency. Each Party agrees to immediately notify each other Party of any judicial or agency order, inquiry, or subpoena seeking such information. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree not to, directly or indirectly, initiate any conversation or other communication, before the filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval, any with third party regarding this Agreement or the matters giving rise to this Agreement except to respond only that "the matter was resolved," or words to that effect. This paragraph does not restrict Class Counsel's communications with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

12.3 No Solicitation. The Parties separately agree that they and their respective counsel and employees will not solicit any Class Member to opt out of or object to the Settlement, or appeal from the Judgment. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to restrict Class Counsel's ability to communicate with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

12.4 Integrated Agreement. Upon execution by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement together with its attached exhibits shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement, superseding any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements made to or by any Party.

12.5 Attorney Authorization. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff and Defendant, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.

12.6 Cooperation. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts, in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying the Settlement Agreement, submitting supplemental evidence and supplementing points and authorities as requested by the Court. In the event the Parties are unable to agree upon the form or content of any document necessary to implement the Settlement, or on any modification of the Agreement that may become necessary to implement the Settlement, the Parties will seek the assistance of a mediator and/or the Court for resolution.

12.7 No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.

12.8 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant nor Defense Counsel are providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.

12.9 Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.

12.10 Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.

12.11 Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the state of California, without regard to conflict of law principles.

12.12 Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.

12.13 Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made, and orders entered during Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement. Further, the Parties agree that they have not and will not publish any publicity materials relating to this Agreement. In response to any inquiries, the Parties will state that "the case was resolved, and it was resolved confidentially." The Parties shall not report the settlement reached in this Agreement in any medium or in any publication, shall not post or report anything regarding the claims in the Operative Complaint on its website, and shall not contact any reporters or media regarding the Action. Despite this provision, the Parties can discuss this Agreement and resolution of the Action with their respective representatives, the Settlement Class Members, and in any filings with the Court and the LWDA.

12.14 Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.

12.15 Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to "days" in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.

12.16 Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

///

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

To Plaintiff:

Arrash T. Fattahi, Esq.
Arman A. Salehi, Esq.
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
660 S. Figueroa Street, Sky Lobby
Los Angeles, California 90017
Telephone: (213) 784-3830
Facsimile: (213) 381-9989
arrash.fattahi@wilshirelawfirm.com
arman.salehi@wilshirelawfirm.com

To Defendant:

Chad T. Wishchuk, Esq.
Marlene C. Nowlin, Esq.
FINCH, THORTON & BAIRD, LLP
4747 Executive Drive, Suite 700
San Diego, California 92121
Telephone: (858) 737-3100
Facsimile: (858) 737-3101
cwishchuk@ftblaw.com
mnowlin@ftblaw.com

12.17 Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

12.18 Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

///

///

///

///

///

Docusign Envelope ID: 452912A0-D45F-4D6D-8474-893DB13302EF

12.19 Re-Open Proceedings. The Parties agree that, in the event the settlement is not approved by the Court, or if the settlement is terminated by either Party under the provisions of this Agreement, the Parties will request that the Court reopen proceedings within thirty (30) calendar days.

On Behalf of Plaintiff Sonia Magali Johnson:

Dated: 2/13/2026

Signed by:
ADD7A18A86444E8...
Sonia Magali Johnson, Plaintiff

On Behalf of Defendant R Q Construction, LLC:

Dated: 02/12/2026

Kathryn Wokas
Name: Kathryn Wokas
Title: Human Resources Manager

Approved as to form:

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM, PLC

Dated: 2/17/2026

Arrash T. Fattahi
Arman A. Salehi

Attorneys for Plaintiff

FINCH, THORNTON & BAIRD, LLP

Dated: 02/13/2026

Chad T. Wishchuk
Marlene C. Nowlin

Attorneys for Defendant

EXHIBIT A

COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL

Sonia Magali Johnson v. R Q Construction, LLC
(San Diego County Superior Court Case No. 37-2023-00022858-CU-OE-CTL)

The Superior Court for the State of California authorized this Notice. Read it carefully! It's not junk mail, spam, an advertisement or solicitation by a lawyer. You are not being sued.

