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Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

TOU HER, RAMON TREJO, DONJA RAYQUON BROOKS, HERMINE ANEO, AURELIO MENDOZA, NICHOLAS ABLES, RONALD MCDILL, DERREONTE WALLACE, BRANDON LUBNER; CEDRICK JACKSON, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

TONY'S FINE FOODS, a California corporation; and DOES 1-50, inclusive.

Defendants.

CASE NO.: 23CV007645

Assigned to Hon. Jill H. Talley

DECLARATION OF RAUL PEREZ IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

HEARING INFORMATION

Date: November 20, 2026
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Dept.: 8A

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DECLARATION OF RAUL PEREZ

I, Raul Perez, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice before all courts of the State of California. I am a Partner at Capstone Law APC ("Capstone"), counsel for Plaintiff Ramon Trejo ("Plaintiff") in the above-captioned action. Unless indicated otherwise, I have personal knowledge of the following facts, and if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently to them. I make this declaration in support of the Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Class Action Settlement.

CAPSTONE LAW APC FIRM PROFILE

2. Since its founding in 2012, Capstone has emerged as a major force in aggregate litigation, making law on cutting-edge issues.

3. In February 2015, Ryan H. Wu and I were honored with the *California Lawyer* Attorney of the Year (CLAY) award in labor and employment for our work in the landmark case *Iskanian v. CLS Transportation Los Angeles*, 59 Cal.4th 348 (2014), which preserved the right of California workers to bring representative actions under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") notwithstanding a representative action waiver in an arbitration agreement.

4. Recognized as a leading firm in the prosecution of PAGA enforcement actions, Capstone is responsible for some of the most important decisions in this area. In *Williams v. Superior Court (Marshalls of Calif.)*, 3 Cal.5th 531 (2017), Capstone attorneys achieved a watershed decision before the California Supreme Court as to the broad scope of discovery in PAGA actions. In *Baumann v. Chase Inv. Servs. Corp.*, 747 F.3d 1117 (9th Cir. 2014), a case of first impression, Capstone successfully argued that PAGA actions are state enforcement actions not covered by the Class Action Fairness Act.

5. Capstone has made important contributions to consumer protection law. In *McGill v. Citibank N.A.*, 2 Cal. 5th 945 (2017), Capstone represented plaintiffs in a major decision holding that the right to seek public injunctive relief under the state's consumer protection laws cannot be waived and that consumers need not satisfy class certification requirements to enjoin unfair business practices on behalf of the public. In *Nguyen v. Nissan N.A.*, 932 F.3d 811 (9th Cir. 2019), Capstone attorneys reversed a denial of class certification, making law that clarified the use of "benefit of the bargain" damages models in consumer class actions.

6. Capstone served as class counsel in a number of significant wage and hour settlements, including $12 million on behalf of a nationwide class in *Hightower v. JPMorgan Chase Bank*, Case No. 11-01802 (C.D. Cal.), over $10 million on behalf of non-exempt hourly workers in *Zamora v. Balboa Life & Casualty LLC*, Case No. BC360026 (L.A. Super. Ct.); and $9 million on behalf of pharmacists in *Dittmar v. Costco Wholesale Corp.*, No. 14-1156 (S.D. Cal.). In *Vorise v. 24 Hour Fitness USA, Inc.*, No. C 15-02051 (Contra Costa Super. Ct.), Capstone and co-counsel negotiated an $11 million PAGA settlement on behalf of over 36,000 employees for Labor Code violations.

7. Capstone has an established practice in automotive defect class actions and is currently appointed sole class counsel, following contested class certification, in *Victorino v. FCA US, LLC*, No. 16-1617-GPC, 2019 WL 5268670 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 17, 2019) and *Salas v. Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc*., No. 15-8629-FMO, 2019 WL 1940619 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 27, 2019).

8. Capstone has settled hundreds of class and representative actions. Capstone's settlements have directly compensated hundreds of thousands of California workers and consumers. Capstone's actions have also forced employers to modify their policies for the benefit of employees, including changing the compensation structure for commissioned employees and changing practices to ensure that workers will be able to take timely rest and meal breaks. A leader in prosecuting PAGA enforcement actions, Capstone has secured millions of dollars in civil penalties for the State of California.

9. The following is a representative sample of Capstone's settlements:

a. *Navarro v. United Parcel Service, Inc.*, No. BC592098 (LA County Superior Court): gross settlement of $16.5 million on behalf of approximately 180,000 non-exempt employees for wage and hour violations;

b. *Hightower v. JPMorgan Chase Bank*, No. 2:11-cv-01802-PSG-PLA (C.D. Cal.): gross settlement of $12 million on behalf of approximately 150,000 personal bankers, tellers, sales associates, and assistant branch manager trainees for wage and hour violations;

c. *Vargas v. Ford Motor Co.,* 12-08388-AB (C.D. Cal.): providing cash payments and unique buyback program for nearly 2 million consumers;

d. *Moore v. Petsmart, Inc.*, No. 5:12-cv-03577-EJD (N.D. Cal.): gross settlement of $10 million on behalf of over 19,000 non-exempt PetSmart employees for wage and hour violations;

e. *Dittmar v. Costco Wholesale Corp*., No. 14-1156 (S.D. Cal.): gross settlement of $9 million on behalf of approximately 1,200 pharmacists for wage and hour violations;

f. *Perrin v. Nabors Well Services Co*., No. 56-2007-00288718 (Ventura Super. Ct.): gross settlement of over $6.5 million on behalf of oil rig workers for sleep time and other wage violations;

g. *Cook v. United Insurance Co.*, No. C 10-00425 (Contra Costa Super. Ct.): gross settlement of $5.7 million on behalf of approximately 650 sales representatives;

h. *Alvarez v. MAC Cosmetics, Inc*., No. CIVDS1513177 (San Bernardino Super. Ct.): gross settlement of $5.5 million for approximately 5,500 non-exempt employees.

