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Attorneys for Plaintiff

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

MICHAEL PEREIRA, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

RODE MICROPHONES, LLC, a limited liability company; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 23STCV17940

CLASS & REPRESENTATIVE ACTION

[*Assigned for all purposes to:* Hon. William F. Highberger, Dept. 10]

DECLARATION OF MOLLY DESARIO IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLAS ACTION SETTLEMENT

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL HEARING
Date: March 10, 2025
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Dept: 10

Complaint filed:	July 31, 2023
FAC filed:	July 3, 2024
Trial date:	Not set

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DECLARATION OF MOLLY DESARIO

I, Molly DeSario, declare as follows:

1. I am admitted, in good standing, to practice as an attorney in the State of California and the United States District Courts for the Central, Southern, Eastern, and Northern Districts of California. I am a Partner at Wilshire Law Firm, PLC, counsel of record for Plaintiff Michael Pereira ("Plaintiff"). I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration and could and would competently testify to them under oath if called as a witness. This Declaration is submitted in support of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement.

CASE BACKGROUND

2. This is a wage and hour class and Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2699, *et seq.*) representative action. Plaintiff and putative class members worked in California as hourly-paid or non-exempt employees for Defendant Rode Microphones, LLC ("Defendant") during the class period. Defendant is a global leader in audio technology with its products designed in their headquarters in Syndney, Australia, expanding into the United States in 2001.

3. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant's payroll, timekeeping, and wage and hour practices resulted in Labor Code violations. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant failed to pay for all hours worked. Plaintiff further alleges that Defendant failed to provide employees with legally compliant meal and rest periods, and Defendant failed to reimburse business expenses. Based on these allegations, Plaintiff asserts related claims for failure to provide accurate wage statements, failure to pay all final wages at termination, unfair business practices, and civil penalties under PAGA.

4. On July 31, 2023, Plaintiff filed a putative wage-and-hour class action complaint against Defendant for: (1) failure to pay minimum and straight time wages (Labor Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, and 1197); (2) failure to pay overtime wages (Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1198); (3) failure to provide meal periods (Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512); (4) failure to authorize and permit rest periods (Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512); (5) failure to timely pay final wages at termination (Labor Code §§ 201-203); (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements

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(Labor Code § 226); and (7) unfair business practices (Business and Professions Code 17200 et seq.). On July 3, 2024, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint against Defendant adding claims for civil penalties under Private Attorneys General Act "PAGA" (Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq*.) Plaintiff sent a notice to Defendant and the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") alleging similar wage and hour violations pursuant to the PAGA (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2699, *et seq.*) on August 22, 2023.

DISCOVERY AND INVESTIGATION

5. Following the filing of the Complaint, the Parties exchanged documents and information before mediating this action, including more than 600 pages of documents relevant to Plaintiff's claims. Defendant produced a sample of time and pay records for class members. Defendant also provided documents of its wage and hour policies and practices during the class period, and information regarding the total number of current and former employees in its informal discovery responses.

6. After reviewing documents regarding Defendant's wage and hour policies and practices, analyzing Defendant's timekeeping and payroll records, and interviewing Class Members, Class Counsel was able to evaluate the probability of class certification, success on the merits, and Defendant's maximum monetary exposure for all claims. Class Counsel also investigated the applicable law regarding the claims and defenses asserted in the litigation. Class Counsel reviewed these records and prepared a damage analysis prior to mediation.

SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

7. On May 15, 2024, the Parties participated in private mediation with experienced class action mediator, Christopher E. Panetta, Esq. The mediation was conducted via Zoom. The settlement negotiations were at arm's length and, although conducted in a professional manner, were adversarial. The Parties went into the mediation willing to explore the potential for a settlement of the dispute, but each side was also prepared to litigate their position through trial and appeal if a settlement had not been reached.

8. After extensive negotiations and discussions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of Plaintiff's claims and Defendant's defenses, the Parties were able to reach a

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resolution, the material terms of which are encompassed within the Settlement Agreement. Attached as **Exhibit 1** is a true and correct copy of the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Class Notice ("Settlement Agreement").

9. The Parties used the Los Angeles Superior Court's Form Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Class Notice. A document showing edits the parties made to the template in redline is attached to the Declaration of Molly DeSario as **Exhibit 2**.

10. Class Counsel submitted the proposed Settlement to the LWDA before filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval.

11. Wilshire Law Firm requested several bids from experienced class action settlement administrators to handle the responsibilities of the Settlement Administrator under this Settlement. The Parties accepted the bid of Apex Class Action Administration ("Apex"). Apex has multiple years of experience in the field of Class Action Administration, particularly in the wage-and-hour arena. In its bid, Apex agreed to cap its costs at $4,990.00 if there are 50 class members. Apex's bid also accounts for Notice in English and Spanish. A true and correct copy of the bid is attached hereto as **Exhibit 3.**

12. Plaintiff does not have any interest, financial or otherwise, in the proposed third-party administrator, Apex.

13. No one at Wilshire Law Firm, PLC (meaning the law firm itself and anyone employed at the law firm) has any interest, financial or otherwise, in the proposed third-party administrator, Apex.

14. Wilshire Law Firm, PLC has no fee-splitting agreement with any other counsel in this case.

15. Class Counsel is not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by the Settlement.

THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT IS FAIR AND REASONABLE

16. Class Counsel has conducted a thorough investigation into the facts of this case. Based on the foregoing discovery and their own independent investigation and evaluation, Class Counsel is of the opinion that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best

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interests of the Settlement Class Members in light of all known facts and circumstances, the risk of significant delay, the defenses that could be asserted by Defendant both to certification and on the merits, trial risk, and appellate risk.

17. Based on an analysis of the facts and legal contentions in this case, documents and information from Defendant, Wilshire Law Firm evaluated Defendant's maximum exposure. We took into account the risk of not having the claims certified and the risk of not prevailing at trial, even if the claims are certified. After using the data Defendant provided, including class member timekeeping and payroll records, as well as class member demographics (i.e., the number of class members, workweeks, and average total compensation of the class), with the assistance of a statistics expert, we created a damages model to evaluate the realistic range of potential recovery for the class. The damages model is based on the following benchmarks:

Total Class Members: 37
Terminated Class Members during 3-year statute: 15
Total Workweeks: 2,950
PAGA Pay Periods: 585
PAGA Eligible Employees: 25
Avg. Hourly Rate: $22.17

18. Based on Plaintiff's discovery and investigation, Class Counsel reached the conclusion that Defendant had a policy and practice of not providing its employees with California compliant meal and rest periods, which it did not pay appropriate premiums for, and Defendant required its employees to work "off-the-clock" prior to clocking in for the workday, during meal periods, and after clocking out for the workday, time which it did not pay for, and Defendant failed to reimburse its employees for business-related expenses. Defendant denies these claims.

19. With respect to the meal period claim, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant required him and similarly situated class members to either work in lieu of taking meal periods, or their meal periods were untimely or interrupted. My expert analyzed Defendant's timekeeping records and opined that approximately 80% of all meal breaks had violations of short, missed, or no meal periods. Potential liability for the meal period claim, which includes shifts over six hours long and

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shifts over 12 hours long, is $235,445.40 (2,950 workweeks * 4.5 average shifts per workweek * $22.17 * 80%). However, the data showed that Defendant paid approximately $1,631.00 in meal period premium payments since 2021, so we reduced Defendant's liability by this amount, yielding $233,814.40. We further discounted this figure by 70% to account for the difficulty of certifying and proving meal period claims, as well as Defendant's contention that the claim lacks merit, particularly in light of its numerous meal period premium payments, yielding a realistic damage estimate of $70,144.32.

20. With respect to the rest period claim, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant required him and similarly situated class members to work in lieu of taking rest periods, or their rest periods were untimely or interrupted. Assuming a 80% violation rate for the class period based on Plaintiff's and other class members' experience working for Defendant, Defendant's potential liability for the rest period claim is $235,445.40 (2,950 workweeks * 4.5 average shifts per workweek * $22.17 * 80%); however, we discounted this figure by 70% to account for the difficulty of certifying and proving rest period claims, particularly because rest periods do not have to be recorded, and to account for the possibility of class members voluntarily choosing to forego a rest period, yielding a realistic damage estimate of $70,633.62.

21. In sum, we estimated that Plaintiff's maximum recovery for the off-the-clock claim, meal period violations, rest period violations, and failure to reimburse expenses is $469,259.80, but, after factoring in the risk and uncertainty of prevailing at certification and trial, we estimate that Plaintiff's realistic estimated recovery for the non-penalty claims is $140,777.94.

22. With respect to Plaintiff's derivative claims for statutory and civil penalties, Plaintiff estimated that Defendant's realistic potential liability is $316,447.80. While Defendant's maximum potential liability for waiting time penalties is $78,814.35 based on approximately 15 terminated class members during the 3-year statute (15 * $22.17 * 7.9 hours * 30 days), $57,250.00 for inaccurate wage statements based on approximately 25 class members who worked 585 pay periods within the 1-year statute ($50 * 25 + $100 * 560), and $58,500.00 for PAGA violations based on the Court assessing a $100 penalty for initial violations for all 585 pay periods within the 1-year statute, we believe that it would be unrealistic to expect the Court to award the full

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$1,054,826.00 in penalties given Defendant's defenses, the contested nature of Plaintiff's claims, and the discretionary nature of penalties. Considering that the underlying claims are realistically estimated to be $140,777.94, such a disproportionate award would also raise due process concerns. Weighing these factors and applying a discount of 70% to account for the risk and uncertainty of prevailing at trial, we arrived at $316,447.80 for statutory and civil penalties.

23. Using these estimated figures, Plaintiff predicted that the realistic maximum recovery for all claims, including penalties, would be $457,225.74. This means that the $220,000.00 settlement figure represents 48% of the realistic maximum recovery ($220,000.00/ $457,225.74 = 48%). Considering the risk and uncertainty of prevailing at class certification and at trial, this is an excellent result for the Class.[1] Indeed, because of the proposed Settlement, class members will receive timely, guaranteed relief and will avoid the risk of an unfavorable judgment.

24. While Plaintiff is confident in the merits of his claims, a legitimate controversy exists as to each cause of action. Plaintiff also recognizes that proving the amount of wages due to each Class Member would be an expensive, time-consuming, and uncertain proposition.