You may be eligible to receive money from an employee class action lawsuit ("Action") against R Q Construction, LLC ("Defendant") for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by a former employee of Defendant, Sonia Magali Johnson ("Plaintiff"), and seeks payment for (1) unpaid minimum and straight time wages, (2) unpaid overtime, (3) unpaid meal period premiums, (4) unpaid rest break premiums, (5) untimely final wages, (6) inaccurate wage statements, (7) unreimbursed business expenses, and (8) unfair business practices for a class of hourly-paid or non-exempt employees ("Class Members") who worked for Defendant in California during the Class Period from May 31, 2019 through March 1, 2025; and (9) penalties under the California Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA") for all hourly-paid or non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant in California during the PAGA Period from June 21, 2022 through March 1, 2025 ("Aggrieved Employees").

The proposed Settlement has two main parts: (1) a Class Settlement requiring Defendant to fund Individual Class Payments to Class Members, and (2) a PAGA Settlement requiring Defendant to fund the PAGA penalties to pay penalties to Aggrieved Employees and the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA").

Based on Defendant's records, and the Parties' current assumptions, **your Individual Class Payment is estimated to be $ _____ (less withholding) and your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be $ _____**. The actual amount you may receive likely will be different and will depend on a number of factors. (If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment, then according to Defendant's records you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you did not work during the PAGA Period.)

The above estimates are based on Defendant's records showing that **you worked ____ workweeks** in California during the Class Period and **you worked _____ workweeks** in California during the PAGA Period. If you believe that you worked more workweeks and/or pay periods in California during either period, you can submit a challenge by the deadline date. See Section 4 of this Notice.

The Court has preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement and approved this Notice. The Court has not yet decided whether to grant final approval. Your legal rights are affected whether you act or not act. Read this Notice carefully. You will be deemed to have carefully read and understood it. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will decide whether to finally approve the Settlement and how much of the Settlement will be paid to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's attorneys ("Class Counsel"). The Court will also decide whether to enter a judgment that requires Defendant to make payments under the Settlement and in exchange requires Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against Defendant. The Court has not made any determination on the merits of the claims being alleged, all of which are strenuously denied by Defendant.

If you worked for Defendant during the Class Period and/or the PAGA Period, you have two basic options under the Settlement:

(1) **Do Nothing**. You don't have to do anything to participate in the proposed Settlement and be eligible for an Individual Class Payment and/or an Individual PAGA Payment. As a Participating Class Member, though, you will give up your right to assert Class Period wage claims and PAGA Period penalty claims against Defendant.

(2) **Opt-Out of the Class Settlement**. Y ou can exclude yourself from the Class Settlement (opt-out) by submitting a written Request for Exclusion or otherwise notifying the Administrator in writing. If you opt-out of the Settlement, you will not receive an Individual Class Payment. You will, however, preserve your right to personally pursue Class Period claims for California labor law violations against Defendant, and, if you are an Aggrieved Employee, remain eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

Defendant will not retaliate against you for any actions you take with respect to the proposed Settlement.

SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT

You Don't Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement	If you do nothing, you will be a Participating Class Member, eligible for an Individual Class Payment and an Individual PAGA Payment (if any). In exchange, you will give up your right to assert the wage claims against Defendant that are covered by this Settlement (Released Claims).
You Can Opt-out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement **The Opt-out Deadline is** _____	If you don't want to fully participate in the proposed Settlement, you can opt-out of the Class Settlement by sending the Administrator a written Request for Exclusion. Once excluded, you will be a Non-Participating Class Member and no longer eligible for an Individual Class Payment. Non-Participating Class Members cannot object to any portion of the proposed Settlement. See Section **6** of this Notice. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. If you are an Aggrieved Employee and exclude yourself, you will still be paid your Individual PAGA Payment stated above and will remain subject to the release of the Released PAGA Claims (defined below) regardless of whether you submit a request for exclusion.
Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement **Written Objections Must be Submitted by** _____	All Class Members who do not opt-out ("Participating Class Members") can object to any aspect of the proposed Settlement. The Court's decision whether to finally approve the Settlement will include a determination of how much will be paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff who pursued the Action on behalf of the Class. You are not personally responsible for any payments to Class Counsel or Plaintiff, but every dollar paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff reduces the overall amount paid to Participating Class Members. You can object to the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiff if you think they are unreasonable. See Section **7** of this Notice.