i. *Aceves v. AutoZone, Inc*., No. 14-2032 (C.D. Cal.): gross settlement of $5.4 million in a case alleging FCRA violations;

j. *Berry v. Urban Outfitters Wholesale, Inc.*, No. 13-02628 (N.D. Cal.): gross settlement of $5 million on behalf of over 12,000 non-exempt employees;

k. *The Children's Place Retail Stores Wage & Hour Cases*, No. JCCP 4790: gross settlement of $5 million on behalf of 15,000 non-exempt employees;

l. *York v. Starbucks Corp.,* Case No. 08-07919 (C.D. Cal.): gross settlement of nearly $5 million on behalf of over 100,000 non-exempt workers for meal break and wage statement claims;

m. *Rodriguez v. Swissport USA*, No. BC 441173 (Los Angeles Super. Ct.): gross settlement of nearly $5 million on behalf of 2,700 non-exempt employees following contested certification;

n. *Asghari v. Volkswagen Group of North America*, Case No. 13-02529 (C.D. Cal.): Settlement providing complimentary repairs of oil consumption defect,

reimbursement for repairs, and extended warranty coverage of certain Audi vehicles valued at over $20 million;

o. *Klee v. Nissan of North America*, Case No. 12-08238 (C.D. Cal.): Settlement providing complimentary electric vehicle charging cards and extending warranty coverage for the electric battery on the Nissan Leaf valued at over $10 million.

10. Attached as **Exhibit 1** is a true and correct copy of Capstone's firm resume.

11. Ramon Trejo has provided his informed written consent to the following allocation of attorneys' fees among counsel: 25% to Bokhour Law Group, P.C.; 25% to Falakassa Law, P.C.; 22% to Capstone Law APC; 14% to Justice Law Corporation; and 14% to Moon Law Group, P.C.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 27th day of October, 2026, at Los Angeles, California.

Raul Perez

Exhibit 1

FIRM PROFILE

Capstone Law APC is one of California's largest plaintiff-only labor and consumer law firms. Since its founding in 2012, Capstone has emerged as a major force in aggregate litigation, making law on cutting-edge issues and obtaining over six hundred million dollars in recovery for employees and consumers:

- In *Mendoza v. West Coast Quartz*, No. RG18927787 (Alameda Super. Ct.), Capstone, as sole plaintiff's counsel, won on all claims and obtained all damages sought, resulting in a judgment exceeding $20 million on behalf of a class of approximately 400 employees.

- In *Trader Joe's Wage and Hour Cases*, JCCP No. 5196, No. 20-CIV-00668 (San Mateo Super. Ct.), Capstone, as co-counsel, secured the first plaintiff's verdict in a seating case and civil penalties of $30 million.

- Capstone attorneys Raul Perez and Ryan H. Wu were honored with the *California Lawyer* Attorney of the Year (CLAY) award in labor and employment for their work in the landmark case *Iskanian v. CLS Transportation Los Angeles, LLC*, 59 Cal.4th 348 (2014), which preserved the right of California workers to bring representative actions under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") notwithstanding a representative action waiver in an arbitration agreement.

- Recognized as a leading firm in the prosecution of PAGA enforcement actions, Capstone is responsible for some of the most important decisions in this area. In *Williams v. Superior Court (Marshalls of CA, LLC)*, 3 Cal.5th 531 (2017), Capstone attorneys achieved a watershed decision before the California Supreme Court as to the broad scope of discovery in PAGA actions. In *Baumann v. Chase Inv. Servs. Corp.*, 747 F.3d 1117 (9th Cir. 2014), a case of first impression, Capstone successfully argued that PAGA actions are state enforcement actions not covered by the Class Action Fairness Act.

- Capstone has made important contributions to consumer protection law. In *McGill v. Citibank, N.A.*, 2 Cal.5th 945 (2017), Capstone represented plaintiffs in a major decision holding that the right to seek public injunctive relief under the state's consumer protection laws cannot be waived and that consumers need not satisfy class certification requirements to enjoin unfair business practices on behalf of the public. In *Nguyen v. Nissan North America, Inc.*, 932 F.3d 811 (9th Cir. 2019), Capstone attorneys reversed a denial of class certification, making law that clarified the use of "benefit of the bargain" damages models in consumer class actions.