25. This Settlement avoids the risks and the accompanying expenses of further litigation. Although the Parties had engaged in significant amount of investigation, informal discovery and class-wide data analysis, the Parties had not yet completed formal written discovery. Plaintiff intended to depose corporate officers and managers of Defendant. Moreover, preparation for a class certification and a trial remained for the Parties as well as the prospect of appeals in the wake of a disputed class certification ruling for Plaintiff and/or adverse summary judgment ruling. Had the Court certified any claims, Defendant could not move to decertify the claims. As a result, the Parties would incur considerably more attorneys' fees and costs through trial.

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[1] See, e.g., *Wise v. Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc.* (E.D. Cal. Aug. 21, 2019) 2019 WL 3943859 at *8 (granting preliminary approval where the proposed allocation to settle class claims was between 9.53 percent of Plaintiffs' maximum recovery); *Bravo v. Gale Triangle, Inc.* (C.D. Cal. Feb 16, 2017) 2017 WL 708766 at * 10 (finding that "a settlement for fourteen percent recovery of Plaintiffs' maximum recovery is reasonable"); *In re Omnivision Techs., Inc.* (N.D. Cal. 2008) 559 F.Supp.2d 1036, 1042 (approving settlement amount that "is just over 9% of the maximum potential recovery asserted by either party.").

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26. The Net Settlement Amount available for Class Member settlement payments is estimated to be $81,666.67, for a class of 37 persons.[2] As a result, each Settlement Class Member is eligible to receive an average net benefit of approximately $2,207.21.

27. The proposed Settlement of $220,000.00, therefore, represents a substantial recovery when compared to Plaintiff's reasonably forecasted recovery. When considering the risks of litigation, the uncertainties involved in achieving class certification, the burdens of proof necessary to establish liability, the probability of appeal of a favorable judgment, it is clear that the settlement amount of $220,000.00 is within the "ballpark" of reasonableness, and preliminary settlement approval is appropriate.

ENHANCEMENT AWARD FOR PLAINTIFF IS REASONABLE

28. Class Counsel represent that Plaintiff devoted a great deal of time and work assisting counsel in the case, communicated with counsel very frequently for litigation and to prepare for mediation, and was frequently in contact with Class Counsel during the mediation. Plaintiff's requested enhancement award is reasonable particularly in light of the substantial benefits Plaintiff generated for all class members.

29. Throughout this Litigation, Plaintiff, who is a former employee of Defendant, has cooperated immensely with my office and has taken many actions to protect the interests of the class. Plaintiff provided valuable information regarding the off-the-clock, meal period, and rest period claims. Plaintiff also informed my office of developments and information relevant to this action, participated in decisions concerning this action, made himself available to answer questions during the mediation, and provided my office with the names and contact information of potential witnesses in this action. Before we filed this case, Plaintiff provided my office with documents regarding the claims alleged in this action. The information and documentation provided by Plaintiff was instrumental in establishing the wage and hour violations alleged in this action, and the recovery provided for in the Settlement Agreement would have been impossible to obtain

[2] The Net Settlement Amount is: $220,000.00 minus $73,333.33 for Class Counsel's attorneys' fees, minus $20,000.00 for Class Counsel's litigation expenses, minus $15,000.00 in administration costs, minus $20,000.00 for the PAGA payment, and minus $10,000.00 for the class representative service award to Plaintiff.

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without Plaintiff's participation.

30. At the same time, Plaintiff faced many risks in adding himself as the class representative in this matter. Plaintiff faced actual risks with his future employment, as putting himself on public record in an employment lawsuit could also very well affect his likelihood for future employment. Furthermore, as part of this Settlement, Plaintiff is executing a general release of all claims against Defendant.

31. In turn, class members will now have the opportunity to participate in a settlement, reimbursing them for alleged wage violations they may have never known about on their own or been willing to pursue on their own. If these class members would have each tried to pursue their legal remedies on their own, that would have resulted in each having to expend a significant amount of their own monetary resources and time, which were obviated by Plaintiff putting himself on the line on behalf of these other class members.

32. In the final analysis, this class action would not have been possible without the aid of Plaintiff, who put his own time and effort into this Litigation, sacrificed the value of his own individual claims, and placed himself at risk for the sake of the class members. The requested enhancement award for Plaintiff for his service as the class representative and for his general release of all individual claims is a relatively small amount of money when the time and effort put into the Litigation are considered and in comparison to enhancements granted in other class actions. The requested incentive award is therefore reasonable to compensate Plaintiff for his active participation in this lawsuit. Indeed, in *Karl Adams, III, et al. v. MarketStar Corporation*, et al., No. 2:14-cv-02509-TLN-DB, a wage and hour class action alleging that class members were misclassified as exempt outside salespersons, Wilshire Law Firm helped negotiate a $2.5 million class action settlement for 339 class members, and the court approved a $25,000.00 class representative incentive award for each Plaintiff.

THE REQUEST FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS IS REASONABLE

33. The Settlement provides for attorney's fees payable to Class Counsel in an amount up to one-third (33 1/3%) of the Settlement Amount, for a maximum fees award of $73,333.33, plus actual costs and expenses not to exceed $20,000.00. The proposed award of attorneys' fees

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to Class Counsel in this case can be justified under either method – lodestar or percentage recovery. Class Counsel, however, intend to base the proposed award of fees, costs and expenses on the percentage method as many of the entries in the time records will have to be redacted to preserve attorney-client and attorney work product privileges

34. I am informed and believe that the fee and costs provision is reasonable. The fee percentage requested is less than that charged by my office for most employment cases. My office invested significant time and resources into the case, with payment deferred to the end of the case, and then, of course, contingent on the outcome.

35. It is further estimated that my office will need to expend at least another 50 to 100 hours to monitor the process leading up to the final approval and payments made to the class. My office also bears the risk of taking whatever actions are necessary if Defendant fails to pay.

36. The risk to my office has been very significant, particularly if we would not be successful in pursuing this class action. In that case, we would have been left with no compensation for all the time taken in litigating this case. Indeed, Wilshire Law Firm has taken on a number of class action cases that have resulted in thousands of attorney hours being expended and ultimately having certification denied or the defendant company going bankrupt. The contingent risk in these types of cases is very real and they do occur regularly. Furthermore, we were precluded from focusing on, or taking on, other cases which could have resulted in a larger, and less risky, monetary gain.

37. Because most individuals cannot afford to pay for representation in litigation on an hourly basis, Wilshire Law Firm, PLC represents virtually all of its employment law clients on a contingency fee basis. Pursuant to this arrangement, we are not compensated for our time unless we prevail at trial or successfully settle our clients' cases. Because Wilshire Law Firm, PLC is taking the risk that we will not be reimbursed for our time unless our client settles or wins his or her case, we cannot afford to represent an individual employee on a contingency basis if, at the end of our representation, all we are to receive is our regular hourly rate for services. It is essential that we recover more than our regular hourly rate when we win if we are to remain in practice so as to be able to continue representing other individuals in civil rights employment disputes.

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PLAINTIFF'S COUNSELS' EXPERIENCE

38. Wilshire Law Firm, PLC was selected by Best Lawyers and U.S. News & World Report as one of the nation's Best Law Firms for every year since 2020 and is comprised of over 120 attorneys and over 600 employees. Wilshire Law Firm, PLC is actively and continuously practicing in employment litigation, representing employees in both individual and class actions in both state and federal courts throughout California.

39. Wilshire Law Firm, PLC is qualified to handle this litigation because its attorneys are experienced in litigating Labor Code violations in both individual, class action, and representative action cases. Wilshire Law Firm, PLC has handled, and is currently handling, numerous wage and hour class action lawsuits, as well as class actions involving consumer rights and data privacy litigation.

40. I graduated cum laude from the Carl H. Lindner School of Business at the University of Cincinnati in 1999 and received my Juris Doctor from Northeastern University School of Law in 2003.

41. I have over 19 years of experience in litigating class action and mass litigation, and I have spent the past 16 years prosecuting class and PAGA actions at well-known plaintiff-side wage and hour firms in California. In my role as partner, I am currently overseeing the prosecution of hundreds of representative wage and hour actions in California state and federal courts.

42. Throughout my legal career, I have also donated numerous pro bono hours to many non-profit organizations, including the Whitman-Walker legal Clinic, ABA Coalition for Justice, Alameda Point Collaborative, National Association of Women Judges Storybook Project, and the ACLU. I am also a member of CELA, Queens' Bench, and the San Francisco, Alameda, and Montgomery County (Maryland) bar associations.

43. As the attorney responsible for day-to-day management of this matter at the Wilshire Law Firm, PLC, I have over 16 years of experience litigating and settling hundreds of wage and hour class actions. In those class actions, I performed similar tasks as those performed in the course of prosecuting this action. My litigation experience includes:

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a. *Navarro v. Floor and Décor Outlets of America, Inc., et al.,* Case No. 22CV403852 (Santa Clara County): a gross settlement of $1,200,000.00 on behalf of approximately 3,500 Aggrieved Employees.

b. *Carr, et al., v. U.S. Security Associates,* Case No. RG18932522 (Alameda County): gross settlement of $6,500,000.00 on behalf of approximately 14,800 Class Members.

c. *Miller, et al., v. Rack Room Shoes, Inc., et al.,* Case No. BCV-22-101870 (Kern County): gross settlement of $11,143,340.29 for approximately 1,712 non-exempt retail employees.

d. *Madrigal v. Solage Management, Inc., et al.,* Case No. CIV2100081 (Marin County): settlement of $900,000.00 for approximately 1,279 Class Members and 697 Aggrieved Employees.

e. *Lopez v. LG Electronics Alabama, Inc, et al.,* Case No. C22-00686 (Contra Costa County): a $725,000.00 settlement for non-exempt LG employees.

f. *Ayala v. RHR California Services, LLC, et al.,* Case No. 23-CIV-02830 (San Mateo County): a gross settlement of $800,000.00 for a class of approximately 930 Class Members.

g. *Medina v. Bio-Rad,* Case No. MSC21-00154 (Contra Costa County): a gross settlement of $2,950,000.00 for approximately 1,170 Class Members.

h. *Marshall v. Faneuil, Inc., et al.,* Case No. 34-2017-00216580-CU-OE-GDS (Sacramento County): a gross settlement of $1,960,000.00 for non-exempt employees.

i. *Limon v. Crestline Hotels& Resorts, LLC, et al.,* Case No. 20STCV37266 (Los Angeles County): a $1,100,000.00 gross settlement for class of hotel employees.

j. *Galicia v. M San Ramon, Inc.,* Case No. MSC21-01638 (Contra Costa County): a $3,500,000.00 gross settlement amount for approximately 7,910 former McDonald's Restaurant employees.