You Can Participate in the _____ Final Approval Hearing	The Court's Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on _____. You don't have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone or by using the Court's virtual appearance platform. Participating Class Members can verbally object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing. See Section **8** of this Notice.
You Can Challenge the Calculation of Your Workweeks/Pay Periods **Written Challenges Must be Submitted by** _____	The amount of your Individual Class Payment and PAGA Payment (if any) depend on how many workweeks you worked at least one day during the Class Period in California and how many Pay Periods you worked at least one day during the PAGA Period in California, respectively. The number of California-based Class Period Workweeks and number of PAGA Period Pay Periods you worked according to Defendant's records is stated on the first page of this Notice. If you disagree with either of these numbers, you must challenge it by __. See Section **4** of this Notice.

1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?

Plaintiff is a former employee of Defendant. Plaintiff filed the Action against Defendant. The Action alleges that Defendant violated California law by (1) failing to pay all minimum and straight time wages, (2) failing to pay all overtime wages, (3) failing to provide meal periods (4) failing to authorize and permit rest periods, (5) failing to timely pay final wages at termination, (6) failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements, (7) failing to indemnify employees for expenditures, and (8) unfair business practices. Based on the same claims, Plaintiff has also asserted a claim for civil penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act (Lab. Code, § 2698, et seq.) ("PAGA"). Plaintiff is represented by attorneys in the Action: Arrash T. Fattahi and Arman A. Salehi of Wilshire Law Firm ("Class Counsel").

Defendant strongly denies that it has done anything wrong and disputes all the claims in the Action. Specifically, Defendant contends that Plaintiff and the Class Members were, at all times, properly compensated for wages under California law; that Plaintiff and the Class Members were provided with meal and rest periods in compliance with California law; that Defendant did not fail to pay to Class Members any wages allegedly due at the time of their termination; that Defendant complied with California wage statement requirements; that Defendant indemnified employees for any expenditures; that Defendant did not violate California Business and Professions Code section 17200 et seq.; that Defendant is not liable for any of the penalties sought or that could be sought in the Action; and that this Action cannot be maintained as a class or representative action. The Court has not made any determination of the merits of the claims of Plaintiff or the defenses of Defendant. This means there has been no determination that Defendant did not comply with California law and Defendant maintains that it complied with the law at all times.

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE ACTION HAS SETTLED?

The Court has made no determination whether Defendant or Plaintiff is correct on the merits. In the meantime, Plaintiff and Defendant hired an experienced, neutral mediator Mark LeHocky, Esq., in an effort to resolve the Action by negotiating and to end the case by agreement (settle the case) rather than continuing the expensive and time-consuming process of litigation. After the mediation, the Parties continued to negotiate a resolution and were ultimately able to agree to settle the matter. By signing a lengthy written settlement agreement ("Agreement") and agreeing to jointly ask the Court to enter a judgment ending the Action and enforcing the Agreement, Plaintiff and Defendant have negotiated a proposed Settlement that is subject to the Court's Final Approval. Both sides agree the proposed Settlement is a compromise of disputed claims. By agreeing to settle, Defendant does not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims.

Accordingly, the Settlement constitutes a compromise of disputed claims and should not be construed as an admission of liability on the part of Defendant, who expressly denies all liability.

Plaintiff and Class Counsel think the Settlement is in the best interest of class members because they believe that: (1) Defendant has agreed to pay a fair, reasonable and adequate amount considering the strength of the claims and the risks and uncertainties of continued litigation; and (2) Settlement is in the best interests of the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees.

The Court preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement on DATE as fair, reasonable and adequate, authorized this Notice, and scheduled a hearing on DATE to determine Final Approval.

3. WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT TERMS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

1. Defendant Will Pay $150,000.00 as the Gross Settlement Amount (Gross Settlement). Defendant has agreed to deposit the Gross Settlement into an account controlled by the Administrator of the Settlement. The Administrator will use the Gross Settlement to pay the Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and expenses, the Administrator's expenses, and penalties to be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA"). Assuming the Court grants Final Approval, Defendant will fund the Gross Settlement not more than 14 days after the Judgment entered by the Court becomes final. The Judgment will be final on the date the Court enters Judgment, or a later date if Participating Class Members object to the proposed Settlement or the Judgment is appealed.

2. Court Approved Deductions from Gross Settlement. At the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve the following deductions from the Gross Settlement, the amounts of which will be decided by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing:

   A. Up to 35% of the Gross Settlement Amount (currently estimated at $52,500.00) to Class

Counsel for attorneys' fees and up to $25,000.00 for their litigation expenses. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.

B. Up to $10,000.00 as a Class Representative Award for filing the Action, working with Class Counsel and representing the Class. A Class Representative Award will be the only monies Plaintiff will receive other than Plaintiff's Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment.

