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Attorneys for Plaintiff ALEXIS STUART-
DRINNEN, individually, and on behalf of all
similarly aggrieved employees and the putative
class

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

ALEXIS STUART- DRINNEN,
individually, and on behalf of other members
of the general public similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

DICARLO'S ITALIAN CAFÉ, LLC, a
California limited liability company; DD 29
ENTERPRISES, INC., a California
corporation; DOUGLAS AMBROSE, as an
individual; DAVID STEIN, as an individual;
TIEN LUNG CHEN, as an individual; and
DOES 6 through 25, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: CIVSB2313579

Honorable Christian Towns
Department S26

DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF
ALEXIS STUART-DRINNEN IN SUPPORT
OF MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND
PAGA SETTLEMENT

Date: December 11, 2025
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept: S26

Complaint Filed: June 12, 2023
FAC Filed: September 15, 2023
Trial Date: Not Set

DECLARATION OF ALEXIS STUART-DRINNEN

I, Alexis Stuart-Drinnen, declare and state as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen (18) and a resident of the State of Wyoming. I am the named plaintiff in the above-captioned case. I have personal knowledge of the facts and statements set forth in this declaration, and if called upon to testify, I could and would competently testify thereto.

2. I started working at DiCarlo's Italian Cafe in approximately July 2022 as an hourly-paid, non-exempt Assistant Manager. Once the company was sold to DiCarlo's Italian Cafe, LLC and Tien Lung Chen (together, "DiCarlo's Italian Cafe"), I continued to work there until approximately November 2022.

3. Because I thought the practices at DiCarlo's Italian Cafe may not be lawful, I decided to seek legal advice about my work experiences and about filing a lawsuit to obtain relief for my grievances. I contacted Blackstone Law, APC and spoke with their attorneys. I wanted to take steps to make sure DiCarlo's Italian Cafe was held accountable for not properly compensating its employees for all hours worked and for non-compliant meal and rest breaks. After speaking with the attorneys, I also investigated class and representative action lawsuits on my own. Thereafter, I further consulted with the attorneys at Blackstone Law, APC about my situation, class actions, representative action lawsuits under the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA"), and what it meant to bring a class and PAGA action so that I understood what I was considering doing.

4. I have regularly conferred with my attorneys regarding the case as part of my responsibilities as a class and PAGA representative. This process included searching for and providing documents concerning my employment with DiCarlo's Italian Cafe, answering any questions my attorneys had about the documents, providing information regarding the company's practices and the duties of other hourly-paid and/or non-exempt employees, and helping my attorneys develop a strategy as to what additional documents and information they could seek to obtain from DiCarlo's Italian Cafe.

5. I routinely checked in with my attorneys and their staff to make sure that they had all of my most current information and any additional information that I had obtained. I made myself available to answer any questions my attorneys had about DiCarlo's Italian Cafe practices and

1 treatment of its employees whenever they needed me. I responded to them as quickly as possible and
2 gave them as much information as I could.

3 6. I understood that in the event this matter did not settle and proceeded with trial, I would
4 need to be in court to participate in the trial. I was ready to perform that role, as well as fulfill any
5 responsibilities that are necessary for this lawsuit.

6 7. I know that I took a sizeable risk by bringing and pursuing this lawsuit for several
7 reasons. First, I understood that if I lost, I would potentially have to pay the costs in the lawsuit. I
8 also understood there was a risk of losing any job and/or income due to the time that I would have to
9 spend fulfilling my responsibilities in this matter, including having to attend the trial, if needed. In
10 contrast, the other employees who will be receiving money from this lawsuit did not have to file a
11 claim or take the risk that I took in bringing this action.

12 8. I reviewed the settlement agreement, discussed the settlement agreement with my
13 attorneys, and asked them questions before signing it.

14 9. I believe that I have done everything that my attorneys have asked of me and tried, to
15 the best of my ability, to seek relief for the Class, the PAGA Employees, and the State of California.
16 I have spent approximately 35-40 hours participating in this case as described above. I believe my
17 efforts helped get the result obtained in this case.

18 10. I understand that any resolution of this lawsuit on a class wide basis is subject to court
19 approval, and any settlement must be designed in the best interest of the Class as a whole. At all times
20 throughout the course of this litigation I have considered the interests of the Class and put them before
21 my own personal interests.

22 11. I understand that incentive or enhancement awards are discretionary and intended to
23 compensate named plaintiffs for: the quality and quantity of the work done on behalf of the class and
24 other employees, the financial and/or reputational risk undertaken in bringing the class and/or PAGA
25 action, and an acknowledgment of the benefits resulting from the representative's actions. I believe
26 my work in this matter is meritorious on these points for the reasons set forth above.

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12. I respectfully request that the Court approve and award me an Enhancement Payment in the amount of \$7,500 for my efforts and active participation in the case and for the broader, general release of all claims that I have or may have against DiCarlo's Italian Cafe in connection with the settlement. Taking into consideration the time that I dedicated to this case, I believe that this amount is reasonable.

13. I am not related to anyone associated with Blackstone Law, APC.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on 09/22/2025, at Laramie, Wyoming.

Alexis Stuart-Drinnen

Alexis Stuart-Drinnen