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k. *Martinez v. Pacific Catch, Inc.,* Case No. 22CV393580 (Santa Clara County): a $1,926,308.31 gross settlement for a class of approximately 3,192 class members.

l. *Garcia v. Norman's Nursery, Inc.,* Case No. STK-CV-UOE-2021-0002804 (San Joaquin County): a settlement of $1.3 million for non-exempt nursery employees.

m. *Navarro v. United Parcel Service, Inc.,* Case No. BC592098 (Los Angeles County): a $16.5 million dollar settlement for non-exempt UPS employees.

n. *Cordero v. Spire Hospitality LLC, et al.,* Case No. 20STCV49475 (Los Angeles County): a $500,000.00 settlement for non-exempt hotel and hospitality employees.

44. My current contingent billing rate of $1,200 per hour is consistent with my actual billing rate for my practice area, experience, legal market and accepted hourly rates. The reasonableness of my firm's hourly rates is also supported by several surveys of legal rates, including the following:

a. The 2022 Real Rate Report survey compiled by Wolters Kluwer, which presents the real market rates of Los Angeles area attorneys who practice litigation. For that category, the third quartile 2022 rate was $1,045 per hour for partners and $855 for associates. Likewise, page 32 of the Report describes the rates charged by 183 Los Angeles partners with "21 or more years of experience" and "Fewer than 21 years." For those categories, the third quartile Los Angeles partner rate in 2022 were $1,133 per hour for 21 or more years and $1,075 for attorneys with fewer than 21 years. A true and correct copy of portions of the 2022 Real Rate Report is attached hereto as **Exhibit 4**.

b. In an article entitled "Big Law Rates Topping $2,000 Leave Value 'In Eye of Beholder,'" written by Roy Strom and published by Bloomberg Law on June 9, 2022, the author describes how Big Law firms have crossed the $2,000-per hour rate. The article also notes that law firm rates have been increasing by just under 3% per year. A true and correct copy of this article is attached hereto as **Exhibit 5.**

45. Arsiné Grigoryan is an Associate Attorney at my office. She earned two Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of California, Berkeley in (1) Political Science with an

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emphasis on international relations and (2) Media Studies. She obtained her Juris Doctor degree from Southwestern Law School. She is presently admitted to practice in all state courts of California (admitted in 2017) and before all federal district courts in California. The focus of her practice at Wilshire Law Firm is currently on class action wage-and-hour law, including Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") matters. Prior to joining Wilshire Law Firm, PLC, she worked at a law firm specializing in wage-and-hour class action cases. She is also handling more than a dozen active class action matters currently pending and prosecuting multiple PAGA collective action matters in various courts throughout the State of California.

46. Dorota A. James is an Associate Attorney at my office. She earned her master's degree in law and business administration at the University of Wroclaw, where she received recognition as an outstanding alumna. She also holds a J.S.D. degree in Comparative Law Studies and a master's degree in German law from the University of Saarland (Germany). She then went on to get an LL.M. degree in Comparative Law at the University of San Diego Law School. She is presently admitted to practice in all state courts of California (admitted in 2016) and before all federal district courts in California. Prior to joining Wilshire Law Firm in May 2024, Ms. James gained invaluable litigation experience working at various Plaintiffs and defense firms, including ShortLegal, APC, Tyson Mendes, LLP, and Dinsmore and Shohl, LLP. Ms. James' current practice has been primarily focused on wage-and-hour class and representative action litigation brough on behalf of employees. She also litigates discrimination and harassment cases as individual and complex multi-party litigation.

47. Bradford Smith is a Law and Motion Attorney at Wilshire Law Firm. He graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a Bachelor of Arts in History and received his Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles in 2022. He was admitted to practice law in the State of California in 2022. Before joining Wilshire Law Firm, he worked at a law firm specializing in insurance defense litigation.

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

/ / /

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Executed on January 30, 2025, at Los Angeles, California.

Molly DeSario

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Exhibit 1

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CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is made by and between plaintiff Michael Pereira ("Plaintiff") and defendant Rode Microphones, LLC ("Defendant"). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendant collectively as "Parties," or individually as "Party."

1. DEFINITIONS.

1.1. "Action" means the Plaintiff's lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned *Michael Periera v. Rode Microphones, LLC,* Case No. 23STCV17940 initiated on July 31, 2023, and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles.

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 or 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 hourly-paid or non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant during the Class Period.

1.6. "Class Counsel" means Justin F. Marquez and Arsiné Grigoryan 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).

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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, if applicable 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 February 3, 2019, to July 14, 2024.

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

1.16. "Defendant" means named Defendant Rode Microphones, LLC.

1.17. "Defense Counsel" means Carol A. Gefis and Joshua D. Carlon of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo.

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 $220,000.00 which is the total amount

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Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph 9 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 XYZ for at least one day during the PAGA Period.

1.31. "PAGA Period" means the period from August 22, 2022, to July 14, 2024.

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

1.33. "PAGA Notice" means Plaintiff's August 22, 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 ($5,000.00) and the 75% to LWDA ($15,000.00) in settlement of PAGA claims.

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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 Michael Pereira, 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 6.2 below.

1.40. "Released PAGA Claims" means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 6.2 below.

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

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 60 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 July 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. On July 8, 2024, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint alleging causes of action against

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Defendant for Violations of the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA"). The First Amended Complaint is the operative complaint in the Action (the "Operative Complaint.") Defendant denies the allegations in the Operative Complaint, denies any failure to comply with the laws identified in in the Operative Complaint and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged.

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

2.3. On May 15, 2024, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by Christopher Panetta which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.

2.4. Prior to mediation, Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery, documents relevant to this case, including Plaintiff's personnel files, a sampling of time and pay data for the Class Members, and policy documents related to Plaintiff's claims. 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. FootLocker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116, 129-130 ("*Dunk/Kullar"*).

2.5. The Court has not granted class certification.

2.6. 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.

3. MONETARY TERMS.

3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 9 below, Defendant promises to pay $220,000.00 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 6.1 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 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 (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

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amount. As part of the motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment, Plaintiff will seek Court approval for any Class Representative Service Payments 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 1099. 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 33 and 1/3%, which is currently estimated to be $73,333.33 and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than $20,000.00. 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 Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment 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. 10% 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 remaining 90% 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

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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 $20,000.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% ($15,000.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% ($5,000.00) 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 $5,000.00 by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Period 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 37 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 2,950 Workweeks, and 25 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total 585 of 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.

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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 no later than 14 days after the Effective Date.

4.4. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within 14 days after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual ClassPayments, 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 retuned 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 whosere-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 or Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Class Member thereby leaving no "unpaid residue" subject to the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 384, subd. (b).

4.4.4. The payment of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA

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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, and Class Counsel will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

5.1 Plaintiff's Release. Plaintiff and his or her respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all claims, transactions, or occurrences that occurred during the Class Period, including, but not limited to: (a) all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained, in the Operative Complaint and (b) all PAGA claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged based on facts contained in the Operative Complaint, Plaintiff's PAGA Notice. ("Plaintiff's Release.") Plaintiff's Release does not extend to any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any 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 acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff's Release shall beand remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff's discovery of them.

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.

5.1.2 Non-Disparagement. Plaintiff agrees to do nothing to disparage or make statements that are maliciously untrue or that are made with knowledge of their falsity or with reckless disregard for their truth or falsity regarding the Defendant in any communications whatsoever. Nothing in this agreement prevents Plaintiff from discussing or disclosing information about unlawful acts in the workplace, such as harassment or discrimination or any other conduct that Plaintiff has reason to believe is unlawful. Nothing in this provision shall limit Plaintiff from in any way disclosing or discussing any information related to Plaintiff's exercise of Plaintiff's rights under Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act or otherwise in any way impede Plaintiff's exercise of rights under Section 7.

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5.1.3 Liquidated Damages. Plaintiff understand that Section 5.1.2, above, is essential to this Agreement and that, in the event of a breach by Plaintiff of this provision, damages would be difficult, if not impossible, to quantify. Therefore, it is understood and agreed by the parties that, in the event of a breach by Plaintiff (the breaching Party), of Section 5.1.2, Defendants shall be awarded Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($5,000.00) per breach as damages and not as a penalty.

5.2 Release by Participating Class Members Who Are Not Aggrieved Employees: 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, including, any and all claims involving any recovery of unpaid minimum wages and unpaid overtime (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198), failure to provide meal and rest periods (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512), failure to provide accurate wage statements (Cal. Lab. Code § 226), failure to pay all wages due at separation (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-203), and violation of Unfair Business Practices (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.). Except as set forth in Section 6.3 of this Agreement, 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 Non-Participating Class Members Who Are Aggrieved Employees: All Non-Participating Class Members who are 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, including, any and all claims involving any alleged failure to pay minimum wages or overtime, failure to provide meal and rest periods, failure to provide accurate wage statements, failure to pay all wages due at separation, including Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 210, 216, 223, 225.5, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 245-248.5, 256, 432, 432.5, 432.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1024.5, 1174, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2699, 2699.3, 2810.5 during the PAGA Period. Aggrieved Employees only release these claims for the duration of the PAGA Period.

6. MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL. The Parties agree to jointly prepare and file a motion for preliminary approval ("Motion for Preliminary Approval") that complies with the Court's current checklist for Preliminary Approvals.

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

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the PAGA Settlement under Labor Code Section 2699, subd. (f)(2)); (ii) a draft proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement; (iii) a draft proposed Class Notice; (iv) a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its "not to exceed" bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve; competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Class Data; amounts of insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members; and the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiff, Class Counsel or Defense Counsel; (v) 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/or the Administrator; (v) a signed declaration from each Class Counsel firm attesting to its 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)); (vi) a redlined version of the parties' Agreement showing all modifications made to the Model Agreement ready for filing with the Court; and (vii) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members, the Administrator and/or the Cy Pres Recipient. In their Declarations, Plaintiff and Class Counsel Declaration 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 and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than 30 days after the 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 to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, Apex Class Action Administration 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

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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.

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, if applicable, 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 60 days otherwise provided in the Class Noticefor all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will informthe 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

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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, which ever are later.