C. Up to $4,990.00 to the Administrator for services administering the Settlement.

D. Up to $10,000.00 for PAGA Penalties, allocated 75% ($7,500) to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% ($2,500) in Individual PAGA Payments to the Aggrieved Employees based on their PAGA Period Pay Periods.

Participating Class Members have the right to object to any of these deductions. The Court will consider all objections.

3. Net Settlement Distributed to Class Members. After making the above deductions in amounts approved by the Court, the Administrator will distribute the rest of the Gross Settlement (the "Net Settlement") by making Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members based on their Class Period Workweeks.

4. Taxes Owed on Payments to Class Members. Plaintiff and Defendant are asking the Court to approve an allocation of 33% of each Individual Class Payment to taxable wages ("Wage Portion") and 67% to interest and penalties ("Non-Wage Portion"). The Wage Portion is subject to withholdings and will be reported on IRS W-2 Forms. Defendant will separately pay employer payroll taxes it owes on the Wage Portion. The Individual PAGA Payments are counted as penalties rather than wages for tax purposes. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments and the Non-Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

   Although Plaintiff and Defendant have agreed to these allocations, neither Plaintiff, Defendant, Class Counsel, nor Defense Counsel is giving you any advice on whether your Payments are taxable or how much you might owe in taxes. You are responsible for paying all taxes (including penalties and interest on back taxes) on any Payments received from the proposed Settlement. You should consult a tax advisor if you have any questions about the tax consequences of the proposed Settlement.

5. Need to Promptly Cash Payment Checks. The front of every check issued for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments will show the date when the check expires (the void date). If you don't cash it by the void date, your check will be transmitted to the Court-approved *cy pres* recipient, Legal Aid at Work, and you will have no way of recovering the funds.

6. Requests for Exclusion from the Class Settlement (Opt-Outs). You will be treated as a

Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Class Settlement, unless you notify the Administrator in writing, not later than <<RESPONSE DEADLINE>>, that you wish to opt-out. The easiest way to notify the Administrator is to email, fax, or mail a written and signed Request for Exclusion by the <<RESPONSE DEADLINE>> Response Deadline. The Request for Exclusion should be a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative setting forth a Class Member's name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement electing to be excluded from the Settlement. Excluded Class Members (i.e., Non-Participating Class Members) will not receive Individual Class Payments, but will preserve their rights to personally pursue claims against Defendant for violations of California's labor laws.

You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Class Members who exclude themselves from the Class Settlement (Non-Participating Class Members) remain eligible for Individual PAGA Payments and are required to give up their right to assert PAGA claims against Defendant based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action.

7. The Proposed Settlement Will be Void if the Court Denies Final Approval. It is possible the Court will decline to grant Final Approval of the Settlement or decline enter a Judgment. It is also possible the Court will enter a Judgment that is reversed on appeal. Plaintiff and Defendant have agreed that, in either case, the Settlement will be void: Defendant will not pay any money and Class Members will not release any claims against Defendant.

8. Administrator. The Court has appointed a neutral company, APEX Class Action Administration (the "Administrator") to send this Notice, calculate and make payments, and process Class Members' Requests for Exclusion. The Administrator will also decide Class Member Challenges over Workweeks, mail and re- mail settlement checks and tax forms, and perform other tasks necessary to administer the Settlement. The Administrator's contact information is contained in Section 9 of this Notice.

9. Participating Class Members' Release. After the Judgment is final and Defendant has fully funded the Gross Settlement and separately paid all employer payroll taxes, Participating Class Members will be legally barred from asserting any of the claims released under the Settlement. This means that unless you opted out by validly excluding yourself from the Class Settlement, you cannot sue, continue to sue or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendant or related entities for wages based on the Class Period facts and PAGA penalties based on PAGA Period facts, as alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

   The Participating Class Members will be bound by the following release:

   > All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the Class Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and ascertained in the course of the Action including any

and all violations of California's Labor Code and Unfair Competition Law based on Defendant's failure to pay for all hours worked (including minimum, straight time, overtime, and double time wages), failure to provide meal periods, failure to authorize and permit rest periods, failure to timely pay final wages at termination, failure to furnish accurate itemized wage statements, failure to indemnify employees for expenditures, civil penalties under PAGA based on the alleged Labor Code violations, and all damages, interest, penalties, attorneys' fees, costs, and other amounts recoverable under said causes of action under California law, to the extent permissible, including, but not limited to, the California Labor Code and the applicable Wage Orders. Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.

