

David Mara, Esq. (230498)
Jill Vecchi, Esq. (299333)
MARA LAW FIRM, PC
2650 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 302
San Diego, California 92108
Telephone: (619) 234-2833
Facsimile: (619) 234-4048

Attorneys for MARIA GOMEZ LEDESMA,
on behalf of herself, all others similarly situated,
and on behalf of the general public

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TULARE

MARIA GOMEZ LEDESMA on behalf of
herself, all others similarly situated, and on
behalf of the general public,
Plaintiffs,

v.

PRO-YOUTH; and DOES 1-100,
Defendants.

Case No. VCU302539

*[Assigned for all purposes to the
Honorable Brett Hillman;, Dept. 2]*

**NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER
GRANTING PLAINTIFF MARIA
GOMEZ LEDESMA'S MOTION FOR
FINAL APPROVAL OF PAGA
SETTLEMENT**

Date: August 12, 2025
Time: 8:30 a.m.

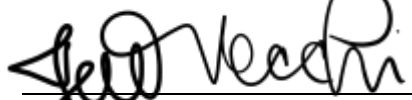
Date Filed: October 12, 2023
Trial Date: None Set

1 **TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:**

2
3 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on August 12, 2025, the Court issued a Notice of Entry
4 of Order Granting Plaintiff MARIA GOMEZ LEDESMA's Motion for Final Approval of PAGA
5 Settlement and Entering of Final Judgment. A true and correct copy of the Court's Order is
6 attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

7 Dated: September 15, 2025

MARA LAW FIRM, PC

8 

9 David Mara, Esq.

10 Jill Vecchi, Esq.

11 Attorneys for MARIA GOMEZ LEDESMA,
12 on behalf of herself, all others similarly situated,
13 and on behalf of the general public
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

EXHIBIT 1

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF TULARE**

Ledesma Gomez, Maria
Plaintiff/Petitioner,

vs.

Pro-Youth
Defendant/Respondent.

Jud. Officer: **Bret Hillman**
Clerk: **Mark Dimas**
Bailiff: **K Hice**
CSR:
Interpreter:
Language:

Minutes: **Motion Hearing**
Other
Date: **August 12, 2025**

Case No. **VCU302539**
Department 02
Related Cases:

Appearances: ☐ No Appearances

- ☐ Party: _____
☐ Remote Appearance
☐ Party: _____
☐ Remote Appearance
☐ Party: _____
☐ Remote Appearance
☐ Other: _____
☐ Remote Appearance

- ☐ Attorney: _____
☐ Remote Appearance
☒ Attorney: Emilie MacLean, via Zoom,
representing Defendant
☒ Remote Appearance
☐ Attorney: _____
☐ Remote Appearance

- ☒ No court reporter was available for today's proceedings.
☒ Case called at 09:10 A.M.

Motion: Motion to Approve PAGA Settlement

☒ No requests for oral argument presented.

ORDER: The Court adopts the Tentative Ruling as the Order of the Court as follows:

TENTATIVE RULING: To approve the motion as modified herein; to set a final compliance hearing as to distribution of the settlement for February 24, 2026, 8:30 am, Dept. 2.

Facts

1. Sufficiency of Amount of Settlement (Approved Net Distribution to Aggrieved Employees: \$ 47,480.99)

The gross settlement amount is \$340,000.

Plaintiff estimates approximately 1557 aggrieved employees, consisting of all non-exempt, hourly employees who worked for Defendant in California from June 6, 2022, through December 11, 2024.

The operative amended complaint notes seven violations of the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") for the alleged failure to pay all straight and overtime time wages, failure to provide lawful meal and rest periods, failure to provide compliant wage statements, failure to pay all wages due at termination, and failing to adopt a compliant sick leave/absence control policy.

In deciding whether to grant approval of the proposed PAGA settlement, the primary issues to be decided is whether the settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable. (*Moniz v. Adecco USA, Inc.* (2021) 72 Cal.App.5th 56, 77.) “Because many of the factors used to evaluate class action settlements bear on a settlement’s fairness—including the strength of the plaintiff’s case, the risk, the stage of the proceeding, the complexity and likely duration of further litigation, and the settlement amount—these factors can be useful in evaluating the fairness of a PAGA settlement.” (*Id.*) “Given PAGA’s purpose to protect the public interest, we also agree with the LWDA and federal district courts that have found it appropriate to review a PAGA settlement to ascertain whether a settlement is fair in view of PAGA’s purposes and policies.” (*Id.* citing *O’Connor v. Uber Technologies, Inc.* (N.D. Cal. 2016) 201 F.Supp.3d 1110, 1133.)