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 60 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Noticeis 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. The Administrator's determination shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. 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 6.2 and 6.3 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 6.4 of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.

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7.6 Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks. Each Class Member shall have 60 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 ClassNotice. 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 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 60 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, the Class Notice, the Motion for Final Approval, the Motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and Class Representative Service Payment, the Final Approval and the Judgment. The Administrator will also maintain and monitor an email

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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).

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

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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. **CLASS SIZE ESTIMATES and ESCALATOR CLAUSE** Based on its records, Defendant estimates that, as of the date of this Settlement Agreement, (1) there are 37 Class Members and 2,950 Total Workweeks during the Class period. In the event the number of workweeks worked by the Class Members increases by more than 10% or 295, then the Gross Settlement Amount shall be increased by a proportional amount over the 10%. For example, if the number of workweeks is 15% more than the estimated 2,950 workweeks (for a total of 3,393 workweeks), then the total amount increase of the Gross Settlement Amount will be an additional 5%, for an additional $11,000 increase in the Gross Settlement Amount.

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 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 LaborCode section 2699, subd. (l), a Proposed Final Approval Order and a proposed Judgment (collectively "Motion for Final Approval"). Plaintiff shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel not later than seven days prior to filing the 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 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,

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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 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

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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 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.

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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 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.

12.14 Use and Return of Class Data. Information provided to Class Counsel pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §1152, and all copies and summaries of the Class Data provided to Class Counsel by Defendant in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of court. Not later than 90 days after the date when the Court discharges the Administrator's obligation to provide a Declaration confirming the final pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy, all paper and electronic versions of Class Data received from Defendant unless, prior to the Court's

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discharge of the Administrator's obligation, Defendant makes a written request to Class Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of Class Data.

12.15 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.

12.16 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.

12.17 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:

To Plaintiff:

Justin F. Marquez
justin@wilshirelawfirm.com
Arsiné Grigoryan
arsine.grigoryan@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
3055 Wilshire Blvd., 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90010

To Defendant:

ATKINSON, ANDELSON, LOYA, RUUD & ROMO
Carol A. Gefis
cgefis@aalrr.com
12800 Center Court Drive South, Suite 300
Cerritos, CA 90703
Joshua D. Carlon
joshua.carlon@aalrr.com
251 S. Lake Ave., Suite 360
Pasadena, CA 91101
Telephone: (626) 583-8600
Facsimile: (626) 593-8610

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GARDINER KOCH WEISBERG & WRONA
Thomas G. Gardiner
tgardiner@gkwwlaw.com
Hamza Jaka
hjaka@gkwwlaw.com
121 West Wacker Drive, Suite 3600
Chicago, IL 60601
Telephone: (312) 362-0000
Facsimile: (312) 362-0440

12.18 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.

12.19 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.

Dated: 11/24/2024

Signed by:
743F2C15589A44A...
Michael Pereira
Plaintiff

Dated: November 24, 2024

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
Justin F. Marquez
Arsiné Grigoryan
Counsel for Plaintiff and the Putative Class/Aggrieved Parties

Dated: Jan 6th, 2025.

Rode Microphones, LLC
By: Scott Emerton
Its: Chief of Staff.

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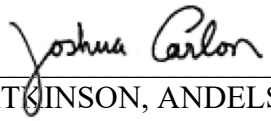
Dated: January 6, 2025



ATKINSON, ANDELSON, LOYA, RUUD & ROMO
Joshua D. Carlon
Counsel for Defendant

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

Michael Pereira v. Rode Microphones, LLC, Case No. 23STCV17940

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 Rode Microphones, LLC ("Defendant" is used herein as a placeholder) for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by a former Defendant employee Michael Pereira ("Plaintiff") and seeks payment of (1) back wages and other relief for a class of hourly employees ("Class Members") who worked for Defendant during the Class Period (February 3, 2019 to July 14, 2024); and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA") for all hourly employees who worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period (August 22, 2022 to July 14, 2024) ("Aggrieved Employees").

The proposed Settlement has two main parts: (1) a Class Settlement requiring Defendant to fund Individual Class Payments, and (2) a PAGA Settlement requiring Defendant to fund Individual PAGA Payments and pay penalties to 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 Paymentis 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 didn't work during the PAGA Period.)

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

The Court has already 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 requires Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against Defendant.

If you worked for Defendant during the Class Period and/or the PAGA Period, you have twobasic 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

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Period wage claims and PAGA Period penalty claims against Defendant.

(2) **Opt-Out of the Class Settlement**. You can exclude yourself from the Class Settlement (opt-out) by submitting the 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 wage claims 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 theproposed 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. Defendant must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees and the Aggrieved Employees must give up their rights to pursue Released Claims (defined below).
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.

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You Can Participate inthe_ 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 and how many Pay Periods you worked at least one day during the PAGA Period, respectively. The number 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.

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1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?

Plaintiff is a former Defendant employee. The Action accuses Defendant of violating California labor laws by failing to pay overtime wages, minimum wages, and wages due upon termination and failing to provide meal periods, rest breaks and accurate itemized wage statements. Based on the same claims, Plaintiff has also asserted a claim for civil penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq.) ("PAGA"). Plaintiff is represented by attorneys in the Action:
Justin F. Marquez and Arsiné Grigoryan of Wilshire Law Firm, PLC ("Class Counsel.")

Defendant strongly denies violating any laws or failing to pay any wages and contends it compliedwith all applicable laws.

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

So far, 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 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. The negotiations were successful. 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.

Plaintiff and Class Counsel strongly believe the Settlement is a good deal for you 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 isin the best interests of the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. The Court preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, authorized this Notice, and scheduled a hearing to determine Final Approval.

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

1. Defendant Will Pay $220,000.00 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 attorney's 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 become 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

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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 $73,333.33 (33 and 1/3% of the Gross Settlement to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and up to $20,000.00 for their litigation expenses. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.

   B. Up to $10,000.00as 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 $20,000.00 for PAGA Penalties, allocated 75% to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% 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 10% of each Individual Class Payment to taxable wages("Wage Portion") and 90% 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 side 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

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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 automatically cancelled, and the monies will be deposited with the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in your name.

If the monies represented by your check is sent to the Controller's Unclaimed Property, you should consult the rules of the Fund for instructions on how to retrieve your money.

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_____, that you wish to opt-out. The easiest way to notify the Administrator is to send a written and signed Request for Exclusion by the _____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 wage and hour claims against Defendant.

   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. Plaintiffs 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.

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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, including, any and all claims involving any recovery of unpaid minimum wages and unpaid overtime (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198), failure to provide meal and rest periods (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512), failure to provide accurate wage statements (Cal. Lab. Code § 226), failure to pay all wages due at separation (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-203), and violation of Unfair Business Practices (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.). Except as set forth in Section 6.3 of this Agreement, 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 paid 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-outof 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 Non-Participating Class Members who are 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, including, any and all claims involving any alleged failure to pay minimum wages or overtime, failure to provide meal and rest periods, failure to provide accurate wage statements, failure to pay all wages due at separation, and failure to reimburse business expenses, including Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 210, 216, 223, 225.5, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 245-248.5, 256, 432, 432.5, 432.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1024.5, 1174, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2699, 2699.3, 2810.5 during the PAGA Period. Aggrieved Employees only release these claims for the duration of the PAGA Period.

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.

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2. Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing $5,000.00by 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?

Submit 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 *Pereira v. Rode Microphones, LLC,* Case No. 23STCV17940 , and include your identifying information (full name, address, telephone number, approximatedates of employment, and social security number for verification purposes). You must make the request yourself. If someone else makes the request for you, it

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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 *Michael Pereira v. Rode Microphones, LLC,* Case No. 23STCV17940 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 10 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. 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 via LACourtConnect (https://www.lacourt.org/lacc/. Check the Court's website for the most current information.

It's possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the

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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)_____'s website at _____(url)____.You can also telephone or send an email to Class Counsel or the Administrator using the contactinformation listed below, or consult the Superior Court website by going to (http://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/index.aspx) and entering the Case Number for the Action, Case No. 23STCV17940. You can also make an appointment to personally review court documents in the Clerk's Office at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse by calling (213) 830-0800.

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

Class Counsel:
Justin F. Marquez
justin@wilshirelawfirm.com
Arsiné Grigoryan
arsine.grigoryan@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
3055 Wilshire Blvd., 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Telephone: (213) 784-3830
Facsimile: (213) 381-9989

Settlement Administrator:
Name of Company:
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 your check is already void you should consult the Unclaimed Property Fund forinstructions on how to retrieve 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.

Exhibit 2

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~~[MODEL]~~ CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE[i]

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is made by and between plaintiff ~~_____~~Michael Pereira ("Plaintiff") and defendant ~~XYZ _____ ("XYZ").~~Rode Microphones, LLC ("Defendant"). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and ~~XYZ~~Defendant collectively as "Parties," or individually as "Party."

1. DEFINITIONS.

1.1. "Action" means the Plaintiff's lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against ~~XYZ~~Defendant captioned ~~_____~~*Michael Periera v. Rode Microphones, LLC*, Case No. 23STCV17940 initiated on ~~_____~~July 31, 2023, and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles.

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 ~~[e.g.,~~a person employed by ~~XYZ~~Defendant in California and classified as ~~a _____~~an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee who worked for ~~XYZ~~Defendant during the PAGA Period~~].~~.

1.5. ~~—~~"Class" means ~~[define class e.g.,~~ all persons employed by ~~XYZ~~Defendant in California and classified as ~~_____~~hourly-paid or non-exempt employees who worked for ~~XYZ~~Defendant during the Class Period~~].~~.

1.6. ~~—~~"Class Counsel" means ~~_____~~.Justin F. Marquez and Arsiné Grigoryan 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 ~~XYZ's~~Defendant's possession including the Class Member's name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, and number of Class Period Workweeks

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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).

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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, if applicable~~]~~ in the form, without material variation, attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

~~1.11.~~1.12. "Class Period" means the period from ~~_____ to _____.~~ February 3, 2019, to July 14, 2024.

~~1.12.~~1.13. "Class Representative" means the named Plaintiff in the operative complaint in the Action seeking Court approval to serve as a Class Representative.

~~1.13.~~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.

~~1.14.~~1.15. "Court" means the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.

~~1.15.~~1.16. ~~"XYZ~~"Defendant" means named Defendant ~~_____.~~ Rode Microphones, LLC.