- Capstone served as class counsel in a number of significant wage and hour settlements, including $16.5 million on behalf of a California class in *Navarro v. United Parcel Service, Inc.*, Case No. BC592098 (Los Angeles Super. Ct.), $12 million on behalf of a nationwide class in *Hightower v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.*, Case No. 11-01802 (C.D. Cal.), over $10 million on behalf of non-exempt hourly workers in *Zamora v. Balboa Life & Casualty LLC*, Case No. BC360026 (L.A. Super. Ct.); and $9 million on behalf of pharmacists in *Dittmar v. Costco Wholesale Corp.*, No. 14-1156 (S.D. Cal.). In *Vorise v. 24 Hour Fitness USA, Inc.*, No. C 15-02051 (Contra Costa Super. Ct.), Capstone and co-counsel negotiated an $11 million PAGA settlement on behalf of over 36,000 employees for Labor Code violations.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT SETTLEMENTS

Since its founding, Capstone has settled over 500 high-stakes class and representative actions totaling well over $600 million. Capstone's settlements have directly compensated hundreds of thousands of California workers and consumers. Capstone's actions have also forced employers to modify their policies for the benefit of employees, including changing the compensation structure for commissioned employees and changing practices to ensure that workers will be able to take timely rest and meal breaks. A leader in prosecuting PAGA enforcement actions, Capstone has secured millions of dollars in civil penalties for the State of California.

The following is a representative sample of Capstone's settlements:

- *Vargas v. Ford Motor Co.,* No. 12-08388-AB (C.D. Cal.): providing cash payments and unique buyback program that will pay out more than $100 million to class members;
- *Navarro v. United Parcel Service, Inc.*, No. BC592098 (Los Angeles Super. Ct.): gross settlement of $16.5 million on behalf of approximately 180,000 non-exempt employees;
- *Hightower v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.*, No. 2:11-cv-01802-PSG-PLA (C.D. Cal.): gross settlement of $12 million on behalf of approximately 150,000 personal bankers, tellers, sales associates, and assistant branch manager trainees for wage and hour violations;
- *Moore v. PetSmart, Inc.*, No. 5:12-cv-03577-EJD (N.D. Cal.): gross settlement of $10 million on behalf of over 19,000 non-exempt PetSmart employees for wage and hour violations;
- *Dittmar v. Costco Wholesale Corp.*, No. 14-1156 (S.D. Cal.): gross settlement of $9 million on behalf of approximately 1,200 pharmacists for wage and hour violations;
- *Perrin v. Nabors Well Services Co.*, No. 56-2007-00288718 (Ventura Super. Ct.): gross settlement of over $6.5 million on behalf of oil rig workers for sleep time and other wage violations;
- *Cook v. United Insurance Co.*, No. C 10-00425 (Contra Costa Super. Ct.): gross settlement of $5.7 million on behalf of approximately 650 sales representatives;
- *Alvarez v. MAC Cosmetics, Inc.*, No. CIVDS1513177 (San Bernardino Super. Ct.): gross settlement of $5.5 million for approximately 5,500 non-exempt employees;
- *Aceves v. AutoZone, Inc.*, No. 14-2032 (C.D. Cal.): gross settlement of $5.4 million in a case alleging FCRA violations;
- *Berry v. Urban Outfitters Wholesale, Inc.*, No. 13-02628 (N.D. Cal.): gross settlement of $5 million on behalf of over 12,000 non-exempt employees;
- *The Children's Place Retail Stores Wage & Hour Cases*, No. JCCP 4790: gross settlement of $5 million on behalf of 15,000 non-exempt employees;
- *York v. Starbucks Corp.,* Case No. 08-07919 (C.D. Cal.): gross settlement of nearly $5 million on behalf of over 100,000 non-exempt workers for meal break and wage statement claims;
- *Rodriguez v. Swissport USA*, No. BC 441173 (Los Angeles Super. Ct.): gross settlement of nearly $5 million on behalf of 2,700 non-exempt employees following contested certification;
- *Asghari v. Volkswagen Group of North America*, Case No. 13-02529 (C.D. Cal.): Settlement providing complimentary repairs of oil consumption defect, reimbursement for repairs, and extended warranty coverage of certain Audi vehicles valued at over $20 million.

PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHIES

Partners

Rebecca Labat. Rebecca Labat is co-managing partner of Capstone Law APC, supervising the litigation for all of the firm's cases. She also manages the firm's co-counsel relationships and assists the firm's other partners and senior counsel with case management and litigation strategy. Under Ms. Labat's leadership, Capstone has successfully settled over 100 cases, delivering hundreds of millions of dollars to California employees and consumers while earning statewide recognition for its cutting-edge work in developing new law.

Ms. Labat's career accomplishments representing consumers and employees in class actions include the certification of a class of approximately 3,200 current and former automobile technicians and shop employees for the miscalculation of the regular rate for purposes of paying premiums for missed meal and rest breaks.

Before her work representing plaintiffs in class and representative actions, Ms. Labat was an attorney with Wilson Elser and represented life, health, and disability insurers in litigation throughout California in both state and federal courts. She graduated from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 2002, where she was a member of the Hastings Civil Justice Clinic, served as a mediator in Small Claims Court for the City and County of San Francisco, and received the CALI Award for Excellence in Alternative Dispute Resolution. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles. Ms. Labat is a member of the National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA), the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA), and the Beverly Hills Bar Association.