10. Aggrieved Employees' PAGA Release. After the Court's judgment is final, and Defendant has fully funded the Gross Settlement and separately paid the employer-side payroll taxes, all Aggrieved Employees will be barred from asserting PAGA claims against Defendant, whether or not they exclude themselves from the Settlement. This means that all Aggrieved Employees, including those who are Participating Class Members and those who opt-out of the Class Settlement, cannot sue, continue to sue or participate in any other PAGA claim against Defendant or its related entities based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

    The Aggrieved Employees' Releases for Participating and Non-Participating Class Members are as follows:

    > 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 all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice, and ascertained in the course of the Action including the failure to pay minimum and straight time wages, failure to pay overtime and double time wages, failure to provide meal periods, failure to authorize and permit rest periods, failure to timely pay final wages at termination, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, and failure to indemnify employees for expenditures, and any claims for PAGA penalties premised on the following Labor Code sections: 201, 202, 203, 204. 226, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, and 2802.

4. HOW WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR CALCULATE MY PAYMENT?

1. Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual Class Payments by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members, and (b) multiplying the result by the number of Workweeks worked by each individual Participating Class Member.

2. Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing $ _____ by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees and (b) multiplying the result by the number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by each individual Aggrieved Employee.

3. Workweek/Pay Period Challenges. The number of Class Workweeks you worked during the Class Period and the number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked during the PAGA Period, as recorded in Defendant's records, are stated in the first page of this Notice. You have until _____ to challenge the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you. You can submit your challenge by signing and sending a letter to the Administrator via mail, email or fax. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

   You need to support your challenge by sending copies of pay stubs or other records. The Administrator will accept Defendant's calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods based on Defendant's records as accurate unless you send copies of records containing contrary information. You should send copies rather than originals because the documents will not be returned to you. The Administrator will resolve Workweek and/or Pay Period challenges based on your submission and on input from Class Counsel (who will advocate on behalf of Participating Class Members) and Defendant's Counsel. The Administrator's decision is final. You can't appeal or otherwise challenge its final decision.

5. HOW WILL I GET PAID?

1. Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single check to every Participating Class Member (i.e., every Class Member who doesn't opt-out) including those who also qualify as Aggrieved Employees. The single check will combine the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment.

2. Non-Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single Individual PAGA Payment check to every Aggrieved Employee who opts out of the Class Settlement (i.e., every Non-Participating Class Member).

   Your check will be sent to the same address as this Notice. If you change your address, be sure to notify the Administrator as soon as possible. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

6. HOW DO I OPT-OUT OF THE CLASS SETTLEMENT?

Email, fax, or mail a written and signed letter with your name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement that you do not want to participate in the Settlement. The Administrator will exclude you based on any writing communicating your request be excluded. Be sure to personally sign your request, identify the Action as *Johnson v. R Q Construction, LLC*, Case No. 37-2023-00022858-CU-OE-CTL, and include your identifying

information (full name, address, telephone number, approximate dates of employment, and social security number for verification purposes). You must make the request yourself. If someone else makes the request for you, it will not be valid. **The Administrator must be sent your request to be excluded by ____, or it will be invalid.** Section 9 of the Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

7. HOW DO I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT?

Only Participating Class Members have the right to object to the Settlement. Before deciding whether to object, you may wish to see what Plaintiff and Defendant are asking the Court to approve. At least 16 days before the _____ Final Approval Hearing, Class Counsel and/or Plaintiff will file in Court (1) a Motion for Final Approval that includes, among other things, the reasons why the proposed Settlement is fair, and (2) a Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Award stating (i) the amount Class Counsel is requesting for attorneys' fees and litigation expenses; and (ii) the amount Plaintiff is requesting as a Class Representative Service Award. Upon reasonable request, Class Counsel (whose contact information is in Section 9 of this Notice) will send you copies of these documents at no cost to you. You can also view them on the Administrator's Website (url)_____ or the Court's website (url)_____.