~~1.16.~~1.17. "Defense Counsel" means ~~_____.~~ Carol A. Gefis and Joshua D. Carlon of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo.

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.

~~1.17.~~1.19. "Final Approval" means the Court's order granting final approval of the Settlement.

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~~1.18.~~1.20. "Final Approval Hearing" means the Court's hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.

~~1.19.~~1.21. "Final Judgment" means the Judgment Entered by the Court upon Granting Final Approval of the Settlement.

1.22. "Gross Settlement Amount" means ~~$ _____~~,$220,000.00 which is the total amount ~~XYZ~~

Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph ~~8~~9 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.

~~1.20.~~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.

~~1.21.~~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.

~~1.22.~~1.25. "Judgment" means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.

~~1.23.~~1.26. "LWDA" means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).

~~1.24.~~1.27. "LWDA PAGA Payment" means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).

~~1.25.~~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.

~~1.26.~~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.

~~1.27.~~1.30. "PAGA Pay Period" means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for XYZ for at least one day during the PAGA Period.

~~1.28.~~1.31. "PAGA Period" means the period from ~~_____~~August 22, 2022, to ~~_____~~.~~[iii]~~July 14, 2024.

~~1.29.~~1.32. "PAGA" means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).

~~1.30.~~1.33. "PAGA Notice" means Plaintiff's~~_____~~ August 22, 2023, letter to ~~XYZ~~Defendant and the LWDA ~~[and Plaintiff's _____ letter to XYZ and the LWDA]~~ providing notice pursuant to

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Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a).

~~1.31.~~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 ~~(_____)~~($5,000.00) and the 75% to LWDA ~~(_____)~~($15,000.00) in settlement of PAGA claims.

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~~1.32.~~1.35. "Participating Class Member" means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.

~~1.33.~~1.36. "Plaintiff" means ~~_____~~Michael Pereira, the named plaintiff in the Action.

~~1.34.~~1.37. "Preliminary Approval" means the Court's Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.

~~1.35.~~1.38. "Preliminary Approval Order" means the proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement.

~~1.36.~~1.39. "Released Class Claims" means the claims being released as described in Paragraph ~~5~~6.2 below.

~~1.37.~~1.40. "Released PAGA Claims" means the claims being released as described in Paragraph ~~5.3~~6.2 below.

~~1.38.~~1.41. "Released Parties" means: ~~XYZ~~Defendant and each of its former and present directors, officers, shareholders, owners, ~~[~~members~~]~~, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors,assigns~~[~~, subsidiaries~~]~~[, and affiliates~~]~~.

~~1.39.~~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.

~~1.40.~~1.43. "Response Deadline" means ~~[e.g., 60]~~ 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.

~~1.41.~~1.44. "Settlement" means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.

~~1.42.~~1.45. "Workweek" means any week during which a Class Member worked for ~~XYZ~~Defendant for at least one day, during the Class Period~~.~~.

2. RECITALS.

2.1. On ~~_____~~July 31, 2023, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a Complaint alleging causes of action against ~~XYZ~~Defendant for ~~_____. [The Complaint is the operative complaint in the Action (the "Operative Complaint.")] [On _____~~Failure to Pay Minimum and

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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. On July 8, 2024, Plaintiff filed a ~~[e.g., ~~First Amended Complaint~~]~~ alleging causes of action against~~ XYZ for _____~~. The [e.g.,~~

Defendant for Violations of the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA"). The First Amended~~]~~ Complaint is the operative complaint in the Action (the "Operative Complaint~~.")] XYZ.~~") Defendant denies the allegations in the Operative Complaint, denies any failure to comply with the laws identified in in the Operative Complaint and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged.

~~2.1.~~2.2. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to ~~XYZ~~Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.

~~2.2.~~2.3. On ~~_____, _____ (type in additional dates) _____, [~~May 15, 2024, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by ~~_____~~Christopher Panetta which led to this Agreement to settle the Action~~ (describe alternative means of negotiation). _____ (describe alternative means of negotiation) _____~~.

~~2.3.~~2.4. Prior to ~~□~~mediation ~~□ negotiating the Settlement~~, Plaintiff obtained, through ~~□ formal □~~informal discovery~~, __ (~~, documents~~, testimony~~ relevant to this case, including Plaintiff's personnel files, a sampling of time and ~~information obtained) __~~ pay data for the Class Members, and policy documents related to Plaintiff's claims.~~ 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. ~~FootLocker~~FootLocker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116, 129-130 ("*Dunk/Kullar"*).

~~2.4.~~2.5. ~~__~~The Court ~~□ has □~~ has not granted class certification.~~ _____ (insert details as needed) __~~

~~2.5.~~2.6. 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.

3. MONETARY TERMS.

3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph ~~8~~9 below, ~~XYZ~~Defendant promises to pay $~~_____~~220,000.00 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~~.] XYZ~~. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount (or any payroll taxes) prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 6.1 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 ~~XYZ~~Defendant.

3.2. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Final Approval:

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3.2.1. To Plaintiff: Class Representative Service Payment to the Class Representative of not more than $~~_____~~10,000.00 (in addition to any Individual Class Payment ~~[~~and any Individual PAGA Payment~~]~~ the Class Representative is entitled to receive as a Participating Class Member). ~~XYZ~~Defendant will not oppose Plaintiff's request for a Class Representative Service Payment that does not exceed this-

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amount. As part of the motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment, Plaintiff will seek Court approval for any Class Representative Service Payments 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 1099. Plaintiff assumes full responsibility and liability for employee taxes owed on the Class Representative Service Payment.

3.2.1.3.2.2. To Class Counsel: A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than ___%,33 and 1/3%, which is currently estimated to be $_____$73,333.33 and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than $_____. XYZ$20,000.00. 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 Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment 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 XYZDefendant harmless, and indemnifies XYZDefendant, 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. %___10% 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 %_____remaining 90% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of claims for [e.g., interest and

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penalties~~]~~ (the Non-Wage Portion~~").~~ ~~[vi]"~~). 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.

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on their Individual Class Payment.

~~3.2.1.1.~~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.

~~3.2.2.~~3.2.5. To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties in the amount of ~~$~~ $20,000.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% ~~($~~ ($15,000.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% ~~($~~ ($5,000.00) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.

~~3.2.2.1.~~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 ~~$~~ $5,000.00 by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Period Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

~~3.2.2.2.~~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, ~~XYZ~~Defendant estimates there are ~~_____~~37 Class Members who collectively worked a total of ~~_____~~2,950 Workweeks, and ~~_____of~~25 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total ~~_____~~585 of PAGA Pay Periods.

4.2. Class Data. Not later than ~~[e.g., ~~15~~]~~ days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, ~~XYZ~~Defendant will simultaneously deliver the Class Data to the Administrator, in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Class ~~Members' privacy~~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. ~~XYZ~~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 ~~XYZ~~Defendant must send the Class Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in

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good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Class Data.

4.3. Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. ~~XYZ~~Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount, and also fund the amounts necessary to fully pay ~~XYZ's~~Defendant's share of payroll taxes by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than ~~[~~14~~]~~ days after the Effective Date.

4.4. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within ~~[~~14~~]~~ days after ~~XYZ~~Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual ~~ClassPayments~~ClassPayments, 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 retuned 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 ~~whosere~~whosere-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 or Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks ~~[~~to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Class Member thereby leaving no "unpaid residue" subject to the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 384, subd. ~~(b).] [or to a Court-approved nonprofit organization orfoundation consistent with Code of Civil Procedure Section 384,~~

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~~subd. (b) ("Cy Pres Recipient") _____]. The Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the intended Cy Pres Recipient.~~(b).

4.4.4. The payment of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA-

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Payments shall not obligate ~~XYZ~~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 ~~XYZ~~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, and Class Counsel will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

5.1 Plaintiff's Release. Plaintiff and his or her respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all claims, transactions, or occurrences ~~[~~that occurred during the Class Period~~],~~ including, but not limited to: (a) all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained, in the Operative Complaint and (b) all PAGA claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged based on facts contained in the Operative Complaint, Plaintiff's PAGA Notice~~, [or ascertained during the Action and released under 5.2, below]~~. ("Plaintiff's Release.") Plaintiff's Release does not extend to any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any 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 acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff's Release shall ~~be and~~beand remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff's discovery of them.

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.

5.1.2 ~~——~~Non-Disparagement. Plaintiff agrees to do nothing to disparage or make statements that are maliciously untrue or that are made with knowledge of their falsity or with reckless disregard for their truth or falsity regarding the Defendant in any communications whatsoever. Nothing in this agreement prevents Plaintiff from discussing or disclosing information about unlawful acts in the workplace, such as harassment or discrimination or any other conduct that Plaintiff has reason to believe is unlawful. Nothing in this provision shall limit Plaintiff from in any way disclosing or discussing any information related to Plaintiff's exercise of Plaintiff's rights under Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act or otherwise in any way impede Plaintiff's exercise of rights under Section 7.

5.1.3 Liquidated Damages. Plaintiff understand that Section 5.1.2, above, is essential to this Agreement and that, in the event of a breach by Plaintiff of this provision, damages would be difficult, if not impossible, to quantify. Therefore, it is understood and agreed by the parties that, in the event of a breach by Plaintiff (the breaching Party), of Section 5.1.2, Defendants shall be awarded Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($5,000.00) per breach as damages and not as a penalty.

5.2 Release by Participating Class Members Who Are Not Aggrieved Employees: 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 ~~(i)~~ 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, e.g., "(a) any and all claims involving any alleged failure to pay minimum wage; etc.]~~, including, any and all claims involving any recovery of unpaid minimum wages and unpaid overtime (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198), failure to provide meal and rest periods (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512), failure to provide accurate wage statements (Cal. Lab. Code § 226), failure to pay all wages due at separation (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-203), and violation of Unfair Business Practices (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.). Except as set forth in Section 6.3 of this Agreement, 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.

~~5.2~~5.3 Release by Non-Participating Class Members Who Are Aggrieved Employees: All Non-Participating Class Members who are 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, ~~e.g., "(a)~~ any and all claims involving any alleged failure to pay minimum ~~wage; etc.].~~wages or overtime, failure to provide meal and rest periods, failure to provide accurate wage statements, failure to pay all wages due at separation, including Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 210, 216, 223, 225.5, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 245-248.5, 256, 432, 432.5, 432.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1024.5, 1174, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2699, 2699.3, 2810.5 during the PAGA Period. Aggrieved Employees only release these claims for the duration of the PAGA Period.