Raul Perez. Raul Perez is co-managing partner at Capstone, and has focused exclusively on wage and hour and consumer class litigation since 2011. Mr. Perez is the lead negotiator on numerous large settlements that have resulted in hundreds of millions to low-wage workers across California, including many of the most valuable settlements reached by Capstone.

During his career, Mr. Perez has successfully certified by way of contested motion and/or been appointed Lead Counsel or Interim Lead Counsel in several cases, including: *Lopes v. Kohl's Department Stores, Inc.*, Case No. RG08380189 (Alameda Super. Ct.); *Hightower v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.*, Case No. 11-01802 (C.D. Cal.); *Tameifuna v. Sunrise Senior Living Managements, Inc.*, Case No. 13-02171 (C.D. Cal.) (certified class of over 10,000 hourly-paid employees); and *Berry v. Urban Outfitters Wholesale, Inc.*, Case No. 13-02628 (N.D. Cal.) (appointed lead counsel in a class action involving over 10,000 non-exempt employees). As the lead trial attorney in *Iskanian v. CLS Transportation Los Angeles, LLC,* 59 Cal.4th 348 (2014), Mr. Perez, along with Mr. Wu, received the 2015 CLAY Award in labor and employment.

Mr. Perez received both his undergraduate degree and his law degree from Harvard University and was admitted to the California Bar in December 1994. Earlier in his career, Mr. Perez handled a variety of complex litigation matters, including wrongful termination and other employment related actions, for corporate clients while employed by some of the more established law firms in the State of California, including Morgan, Lewis & Bockius; Manatt Phelps & Phillips; and Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld. Before Capstone, Mr. Perez was a partner at another large plaintiff's firm, helping to deliver millions of dollars in relief to California workers.

Melissa Grant. Melissa Grant is a partner and lead trial attorney at Capstone. Ms. Grant is responsible for litigating many of the firm's most contentious and high-stakes class actions and PAGA cases. The author of

numerous successful motions for class certification, Ms. Grant is the lead or co-lead attorney on numerous certified class actions currently on track for trial, representing hundreds of thousands of California employees in pursuit of their wage and hour claims. She is also at the forefront in developing the law on the California Labor Code's Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA), including administrative exhaustion, the scope of discovery, manageability, and PAGA trial plans. Recently, Ms. Grant has taken two PAGA cases to trial and worked on several key PAGA appellate decisions, including *Williams v. Superior Court (Marshalls of CA, LLC)*, 3 Cal.5th 531 (2017). Ms. Grant also represented the plaintiff in *Davidson v. Seterus, Inc.*, 21 Cal.App.5th 283 (2018), which, in a case of first impression, found that the Defendant, a mortgage servicer, was a debt collector under California's Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. The case led to enactment of legislation that expressly includes "mortgage debt" within the Rosenthal Act's definition of "consumer credit" and amends the Rosenthal Act to expressly apply to debt collection activities involving residential mortgage loans.

Ms. Grant began her legal career as a law clerk for the Honorable Harry Pregerson, Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Thereafter, she was an associate with Sidley Austin LLP, where she represented Fortune 500 companies in commercial litigation and consumer class actions. Before joining Capstone, Ms. Grant was a Senior Associate with Quinn Emanuel Trial Attorneys, where she was on the trial team that prosecuted *Mattel v. Bratz (I)*, and a staff attorney in the Enforcement Division of the Securities and Exchange Commission, investigating ongoing violations of federal securities regulations and statutes. Ms. Grant graduated summa cum laude and first in her class from Southwestern Law School in 1999, where she served as editor-in-chief of the Law Review. She earned her undergraduate degree from Cornell University's College of Arts & Sciences, where she received the JFK Public Service Award and the Outstanding Senior Award (graduating class of 4,000 students). Ms. Grant has been a panelist and speaker on PAGA actions and wage-and-hour class actions at various annual and biannual State Bar of California, California Lawyers Association, and Bridgeport Continuing Education conferences. Her published articles include: Los Angeles Lawyer: A PAGA Rollercoaster (September 2023), Battling for ERISA Benefits in the Ninth Circuit: Overcoming Abuse of Discretion Review, 28 Sw. U. L. Rev. 93 (1998), and CLE Class Actions Conference (SF) CAFA: Early Decisions on Commencement and Removal of Actions (2006).

Ms. Grant is a member of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA), and the Consumer Attorneys of California. She was recently named a 2024 Worker Health & Safety Hero by Worksafe for her work in advancing workplace safety and justice. She also currently serves on the Los Angeles County Bar Association's President's Commission on Women in the Legal Profession, the Subcommittee on Gender Bias and Civility, and the Amicus Subcommittee, and is a member of the Executive Board of Los Angeles Lawyer magazine. Ms. Grant was recognized by the Daily Journal as a Top Employment & Labor Attorney in 2023 and has been selected as one of Southern California's "Super Lawyers" in 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Ryan H. Wu. Ryan H. Wu is a partner at Capstone and is primarily responsible for complex motion work and supervising court approval of class action settlements. Mr. Wu handles many of the most challenging legal issues facing Capstone's clients, including the scope and operation of PAGA, contested attorneys' fees motions, responding to objectors, and high-impact appeals. Mr. Wu is responsible for the merits briefing in *McGill v. Citibank, N.A.*, 2 Cal.5th 945 (2017), where the California Supreme Court unanimously held that consumers' right to pursue public injunctive relief cannot be impeded by a contractual waiver or class certification requirements. He briefed the closely-watched *Williams v. Superior Court (Marshalls of CA, LLC)*, 3 Cal.5th 531 (2017), an important pro-employee ruling that broadened the scope of discovery in PAGA