Plaintiff’s counsel provides estimates of the maximum PAGA penalty liability of \$8,470,900 (Declaration of Mara ¶27.) Plaintiff indicates that the \$200 increased penalty will not likely be awarded on the facts of this matter as to subsequent violations and that the Court retains jurisdiction at trial to reduce the \$100 penalty further. Defendant contends that Plaintiff would not be allowed to “stack” PAGA penalties. If the Court were to award one PAGA penalty per pay period, Defendant’s exposure would be limited to \$3,707,700. (Declaration of Mara ¶27.) The motion adequately sets forth the relative strength and value of the PAGA claim as well as the risks, expense, complexity and likely duration of further litigation.

As noted above, the parties agreed, upon acceptance of a mediator’s proposal, to a gross settlement sum of \$340,000.

Plaintiffs’ deductions from the gross settlement of \$340,000 are proposed as follows:

Proposed Attorney Fees (33.3%):	\$ 113,322.00
Proposed Attorney Costs (incurred):	\$ 19,504.13
Proposed Representative Payment	\$ 10,000.00
Proposed Administrative Costs	\$ 12,250.00
Net Settlement Fund	\$ 184,923.87
LWDA Share (75% of Net Settlement Fund)	\$ 138,692.90
Aggrieved Employee Share (25% of Net Settlement Fund):	\$ 46,230.97

The Court finds the gross settlement amount fair, adequate, and reasonable under *Moniz* as noted above.

2. Notice

There is no notice period. The proposed notice adequately informs the aggrieved employees of adequate details regarding the case and distribution of their portion of the net settlement fund.

3. Enhancement Awards to Class Representatives

An enhancement payment of \$10,000 is proposed to as to Plaintiff.

The Court has, in past cases, approved enhancement awards of \$5,000 routinely. While Plaintiff has provided a declaration detailing the involvement in this case from inception to settlement, the Court does not find that these efforts should result in an enhancement award greater than the typical amount awarded by this Court. The enhancement award of \$5,000 is approved.

4. Attorneys’ Fees and Costs

Attorneys’ fees of 33.3% of the gross settlement fund of \$340,000 or \$113,322.00 and approval of costs of \$19,504.13 are sought by Plaintiff’s counsel.

Counsel has utilized the percentage of common fund methodology as well as provided adequate lodestar information to evaluate the reasonableness of the fee request.

Here, Counsel indicates that the firm has spent 159 hours on this case at rates of \$850 to 4500 per hour providing a base lodestar of \$117,400 (Declaration of Mara – Ex. 5.) Therefore, the fee request is approved without a multiplier.

Additionally, counsel indicates incurred costs of \$19,504.13. (Declaration of Mara – Ex. 5.) The Court likewise approves the costs.

5. Claims Administrator

The claims administrator is designated as IYLM who has submitted a bid for \$12,250 to administer the settlement. (Declaration of Mullins ¶¶6, 7- Ex. C.) The Court approves the claims administrator.

6. Unclaimed Settlement Proceeds

The court approves the distribution of unclaimed settlement proceeds to the California Secretary of State's Unclaimed Property Division in the name of the Aggrieved Employee, in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure section 384.

7. Release

The Court finds the proposed limited release of PAGA claims reasonable and within the law under a PAGA only settlement as to Plaintiff and aggrieved employees. (*Arias v. Sup. Ct.*, (2009) 46 CA4th 969, 986-987.)

8. LWDA Notice

The Court finds confirmation from the LWDA of receipt of proof of submission of the proposed settlement agreement. (Lab. Code, § 2699, subd. (l)(2).) (Declaration of Mara – Ex. 7.)

Therefore, the Court approves the following deductions from the gross settlement of \$340,000 and approves the distribution as follows:

Court Approved Attorney Fees (33.3%):	\$ 113,322.00
Court Approved Attorney Costs (incurred):	\$ 19,504.13
Court Approved Representative Payment	\$ 5,000.00
Court Approved Administrative Costs	\$ 12,250.00
Court Approved Net Settlement Fund	\$ 189,923.87
 Court Approved LWDA Share (75% of Net Settlement Fund)	 \$ 142,442.98
Court Approved Aggrieved Employee Share (25% of Net Settlement Fund):	\$ 47,480.99

The Court sets a final compliance hearing as to distribution of the net settlement fund to the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees for February 24, 2026, 8:30 am, Dept. 2.

☒ Clerk to provide notice to parties by mail.