6. **MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL.** The Parties agree to jointly prepare and file a motion for preliminary approval ("Motion for Preliminary Approval") that complies with the Court's current checklist for Preliminary Approvals.

~~XYZ's Declaration in Support of Preliminary Approval. Within _____ days of the full execution of this Agreement, XYZ will prepare and deliver to Class Counsel a signed Declaration from XYZ and Defense Counsel disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of~~

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~~interest with the Administrator and Cy Pres Recipient. Intheir Declarations, Defense Counsel and XYZ 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.~~

6.1 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 and Approval of PAGA Settlement; (iii) a draft proposed Class Notice; (iv) a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its "not to exceed" bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve; competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Class Data; amounts of insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members ~~[and/or the proposed Cy Pres];~~ and the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiff, Class Counsel or Defense Counsel; (v) 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/or~~]~~ the Administrator ~~[and/or the proposed Cy Pres];~~ (v) a signed declaration from each Class Counsel firm attesting to its 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)); (vi) a redlined version of the parties' Agreement showing all modifications made to the Model Agreement ready for filing with the Court; and (vii) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members, the Administrator and/or the Cy Pres Recipient. In their Declarations, Plaintiff and Class Counsel Declaration 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.

~~6.1~~6.2 Responsibilities of Counsel. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than ~~[~~30~~]~~ days after the 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.

~~6.2~~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 to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, Apex Class Action

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Administration 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.

~~7.1~~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.

~~7.2~~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.

~~7.3~~7.4 ~~——~~Notice to Class Members.

~~7.3.1~~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.

~~7.3.2~~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, if applicable~~]~~, 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.

~~7.3.3~~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.

~~7.3.4~~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 ~~[~~60~~]~~ days otherwise provided in the Class ~~Notice for~~Noticefor all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will ~~informthe~~informthe Class Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.

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7.4.5 If the Administrator, ~~XYZ~~Defendant or Class Counsel is contacted by or otherwise discovers any persons who believe they should have been included in-

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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, which ever are later.

~~7.4~~7.5 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs).

~~7.4.1~~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 ~~[~~60~~]~~ days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional ~~[~~14~~]~~ days for Class Members whose Class ~~Notice is~~Noticeis 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.

~~7.4.2~~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. The Administrator's determination shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. 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.

~~7.4.3~~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~~6.2 and ~~5~~6.3 of this Agreement, regardless of whether the Participating Class Member actually receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.

~~7.4.4~~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-

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~~5.3 of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.~~
of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.

6.4

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~~7.5~~7.6 Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks. Each Class Member shall have ~~[~~60~~]~~ 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~~ClassNotice. 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 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.

~~7.6~~7.7 Objections to Settlement.

~~7.6.1~~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.

~~7.6.2~~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 ~~[~~60~~]~~ days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional ~~[~~14~~]~~ days for Class Members whose Class Notice was re-mailed).

~~7.6.3~~7.7.3 Non-Participating Class Members have no right to object to any of the class action components of the Settlement.

~~7.7~~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, the Class Notice, the Motion for Final Approval, the Motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and Class Representative Service Payment, the Final Approval

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and the Judgment. The Administrator will also maintain and monitor an email-

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address and a toll-free telephone number to receive Class Member calls, faxes and emails.

~~7.7.1~~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).

~~7.7.2~~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.

~~7.7.3~~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.

~~7.7.4~~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

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detailing its disbursements by employee identification number only of all payments made under this Agreement. At least [15] days before any deadline set by-

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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. **CLASS SIZE ESTIMATES ~~[~~and ESCALATOR CLAUSE~~]~~** Based on its records, ~~XYZ~~Defendant estimates that, as of the date of this Settlement Agreement, (1) there are ~~_____~~37 Class Members and ~~_____~~2,950 Total Workweeks during the Class period ~~and (2) there were _____ Aggrieved Employees who~~. In the event the number of workweeks worked ~~_____ Pay Periods during the PAGA Period.~~[viii] by the Class Members increases by more than 10% or 295, then the Gross Settlement Amount shall be increased by a proportional amount over the 10%. For example, if the number of workweeks is 15% more than the estimated 2,950 workweeks (for a total of 3,393 workweeks), then the total amount increase of the Gross Settlement Amount will be an additional 5%, for an additional $11,000 increase in the Gross Settlement Amount.

9. ~~XYZ'S~~**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, ~~XYZ~~Defendant may, but is not obligated, elect to withdraw from the Settlement. The Parties agree that, if ~~XYZ~~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, ~~XYZ~~Defendant will remain responsible for paying all Settlement Administration Expenses incurred to that point. ~~XYZ~~Defendant must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its election to withdraw not later than ~~[~~seven~~]~~ 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~~LaborCode section 2699, subd. (l), a Proposed Final Approval Order and a proposed Judgment (collectively "Motion for Final Approval"). Plaintiff shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel not later than ~~[~~seven~~]~~ days prior to filing the 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~~]~~ 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

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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,

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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.

~~10.2~~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.

~~10.3~~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 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.

~~10.4~~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 ~~XYZ~~Defendant that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that ~~XYZ~~Defendant has any liability for any

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claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that ~~XYZ's~~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, ~~XYZ~~Defendant reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reasons, and ~~XYZ~~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 ~~XYZ's~~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).

~~12.1~~12.2 ~~———~~Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, ~~XYZ~~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 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, ~~XYZ~~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.

~~12.2~~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.

~~12.3~~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.

~~12.4~~12.5 ~~———~~Attorney Authorization. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff and ~~XYZ~~Defendant, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to

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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.

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~~12.5~~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.

~~12.6~~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.

~~12.7~~12.8 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, Class Counsel, ~~XYZ~~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 Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.

~~12.8~~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.

~~12.9~~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.

~~12.10~~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.

~~12.11~~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.

~~12.12~~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.

12.14 Use and Return of Class Data. Information provided to Class Counsel pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §1152, and all copies and summaries of the Class Data provided to Class Counsel by ~~XYZ~~Defendant in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of court. Not later than 90 days after the

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date when the Court discharges the Administrator's obligation to provide a Declaration confirming the final pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy, all paper and electronic versions of Class Data received from ~~XYZ~~Defendant unless, prior to the Court's-

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discharge of the Administrator's obligation, ~~XYZ~~Defendant makes a written request to Class Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of Class Data.

~~12.13~~12.15 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.

~~12.14~~12.16 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.

~~12.15~~12.17 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:

To Plaintiff:

Justin F. Marquez
justin@wilshirelawfirm.com
Arsiné Grigoryan
arsine.grigoryan@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
3055 Wilshire Blvd., 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90010

To ~~XYZ~~Defendant:

ATKINSON, ANDELSON, LOYA, RUUD & ROMO
Carol A. Gefis
cgefis@aalrr.com
12800 Center Court Drive South, Suite 300
Cerritos, CA 90703
Joshua D. Carlon
joshua.carlon@aalrr.com
251 S. Lake Ave., Suite 360
Pasadena, CA 91101
Telephone: (626) 583-8600
Facsimile: (626) 593-8610

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GARDINER KOCH WEISBERG & WRONA
Thomas G. Gardiner
tgardiner@gkwwlaw.com
HamzaJaka
hjaka@gkwwlaw.com
121 West Wacker Drive, Suite 3600
Chicago, IL 60601
Telephone: (312) 362-0000
Facsimile: (312) 362-0440

~~12.16~~12.18 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.

~~12.17~~12.19 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.

~~For~~

Dated: 11/24/2024

~~Signed by:~~
713F Q166B9> 11<m
Michael Pereira
Plaintiff ~~For~~
~~XYZ~~

Dated: November 24, 2024

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
Justin F. Marquez
Arsi.ie Grigoryan
Counsel ~~For~~for Plaintiff and the Putative Class/Aggrieved Parties

Dated: ~~12/24/2024~~

Rode Microphones, LLC
By: (, O-\\- :rVV\eV OY\
Its: (!..-Q S:.--\--sll' -

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Dated: January 6, 2025

ATKINSON, ANDELSON, LOYA, RUUD & ROMO
Joshua D. Carlon
Counsel ~~For XYZ~~for Defendant

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

~~(case name and number)~~

Michael Pereira v. Rode Microphones, LLC, Case No. 23STCV17940

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 ~~(abbreviate name; "XYZ~~Rode Microphones, LLC ("Defendant" is used herein as a placeholder) for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by a~~[n]~~ former~~] XYZ~~ Defendant employee ~~Michael~~ Pereira ("Plaintiff") and seeks payment of (1) back wages ~~[~~and other relief~~]~~ for a class of ~~[e.g., hourly]~~ employees ("Class Members") who worked for ~~XYZ~~Defendant during the Class Period ~~(~~(February 3, 2019 to ~~);~~July 14, 2024); and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA") for all ~~[e.g., hourly]~~ employees who worked for ~~XYZ~~Defendant during the PAGA Period ~~(~~(August 22, 2022 to~~)~~ July 14, 2024) ("Aggrieved Employees").

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

Based on ~~XYZ's~~Defendant's records, and the Parties' current assumptions, **your Individual Class Payment is estimated to be ~~$~~~~(~~($ ~~(~~less withholding) and your Individual PAGA ~~Paymentis~~Paymentis 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 ~~XYZ's~~Defendant's records you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you didn't work during the PAGA Period.)

The above estimates are based on ~~XYZ's~~Defendant's records showing that **you worked** ~~-~~ **workweeks** during the Class Period and **you worked** ~~-~~ **workweeks** during the PAGA Period. If you believe that you worked more workweeks during either period, you can submit a challenge by the deadline date. ~~-~~See Section 4 of this Notice.

The Court has already 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 ~~XYZ~~Defendant to make payments under the Settlement and requires Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against

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~~XYZ~~Defendant.

If you worked for ~~XYZ~~Defendant during the Class Period and/or the PAGA Period, you have ~~twobasic~~twobasic 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 XYZ.~~

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Period wage claims and PAGA Period penalty claims against Defendant.

(2) **Opt-Out of the Class Settlement**. You can exclude yourself from the Class Settlement (opt-out) by submitting the 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 wage claims against ~~XYZ~~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.

~~XYZ~~Defendant will not retaliate against you for any actions you take with respect to ~~theproposed~~theproposed 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 ~~XYZ~~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. ~~XYZ~~Defendant must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees and the Aggrieved Employees must give up their rights to pursue Released Claims (defined below).
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.