actions and resolved a longstanding conflict regarding third-party constitutional privacy rights. He also authored the briefs in *Baumann v. Chase Inv. Servs. Corp.*, 747 F.3d 1117 (9th Cir. 2014), where, on an issue of first impression, the Ninth Circuit sided with Plaintiffs in holding that PAGA actions are state enforcement actions not covered by the CAFA. In February 2015, Mr. Wu, along with Mr. Perez, received the prestigious CLAY award for his successful appellate work, including briefing to the California Supreme Court, in *Iskanian*. Mr. Wu recently achieved an important consumer victory in *Nguyen v. Nissan North America, Inc.*, 932 F.3d 811 (9th Cir. 2019), which clarified the use of "benefit of the bargain" damages models in consumer class actions. He also oversees the firm's high-stakes fee disputes and settlement approval, with a highlight being his central role in achieving the highly publicized Ford transmission settlement, valued at over $100 million.

Mr. Wu graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 2001, where he was an associate editor of the *Michigan Journal of Law Reform* and contributor to the law school newspaper. He received his undergraduate degree in political science with honors from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a State Bar-certified Specialist in Appellate Law, and currently serves on the Committee on Appellate Courts for the California Lawyers Association (CLA) and the Los Angeles County Bar Association's State Appellate Judicial Evaluation Committee. He is an editor of CLA's monthly Litigation Update, and his work has been published by the California Litigation Review, California Labor & Employment Review, Daily Journal, and the Los Angeles Lawyer. He is a contributor to Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB) and is regularly invited to speak at professional conferences. He was named a Southern California Super Lawyer for 2023, 2024, 2025 and the 2024 Worker Health & Safety Hero by Worksafe for his work in advancing workplace safety and justice.

Robert Drexler. Robert Drexler is a partner with Capstone Law where he leads one of the firm's litigation teams prosecuting wage-and-hour class actions. He has more than 25 years of experience representing clients in wage-and-hour and consumer rights class actions and other complex litigation in state and federal courts. Over the course of his career, Mr. Drexler has successfully certified dozens of employee classes for claims such as misclassification, meal and rest breaks, and off-the-clock work, ultimately resulting in multi-million dollar settlements. He has also arbitrated and tried wage-and-hour and complex insurance cases. Mr. Drexler has been selected as one of Southern California's "Super Lawyers" every year from 2001 through 2024.

Before joining Capstone, Mr. Drexler was head of the Class Action Work Group at Khorrami Boucher, LLP and led the class action team at The Quisenberry Law Firm. Mr. Drexler graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, where he served as Managing Editor of the Case Western Reserve Law Review and authored Defective Prosthetic Devices: Strict Tort Liability for the Hospital? 32 CASE W. RES. L. REV. 929 (1982). He received his undergraduate degree in Finance at The Ohio State University where he graduated *cum laude*. Mr. Drexler has been a member of Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC) and Consumer Attorneys of Los Angeles (CAALA). He has been a featured speaker at class action and employment litigation seminars, and has published articles in CAOC's Forum Magazine and The Daily Journal.

Senior Counsel

Theresa Carroll. Theresa Carroll is a senior counsel at Capstone Law. Her practice is devoted to the Appeals & Complex Motions team, working on various settlement and approval projects.

Prior to joining Capstone, Ms. Carroll was an associate with Parker Stanbury, LLP, advising small business owners on various employment matters and worked as an associate attorney for O'Donnell & Mandell litigating employment discrimination and sexual harassment cases. In 1995, she graduated from Southwestern University School of Law where she was on the trial advocacy team and was awarded the prestigious Trial Advocate of the Year award sponsored by the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) for Southwestern University School of Law. Ms. Carroll received her Bachelor of Science degree in speech with an emphasis in theatre from Iowa State University.

Liana Carter. Liana Carter is a senior counsel with Capstone Law APC, specializing in complex motions, writs, and appeals. Her work on recent appeals has included reversing a denial of class certification in *Brown v. Cinemark USA, Inc.*, No. 16-15377, 2017 WL 6047613 (9th Cir. Dec. 7, 2017), affirming a denial of a motion to compel arbitration in *Jacoby v. Islands Rests., L.P.*, 2014 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 4366 (2014) and reversal of a dismissal of class claims in *Rivers v. Cedars-Sinai Med. Care Found.*, 2015 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 287 (Jan. 13, 2015). Ms. Carter was responsible for drafting the successful petition for review in *McGill v. Citibank, N.A.*, as well as the petition for review and briefing on the merits in *Williams v. Superior Court*, 2017 WL 2980258. Ms. Carter also has extensive prior experience in overseeing settlement negotiations and obtaining court approval of class action settlements.

Ms. Carter was admitted to the California bar in 1999 after graduating from the University of Southern California Gould School of Law, where she was an Articles Editor on the board of the *Southern California Law Review*. She received her undergraduate degree with honors from the University of California, Irvine.