A Participating Class Member who disagrees with any aspect of the Agreement, the Motion for Final Approval and/or Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Award may wish to object, for example, that the proposed Settlement is unfair, or that the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiff are too high or too low. **The deadline for sending written objections to the Administrator is _____.** Be sure to tell the Administrator what you object to, why you object and any facts that support your objection. Make sure you identify the Action as *Johnson v. R Q Construction, LLC*, Case No. 37-2023-00022858-CU-OE-CTL, and include your name, current address, telephone number and approximate dates of employment for Defendant and sign the objection. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

Alternatively, a Participating Class Member can object (or personally retain a lawyer to object at your own cost) by attending the Final Approval Hearing. You (or your attorney) should be ready to tell the Court what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. See Section 8 of this Notice (immediately below) for specifics regarding the Final Approval Hearing.

8. CAN I ATTEND THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING?

You can, but don't have to, attend the Final Approval Hearing on _____ at (time) _____ in Department C-70 of the San Diego County Superior Court, located at 330 W. Broadway, San Diego, California 92101. At the Hearing, the judge will decide whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and how much of the Gross Settlement will be paid to Class Counsel, Plaintiff and the Administrator. The Court will invite comment from objectors, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel before making a decision. You can attend (or hire a lawyer to attend) either personally or virtually. Check the Court's website for the most current information (https://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/).

It's possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the Administrator's website _____ beforehand or contact Class Counsel to verify the date and time of the Final Approval Hearing.

9. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The Agreement sets forth everything Defendant and Plaintiff have promised to do under the proposed Settlement. The easiest way to read the Agreement, the Judgment or any other Settlement documents is to go to (specify entity) _____ website at (url) _____. You can also telephone or send an email to Class Counsel or the Administrator using the contact information listed below, or consult the Superior Court website by visiting the Court's online Register of Actions (https://odyroa.sdcourt.ca.gov/) and entering the San Diego County Superior Court Case Number for the Action, Case No. 37-2023-00022858-CU-OE-CTL. You can also make an appointment to personally review court documents in the Clerk's Office at the Courthouse by calling (619) 450-7074.

DO NOT TELEPHONE THE SUPERIOR COURT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT.

Class Counsel:
Arrash T. Fattahi
arrash.fattahi@wilshirelawfirm.com
Arman A. Salehi
arman.salehi@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
660 S. Figueroa Street, Sky Lobby
Los Angeles, California 90017
Telephone: (213) 784-3830
Facsimile: (213) 381-9989

Settlement Administrator:
Name of Company: APEX Class Action Administration
Email Address:
Mailing Address:
Telephone:
Fax Number:

10. WHAT IF I LOSE MY SETTLEMENT CHECK?

If you lose or misplace your settlement check before cashing it, the Administrator will replace it as long as you request a replacement before the void date on the face of the original check. If you do not cash your check by the deadline stated on the check itself, you will have no way of recovering the funds.

11. WHAT IF I CHANGE MY ADDRESS?

To receive your check, you should immediately notify the Administrator if you move or otherwise change your mailing address.

PROOF OF SERVICE

Johnson v. R Q Construction LLC, et al.
37-2023-00022858-CU-OE-CTL

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I, Jonathan Austin, state that I am employed in the aforesaid County, State of California; I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within action; my business address is 660 S. Figueroa St., Sky Lobby, Los Angeles, CA 90017. My electronic service address is jonathan.austin@wilshirelawfirm.com.

On May 7, 2026, I served the foregoing **[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT** on the interested parties by placing a true copy thereof, enclosed in a sealed envelope by following one of the methods of service as follows:

Chad T. Wishchuk (SBN 214779)
cwishchuk@ftblaw.com
Marlene C. Nowlin (SBN 156457)
mnowlin@ftblaw.com
Brody A. Zaugg (SBN 354163)
bzaugg@ftblaw.com
Ada Meraz
ameraz@ftblaw.com
FINCH, THORNTON & BAIRD, LLP
4747 Executive Dr., Suite 700
San Diego, California 92121
Telephone: (858) 737-3100
Facsimile: (858) 737-3101

Attorneys for Defendant

(X) **BY E-MAIL:** I hereby certify that this document was served from Los Angeles, California, by e-mail delivery on the parties listed herein at their most recent known email address or e-mail of record in this action.

(X) **BY MAIL:** I enclosed the above documents in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid and placed for collection and mailing on the above date in accordance with ordinary business practices. I am readily familiar with this firm's practice of collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service, and that the correspondence shall be deposited with the United States Postal Service the same day in the ordinary course of business pursuant to Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 1013(a).

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

Executed on May 7, 2026, at Los Angeles, California.

Jonathan Austin
Jonathan Austin

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM, PLC
660 S. Figueroa St., Sky Lobby
Los Angeles, CA 90017