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You Can Participate ~~in the~~ 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 and how many Pay Periods you worked at least one day during the PAGA Period, respectively. The number Class Period Workweeks and number of PAGA Period Pay Periods you worked according to ~~XYZ's~~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.

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1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?

Plaintiff is a[n] [former] XYZ Defendant employee. The Action accuses XYZDefendant of violating California labor laws by failing to pay [e.g., overtime wages, minimum wages, and wages due upon termination and reimbursable expenses] and failing to provide [e.g., meal periods, rest breaks and accurate itemized wage statements]. Based on the same claims, Plaintiff has also asserted a claim for civil penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq.) ("PAGA"). Plaintiff is represented by attorneys in the Action: Justin F. Marquez and Arsiné Grigoryan of Wilshire Law Firm, PLC ("Class Counsel.")

XYZDefendant strongly denies violating any laws or failing to pay any wages and contends it compliedwithcompliedwith all applicable laws.

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

So far, the Court has made no determination whether XYZDefendant or Plaintiff is correct on the merits. In the meantime, Plaintiff and XYZDefendant hired ☐ an experienced, neutral mediator ☐ a retired judge (describe alternative means of negotiation) in an effort to resolve the Action by negotiating anand to end the case by agreement (settle the case) rather than continuing the expensive and time-consuming process of litigation. The negotiations were successful. 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 XYZDefendant 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, XYZ does not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims.

By agreeing to settle, Defendant does not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims.

Commented [BS1]: Remove in Orange (Judge Claster)

Plaintiff and Class Counsel strongly believe the Settlement is a good deal for you because they believe that: (1) XYZDefendant 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 isinisin the best interests of the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. The Court preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, authorized this Notice, and scheduled a hearing to determine Final Approval.

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

1. XYZDefendant Will Pay $ $220,000.00 as the Gross Settlement Amount (Gross Settlement). XYZDefendant 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,

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Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel's attorney's 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, ~~XYZ~~Defendant will fund the Gross Settlement not more than ~~[~~14~~]~~ days after the Judgment entered by the Court become 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-

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appealed.

1.2. 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 $_____ (_____%$73,333.33 (33 and 1/3% of the Gross Settlement) to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and up to $_____$20,000.00 for their litigation expenses. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.

B. Up to $_____as$10,000.00as 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 $_____$20,000.00 for PAGA Penalties, allocated 75% to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% 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.

2.3. 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.

3.4. Taxes Owed on Payments to Class Members. Plaintiff and XYZDefendant are asking the Court to approve an allocation of %__10% of each Individual Class Payment to taxable wages("Wage Portion") and %__90% to [e.g., interest, etc.] and penalties. ("Non-Wage Portion."). The Wage Portion is subject to withholdings and will be reported on IRS W-2 Forms. [Option 1: (XYZDefendant 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 XYZDefendant have agreed to these allocations, neither side 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.

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5. Need to Promptly Cash Payment Checks. The front of every check issued for Individual

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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 automatically cancelled, and the monies will be deposited with the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in your name.

~~☐ will be deposited with the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in your name.~~

~~☐ will irrevocably lost to you because they will be paid to a non-profit organization or foundation ("Cy Pres").~~

If the monies represented by your check is sent to the Controller's Unclaimed Property, you should consult the rules of the Fund for instructions on how to retrieve your money.

~~4.~~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 _____, ____, that you wish to opt-out. The easiest way to notify the Administrator is to send a written and signed Request for Exclusion by the _____ _____ 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 wage and hour claims against ~~XYZ~~Defendant.

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 ~~XYZ~~Defendant based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action.

~~5.~~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. Plaintiffs and ~~XYZ~~Defendant have agreed that, in either case, the Settlement will be void: ~~XYZ~~Defendant will not pay any money and Class Members will not release any claims against ~~XYZ~~Defendant.

~~6.~~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.

~~7.~~9. Participating Class Members' Release. After the Judgment is final and ~~XYZ~~Defendant has fully funded the Gross Settlement ~~[Option 1: (~~and separately paid all employer payroll taxes~~)],~~). Participating Class Members will be legally barred from asserting any

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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 ~~XYZ~~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.

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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 ~~(i)~~ 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, ~~e.g., "(a)~~ any and all claims involving any ~~alleged~~recovery of unpaid minimum wages and unpaid overtime (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198), failure to provide meal and rest periods (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512), failure to provide accurate wage statements (Cal. Lab. Code § 226), failure to pay ~~minimum wage; etc.~~].all wages due at separation (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-203), and violation of Unfair Business Practices (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.). Except as set forth in Section 6.3 of ~~the Settlement~~this Agreement, 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~~.~~[viii].

~~8.~~10. Aggrieved Employees' PAGA Release. After the Court's judgment is final, and ~~XYZ~~Defendant has paid the Gross Settlement (and separately paid the employer-side payroll taxes), all Aggrieved Employees will be barred from asserting PAGA claims against ~~XYZ~~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~~outof the Class Settlement, cannot sue, continue to sue, or participate in any other PAGA claim against ~~XYZ~~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 ~~Participating and~~ Non-Participating Class Members who are 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, ~~e.g., (a)~~ any and all claims involving any alleged failure to pay minimum ~~wage; etc.~~].wages or overtime, failure to provide meal and rest periods, failure to provide accurate wage statements, failure to pay all wages due at separation, and failure to reimburse business expenses, including Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 210, 216, 223,

~~4.~~ 225.5, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 245-248.5, 256, 432, 432.5, 432.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1024.5, 1174, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2699, 2699.3, 2810.5 during the PAGA Period. Aggrieved Employees only release these claims for the duration of the PAGA Period.

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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.

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2. Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing $~~_____ by~~$5,000.00by 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 ~~XYZ's~~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 ~~XYZ's~~Defendant's calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods based on ~~XYZ's~~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 ~~XYZ's~~Defendant's Counsel. The Administrator's decision is final. You can't appeal or otherwise challenge its final decision.

5. ~~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?

Submit 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_____, *Pereira v. Rode Microphones, LLC,* Case No. 23STCV17940 , and include your identifying information (full name, address, telephone number, ~~approximatedates~~approximatedates of

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employment, and social security number for verification purposes). You must make the request yourself. If someone else makes the request for you, it-

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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 ~~XYZ~~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)_____.~~

_____(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 _____*Michael Pereira v. Rode Microphones, LLC*, Case No. 23STCV17940 and include your name, current address, telephone number, and approximate dates of employment for ~~[XYZ]~~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 ~~[7]~~10 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. 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 via LACourtConnect

(https~~://www.lacourt.org/lacc/~~.://www.lacourt.org/lacc/. Check the Court's website for the most current information.

It's possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the

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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 ~~XYZ~~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)_____'s website at _____(url)____.You can also telephone or send an email to Class Counsel or the Administrator using the ~~contactinformation~~contactinformation listed below, or consult the Superior Court website by going to (http://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/index.aspx~~)~~) and entering the Case Number for the Action, Case No. _____.23STCV17940. You can also make an appointment to personally review court documents in the Clerk's Office at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse by calling (213) 830-0800.

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

Class Counsel: ~~Name of Attorney:Email Address: Name of Firm: Mailing Address:~~
Justin F. Marquez
justin@wilshirelawfirm.com
Arsiné Grigoryan
arsine.grigoryan@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
3055 Wilshire Blvd., 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Telephone: (213) 784-3830
Facsimile: (213) 381-9989

Settlement Administrator:
Name of Company:
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 your check is already void you should consult the Unclaimed Property Fund forinstructions on how to retrieve the funds

~~☐ you should consult the Unclaimed Property Fund_____for instructions on how to retrieve the funds~~

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- you will have no way to recover the money.

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.

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[i] This Model Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement has been approved by the Court, the Complex litigation judges, and a 2022 Ad Hoc Wage and Hour Committee co-chaired by Judge David Cunningham and JudgeAmy Hogue and comprised of 16 attorneys who regularly represent plaintiffs and defendants in wage and hour case.It is written for settlements of single plaintiff wage and hour actions asserting class claims and PAGA claims againsta single employer (XYZ). The parties will need to revise this form if there are multiple plaintiffs or multiple defendants. For settlements of wage and hour class actions that do not include PAGA claims, please use the Model Class Action Settlement Agreement and Class Notice. THE COURT ASKS ALL COUNSEL USING THIS MODEL AGREEMENT TO ATTACH A REDLINED VERSION TO THEIR MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL SO THAT THE COURT CAN EASILY SEE EXACTLY HOW THE PARTIES HAVE MODIFIED THIS MODEL AGREEMENT.

[ii] Whether the "date of preliminary approval" yields a fair and adequate payment to Class Members may depend on whether the Class Members, in exchange for their releases of claims, receive consideration for time worked between the date when parties reached a settlement and the date of preliminary approval. The Parties' *Kullar* analysis must give the Court sufficient information to allow the Court to determine whether the Gross Settlement Amount "represents a reasonable compromise, given the magnitude and apparent merit of the claims being released, discounted by the risks and expenses of attempting to establish and collect on those claims by pursuing the litigation." (*Luckey v. Superior Court* (2014) 228 Cal.App.4th 81, 94–95, internal quotation marks omitted.)

[iii] See endnote ii above.

[iv] The Parties may need to tailor this language to pay periods or shifts depending on the facts of the case.

[v] The Parties are free to negotiate a payment plan structure, if appropriate, and payment deadlines may fall earlier as necessary thereto.

[vi] Note that this is not the only possible appropriate breakdown depending on the claims at issue in the case (e.g. a settlement that is solely a Labor Code Section 226(a) claim.)

[vii] Insert negotiated terms, if any, addressing the possibility that XYZ's estimates of class size, Workweeks or Pay Periods turn out to be understated such as an ADR clause imposing a duty to engage in good faith negotiations or mediation or an "escalator" clause memorializing XYZ's promise to increase the Gross Settlement Amount in an agreed upon proportion to the percentage by which the calculated class size, Workweeks, or Pay Periods exceeds XYZ's estimates.

[viii] Releases in Notice should track the releases in the Settlement Agreement.