Anthony Castillo. Anthony Castillo is a senior counsel with Capstone Law. His practice focuses on analyzing and developing pre-litigation wage-and-hour and consumer claims, including PAGA representative actions and class actions for failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, meal and rest period violations, and claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Investigative Consumer Reporting Agency Act. Prior to joining Capstone, he was an associate at a California bankruptcy practice, where he represented individual and business debtors in liquidations and re-organizations as well as various debt and foreclosure defense-related issues.

Mr. Castillo graduated from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles in 2009, where he volunteered with the Disability Rights Legal Center. He attended Stanford University for his undergraduate degree, majoring in Political Science and minoring in History. Mr. Castillo is admitted to practice law in California and Washington and before the United States District Court for the Central and Southern Districts of California.

Helga Hakimi. Helga Hakimi is a senior counsel at Capstone Law. Her practice primarily involves employment law class action litigation, namely wage-and-hour class actions and PAGA litigation on behalf of employees for failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, provide meal and rest breaks, and provide compensation for off-the-clock work, and related employer violations under the Fair Labor Standards Act and California Labor Code.

Prior to joining Capstone, Ms. Hakimi was a partner at a civil litigation firm in West Los Angeles, where she handled mainly real estate litigation, business litigation, and defense of some employment law matters; prior to that, she worked as a civil litigation attorney handling complex personal injury litigation. Ms. Hakimi's interest in advocating for employee rights began in law school, where she volunteered for the Workers' Rights Clinic and assisted low-income community members in Northern California's greater Bay Area region with employment-related legal issues. Upon graduating from law school, Ms. Hakimi worked as an associate for a

municipal law firm, and thereafter at the local City Attorney's Office, where she advised municipalities and cities in civil matters involving land use, environmental law, development issues, Constitutional law, and First Amendment rights. Ms. Hakimi graduated from Berkeley Law (Boalt Hall School of Law), where she earned her Juris Doctorate and was awarded the Prosser Award in Remedies. Ms. Hakimi received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a minor in Education Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles, and graduated summa cum laude and with Departmental Highest Honors.

Majdi Hijazin. Majdi Hijazin is a senior counsel at Capstone Law. His practice primarily focuses on representing consumers in complex litigation matters. Currently, Mr. Hijazin prosecutes automotive defect and other consumer class action lawsuits throughout the United States. Prior to joining Capstone, Mr. Hijazin led a national team of six attorneys in bringing claims under the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA), where he and his team routinely obtained high-value settlements for their clients.

Mr. Hijazin has prosecuted many individual and class action lawsuits under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA), the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA), and the Illinois Consumer Fraud Act (ICFA). On behalf of aggrieved homeowners, Mr. Hijazin was part of a trial team where his efforts were instrumental in securing two multi-million-dollar jury verdicts. See *Hammer v. Residential Credit Solutions, Inc.*, No. 13 C 6397 (N.D. Ill. Dec. 3, 2015), and *Saccameno v. Ocwen Loan Servicing, LLC*, 372 F. Supp. 3d 609 (N.D. Ill. 2019). Most recently, in late 2023, Mr. Hijazin's work was vital in securing a seven-digit settlement on the third day of trial. Mr. Hijazin graduated from the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law.

Jonathan Lee. A senior counsel with Capstone, Jonathan Lee primarily litigates employment class actions. At Capstone, Mr. Lee has worked on several major successful class certification motions, and his work has contributed to multi-million dollar class settlements against various employers, including restaurant chains, retail stores, airport staffing companies, and hospitals. Prior to joining Capstone, Mr. Lee defended employers and insurance companies in workers' compensation actions throughout California.

Mr. Lee graduated in 2009 from Pepperdine University School of Law, where he served as an editor for the Journal of Business, Entrepreneurship and the Law; he received his undergraduate degree from UCLA.

Robert Myong. Robert Myong is a senior counsel at Capstone Law. His practice focuses on helping employees recover their unpaid wages, overtime, and penalties in class actions and PAGA representative actions in state and federal court.

Prior to joining Capstone, Mr. Myong managed a team of attorneys that recovered millions of dollars on behalf of employees for their unpaid wages, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and wrongful termination claims. Mr. Myong is a graduate of Whittier Law School and earned his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Southern California.

Cody Padgett. Cody Padgett is a senior counsel with Capstone Law. Mr. Padgett prosecutes automotive defect and other consumer class action lawsuits during all stages of litigation. His work has been integral to achieving contested class certification in several automotive defect cases, including *Falco v. Nissan N. Am., Inc.*, No. 13-00686 (C.D. Cal.) (certifying a class of owners/lessees of Nissan vehicles), *Salas v. Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.*, No. 15-08629 (C.D. Cal.) (certifying a class of owners/lessees of Toyota vehicles), and *Victorino v. FCA US, LLC*, No. 16-01617 (S.D. Cal.) (certifying a class of owners/lessees of Dodge Dart vehicles). Mr. Padgett's efforts have also contributed to major settlements of automotive defect and consumer cases,

providing substantial monetary relief to millions of class members, valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars. See, e.g., *Weckwerth v. Nissan North America, Inc.*, No. 18-00588 (M.D. Tenn.) (providing a $407 to $547 million benefit to a class of nearly 3 million consumers).

Prior to joining Capstone Law, Mr. Padgett assisted with the defense of major felony cases at the San Diego County Public Defender's Office. During law school, Mr. Padgett served as a judicial extern to the Honorable C. Leroy Hansen, United States District Court for the District of New Mexico. He graduated from California Western School of Law in the top 10% of his class and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Southern California, where he graduated *cum laude*. Mr. Padgett is admitted to practice in California, before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and before United States District Court for the Northern, Eastern, Central, and Southern Districts of California.

Eduardo Santos. Eduardo Santos is a senior counsel at Capstone Law, and concentrates his practice on managing and obtaining court approval of many of Capstone's wage-and-hour, consumer, and PAGA settlements, from the initial contract drafting phase to motion practice, including contested motion practice on attorneys' fees. Over the course of his career, Mr. Santos has helped to secure court approval of over one hundred high-stakes class and representative action settlements totaling over $100 million.

Before joining Capstone, Mr. Santos began his career at a prominent plaintiff's firm in Los Angeles specializing in mass torts litigation, with a focus on complex pharmaceutical cases. Most notably, he was involved in the national Vioxx settlement, which secured a total of $4.85 billion for thousands of individuals with claims of injuries caused by taking Vioxx. Mr. Santos graduated from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, where he was a recipient of a full-tuition scholarship awarded in recognition of academic excellence. While in law school, Mr. Santos served as an extern for the Honorable Thomas L. Willhite, Jr. of the California Court of Appeal. He graduated magna cum laude from UCLA and was a recipient of the Ralph J. Bunche Scholarship for academic achievement.

Mao Shiokura. Mao Shiokura is a senior counsel with Capstone. Her practice focuses on identifying, evaluating, and developing new claims, including PAGA representative actions and class actions for wage-and-hour violations and consumer actions under the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, False Advertising Law, Unfair Competition Law, and other consumer protection statutes. Prior to joining Capstone, Ms. Shiokura was an associate at a California lemon law firm, where she represented consumers in Song-Beverly, Magnuson-Moss, and fraud actions against automobile manufacturers and dealerships.

Ms. Shiokura graduated from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles in 2009, where she served as a staff member of Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Southern California, where she was a Presidential Scholar and majored in Business Administration, with an emphasis in Cinema-Television and Finance.

John Stobart. John Stobart is a senior counsel with Capstone Law. He focuses on appellate issues in state and federal courts and contributes to the firm's amicus curiae efforts to protect and expand the legal rights of California employees and consumers. Mr. Stobart has significant appellate experience having drafted over two dozen writs, appeals and petitions, and having argued before the Second, Fourth, and Fifth Districts of the California Court of Appeal.

Prior to joining Capstone, Mr. Stobart was a law and motion attorney who defended against civil liability in catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases brought against his clients, which included the railroad, public

schools, small businesses, and commercial and residential landowners. He has drafted and argued scores of dispositive motions at the trial court level and had success in upholding judgments and verdicts on appeal. He graduated cum laude from Thomas Jefferson School of Law where he was on the mock trial competition team and earned his undergraduate degree from the Ohio State University.

Roxanna Tabatabaeepour. Roxanna Tabatabaeepour is a senior counsel with Capstone Law. Her practice primarily involves representing employees in class actions and representative actions for various violations of the California Labor Code.

Before joining Capstone, Ms. Tabatabaeepour's experience included representing workers in single-plaintiff and class/representative action lawsuits regarding wage-and-hour violations, as well as individual claims for discrimination, retaliation, failure to accommodate, harassment, and wrongful termination, under both California and federal laws. Ms. Tabatabaeepour received her undergraduate degrees from the University of California San Diego. She subsequently graduated from the American University, Washington College of Law, where she was a Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Fellow and taught Constitutional Literacy to teens in marginalized communities.

Ryan Tish. Ryan Tish is a senior counsel at Capstone Law. His practice primarily involves wage-and-hour class actions and Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") representative actions on behalf of employees for the failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, failure to provide meal and rest breaks, failure to reimburse necessary business expenses, and other claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act and California Labor Code.

Before joining Capstone, Mr. Tish was an associate at a civil litigation firm in Los Angeles, handling a variety of matters, including commercial contracts, real estate, and employment law. Mr. Tish has represented both employers and employees in actions ranging from individual claims of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and wrongful termination, to class and representative actions for wage-and-hour and privacy law violations. Mr. Tish is a graduate of the University of Southern California Gould School of Law and earned his bachelor's degree in civil and environmental engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles. Mr. Tish is admitted to practice law in California and before the United States District Court for the Northern, Eastern, Central, and Southern Districts of California.

Orlando Villalba. Orlando Villalba is a senior counsel at Capstone Law. His practice primarily involves wage-and-hour class actions and PAGA litigation on behalf of employees for the failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, failure to provide meal and rest breaks, claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act, and other California Labor Code violations.

Mr. Villalba began his career at Kirkland & Ellis where he handled a wide range of business litigation matters, including transnational contract disputes, insurance-related tort claims, developer litigation, and civil rights actions. He also has extensive plaintiff-side experience representing government agencies and note-holders in the pursuit of mortgage and other fraud losses. Mr. Villalba graduated from Stanford Law School, where he served as an articles editor on the Stanford Journal of Law, Business & Finance. After law school, he clerked for the Honorable Warren Matthews of the Alaska Supreme Court. Mr. Villalba received his bachelor's degree in International Business from the University of Southern California.

Associates

Tyler Anderson. Tyler Anderson is an associate with Capstone Law. His practice focuses on complex motions, writs, and appeals. Before joining Capstone, Mr. Anderson was Co-Director of the Los Angeles Center for Community Law and Action ("LACCLA"), a nonprofit law firm that represents tenant unions and union organizers. While there, Mr. Anderson tried a disparate impact federal Fair Housing Act case that resulted in a jury verdict of over $1,000,000. He also frequently used California Anti-SLAPP laws to block attempts to silence tenant union organizers. Prior to working at LACCLA, Mr. Anderson clerked for the Honorable Martha Vazquez, a federal district court judge for the District of New Mexico who, at the time, sat on the Executive Committee of the Federal Judiciary. Before that, Mr. Anderson was a litigation associate at the international law firm Jenner & Block LLP. Mr. Anderson graduated from Harvard Law School, where he was the Executive Articles Editor of the Harvard Journal on Legislation as well as President of one of the largest student-run pro bono organizations at Harvard University, Project No One Leaves. He graduated with several "Dean's Scholar" prizes for receiving top grades in his constitutional law courses.

Afife Bicakci. Afife Bicakci is an associate with Capstone Law. Her practice focuses on prosecuting wage-and-hour class actions and representative actions under the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") on behalf of employees. Before joining Capstone, she also represented employees in actions brought under the Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA") involving discrimination, harassment, and retaliation claims. Earlier in her career, in Turkey, she litigated employment disputes from the defense side. Ms. Bicakci earned her Bachelor of Laws (J.D. equivalent) from Baskent University in Ankara, Turkey, and her LL.M. from Lincoln Law School of San Jose.

Richard J. Hogan. Richard J. Hogan is an associate with Capstone Law. Mr. Hogan represents employees and consumers in complex litigation, primarily wage-and-hour class actions and PAGA representative actions. Mr. Hogan focuses on matters proceeding to trial, arbitration, and mediation. Over the course of his career, Mr. Hogan has argued over 40 combined jury and bench trials in the criminal, family, and general civil law arenas. Prior to joining Capstone, Mr. Hogan advocated for clients in a wide range of cases including complex product liability, professional negligence, and homicide. Mr. Hogan graduated from University of California, Hastings College of the Law, where he was an editor on the Hastings Business Law Journal.

Erandi Huipe. Erandi Huipe is an associate with Capstone Law. His practice focuses on evaluating new claims regarding wage-and-hour violations and PAGA actions. Previously, Mr. Huipe represented workers in workers' compensation claims and individuals in personal injury claims. Mr. Huipe graduated from Chapman University's Fowler School of Law and earned a degree in English from California State University, Fullerton.

Jeffrey "Jeff" Jimenez. Jeffrey "Jeff" Jimenez is an associate with Capstone. His practice focuses on prosecuting wage-and-hour class actions and Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") representative actions on behalf of employees. Before joining Capstone, Mr. Jimenez was an associate at a plaintiff's law firm where he represented employees in class and PAGA actions, and Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA") actions for discrimination, harassment, and retaliation claims. Mr. Jimenez graduated from Southwestern School of Law. He obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Irvine, where he majored in History. Prior to transitioning to law, Mr. Jimenez worked as a special education teacher in southern California.

Ana Lupascu. Ana Lupascu is an associate at Capstone Law. Ms. Lupascu has experience handling class actions, representative actions under PAGA, and individual employment disputes. In addition, Ms. Lupascu

gained in-house experience supporting audits, contract review, corporate matters, and compliance related issues, including advising clients on compliance with federal and California labor regulations, workplace policies, and employee relations. Her diverse background provides her with valuable insight into internal business operations and corporate decision making.

Kathy Pham. Kathy Pham is an associate at Capstone Law. Her practice primarily focuses on representing consumers in automotive defect litigation matters. Before joining Capstone, Ms. Pham represented consumers in automotive fraud and automotive defect cases, helping individuals obtain favorable outcomes under the Consumers Legal Remedies Act and Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act. Ms. Pham graduated from California Western School of Law in 2019 with a focus in International Law.

Alexander Wallin. Alexander Wallin is an associate at Capstone Law. He is a passionate litigator who has successfully represented employees against corporate injustice. Mr. Wallin has recovered millions of dollars in numerous wage-and-hour class actions, PAGA actions, and individual discrimination lawsuits. He has a particular interest in representing economically disadvantaged employees who cannot afford legal representation on a retainer-fee basis. Mr. Wallin is a member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Employment Law Section and stays up-to-date with the rapidly evolving areas of wage-and-hour protections. He graduated from Loyola Law School in 2017 and is admitted to practice law in California, as well as before the United States District Court for Central and Northern Districts of California. He has been selected as a Southern California "Super Lawyers – Rising Star" in 2022 and 2023.