Exhibit 3

APEX
CLASS ACTION ADMINISTRATION

Quotation Request:
Justin Marquez
Wilshire Law Firm, PLC
justin@wilshirelawfirm.com
800.522.7274

Case Name: Pereira v. Rode Microphones
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024
RFP Number: 18137093

Prepared By:
Sean Hartranft
Apex Class Action LLC
Sean@apexclassaction.com
949.878.3676

Settlement Specifications	
Estimated Class Size:	**50**
Certified Language Translation:	**Yes**
Static Settlement Website	**Yes**
Percentage of Undeliverable Mail	**20%**

Professional Services	Fee Calculation	Rate(s)	Quantity	Estimated Cost
Data Analytics and Standardization				
Import and Standardize Data*	Per Hour	$125.00	1	$125.00
Data Analyst	Per Hour	$150.00	1	$150.00
*Data provided must be in a workable format. Apex can standardize provided data at an additional cost of $150/hr.				
			Sub Total:	$275.00
Mailing of Class Notice				
Form Set Up	Per Hour	$120.00	1	$120.00
Print & Mail Class Notice	Per Piece	$2.00	50	$100.00
USPS First Class Postage	Per Piece	$0.87	50	$43.50
Remail Undeliverable Mail (Skip-Trace)	Per Piece	$2.00	10	$20.00
Receive and Process Undeliverable Mail	Per Hour	$75.00	0	$0.00
Process Class Member Correspondence via mail, e-mail & fax	Per Piece	$75.00	0.5	$37.50
NCOA Address Update (USPS)	Static Rate	$15.00	1	$15.00
Certified Language Translation: Spanish	Static Rate	$1,200.00	1	$1,200.00
			Sub Total:	$1,536.00
Project Management				
Project Management	Per Hour	$150.00	2	$300.00
Project Coordinator	Per Hour	$90.00	1	$90.00
Data Analyst and Reporting	Per Hour	$140.00	1	$140.00
			Sub Total:	$530.00

APEX
CLASS ACTION ADMINISTRATION

Professional Services	Fee Calculation	Rate(s)	Quantity	Estimated Cost
Toll-Free Contact Center, Website & Reporting				
Bilingual Toll-Free Contact Center	Static Rate	$15.00	1	$15.00
Settlement Website: Static Apex URL	Static Rate	$500.00	1	$500.00
Settlement Status Reports	Static Rate	$750.00	1	Waived
			Sub Total:	$515.00
Distribution & Settlement Fund Management				
Settlement Calculations (Preliminary and Final)	Per Hour	$120.00	1	$120.00
Account Management and Reconciliation	Per Hour	$140.00	1	$140.00
Print & Mail Distribution Settlement Check (W-2/1099)	Per Piece	$1.50	50	$75.00
USPS First Class Postage	Per Piece	$0.68	50	$34.00
Remail Distribution to Updated Address (Skip Trace)	Per Piece	$2.00	5	$10.00
Individual Income Tax Preparation & Reporting	Per Hour	$100.00	4	$400.00
QSF Income Tax Reporting (per calendar year)	Per Year	$750.00	1	$750.00
Unclaimed Funds: State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund	Static Rate	$250.00	1	$250.00
			Sub Total:	$1,779.00
Post Distribution Reconciliation				
Bank Account Reconciliation	Per Hour	$135.00	1	$135.00
Project Management Reconciliation	Per Hour	$100.00	1	$100.00
Declarations	Per Hour	$120.00	1	$120.00
			Sub Total:	$355.00

WILL NOT EXCEED: $4,990.00

Thank you for your business!

APEX
CLASS ACTION ADMINISTRATION

Terms & Conditions

The following Terms and Conditions govern the provision of all services to be provided by Apex Class Action and its affiliates ("Apex") to the Client. These terms and conditions are binding and shall apply to all services provided by Apex in relation to any related services or products.

1. Services: Apex commits to providing the Client with the administrative services detailed in the attached Proposal (the "Services").

2. Payment Terms: As compensation for the legal services to be provided, the Client agrees to pay Apex all fees detailed in the Proposal. The fees quoted in the Proposal (and any subsequent proposals for additional services) are estimates based on the information provided to Apex by the Client. Apex makes no representation that the estimated fees in the Proposal or any subsequent proposals for additional services shall equal the actual fees charged by Apex to the Client, which fees (including individual line items) may be greater or less than estimated. If additional services are requested on an hourly basis and are not specifically detailed in the Proposal, Apex will prepare estimates for such services subject to approval by the Client. In the performance of such additional services, Apex will charge standard hourly fees which shall apply.

3. Incurred Expenses: In relation to the provision of services outlined in this agreement, the Client agrees to reimburse Apex for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred. Such expenses may include, but are not limited to, costs associated with postage, media production or publication, banking fees, brokerage fees, messenger and delivery service expenses, travel expenses, filing fees, office supplies, meals, staff overtime expenses, and other related costs and expenses. If not otherwise specified in writing, fees for print notice and certain expenses, such as media publication and postage, must be paid immediately upon invoicing and, in certain cases, at least ten (10) days prior to the date on which such expenses will be incurred.

4. Invoicing: Apex shall present invoices for its fees and expenses on a monthly basis, except as provided in Section 3. The Client agrees to pay each invoice within 30 days of receipt. In case of non-payment within 90 days of the billing date, an additional service charge of 1.5% per month may apply. Apex reserves the right to increase its prices, charges, and rates annually, subject to reasonable adjustments. If any price increases exceed 10%, Apex shall give thirty (30) days' notice to the Client. In the event of any unpaid invoices beyond 120 days of the due date, Apex reserves the right to withhold services and reports until payment is received, subject to notice to the Client. It is important to note that Apex's failure to provide services and reports in such instances shall not constitute a default under this agreement.

5. Case Duration: The duration of these Terms and Conditions, except for the data storage obligations stated in Section 13, shall be in effect until 30 days following the completion of the Services as described in the Proposal. The parties may extend these Terms and Conditions in writing for a mutually agreed-upon period beyond this initial 30-day period.

6. Termination of Services: Either party may terminate the Services by providing thirty (30) days written notice to the other party. Alternatively, termination may occur immediately upon written notice for Cause, as defined below. Cause means (I) Apex's gross negligence or willful misconduct that causes serious and material harm to the Client; (ii) the Client's failure to pay Apex invoices for more than one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of the invoice; or (iii) the accrual of invoices or unpaid services where Apex reasonably believes it will not be paid. Termination of the Services shall not relieve the Client of its obligation to pay Apex for services rendered prior to the termination.

7. Independent Contractor: As an independent contractor, Apex will provide services under the terms of this agreement. It is agreed that neither Apex nor any of its employees will be considered an employee of the Client. Consequently, Apex and its employees will not be eligible for any benefits provided by the Client to its employees. The Client will not make any tax deductions from the payments due to Apex for state or federal tax purposes. Apex will be solely responsible for paying all taxes and other payments due on payments received from the Client under this agreement.

8. Apex warrants that the Services outlined in the Proposal will be performed in accordance with the standards generally adhered to by professionals providing similar services. It is acknowledged that the Services may entail the likelihood of some human and machine errors, omissions, delays, and losses that may result in damage. However, Apex shall not be held liable for such errors, omissions, delays, or losses unless they are caused by its gross negligence or willful misconduct. In the event of any breach of this warranty by Apex, the Client's sole remedy will be limited to Apex's rerunning, at its expense, any inaccurate output provided that such inaccuracies occurred solely as a result of Apex's gross negligence or willful misconduct under this agreement.

9. Limitation of Liability: The Client acknowledges that Apex shall not be held liable for any consequential, special, or incidental damages incurred by the Client in relation to the performance of Services, whether the claim is based on breach of warranty, contract, tort (including negligence), strict liability, or any other grounds. Under no circumstances shall Apex's liability to the Client, for any Losses (including court costs and reasonable attorney's fees), arising out of or in connection with these Terms and Conditions, exceed the total amount charged or chargeable to the Client for the specific service(s) that caused the Losses.

10. Indemnification: The Client agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Apex from any losses, suits, actions, judgments, fines, costs, liabilities, or claims arising from any action or proceeding relating to the Services provided by Apex, regardless of whether or not it results in liability (collectively referred to as "Indemnified Claims"). However, this indemnification provision shall not apply to the extent that such Indemnified Claims are caused by Apex's willful misconduct, gross negligence, or breach of these Terms and Conditions. This provision shall survive termination of the Services.

11. Confidentiality: Apex will uphold strict confidentiality between Apex and the Client and applies to all non-public records, documents, systems, procedures, processes, software, and other information received by either party in connection with the performance of services under these terms. Both Apex and the Client agree to keep confidential all such non-public information, including any material marked or identified as confidential or proprietary. Any such confidential information shall not be disclosed, provided, disseminated, or otherwise made available to any third party, except as required to fulfill the parties' obligations under these terms. The parties acknowledge that in the event of any request to disclose any confidential information in connection with a legal or administrative proceeding, or otherwise to comply with a legal requirement, prompt notice of such request must be given to the other party to enable that party to seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy or to waive compliance with the relevant provisions of these terms. If the Client seeks a protective order or another remedy, Apex, at the Client's expense, will cooperate with and assist the Client in such efforts. If the Client fails to obtain a protective order or waives compliance with the relevant provisions of these terms, Apex will disclose only that portion of the confidential information that it determines it is required to disclose. This confidentiality provision shall survive termination of the services provided. Both parties acknowledge and agree that any breach of this these terms may cause irreparable harm to the non-breaching party and that injunctive relief may be necessary to prevent any actual or threatened breach. The terms set forth between the parties supersede all prior negotiations, understandings, and agreements between the parties concerning confidentiality. These terms may only be amended in writing and signed by both parties.

12. Ownership of the programs, system data, and materials provided by Apex to the Client during the course of providing services herein shall solely belong to Apex. It is acknowledged that fees and expenses paid by the Client do not confer any rights in such property. It is also understood that the said property is made available to the Client solely for the purpose of using it during and in connection with the services provided by Apex.

13. Apex may derive financial benefits from financial institutions in connection with the deposit and investment of funds with such institutions, including without limitation, discounts on eligible banking services and fees, and loans at favorable rates.

14. COMPLETE AGREEMENT. These Terms and Conditions, along with the attached Proposal, represent the complete agreement and understanding between the parties and override any prior agreements (whether written or oral) between Apex and the Client regarding the subject matter. Any modification to these Terms and Conditions may only be made in writing and must be signed by both Apex and the Client. The headings in this document are included for convenience only and do not alter or restrict any provisions in these Terms and Conditions. They may not be used in the interpretation of these Terms and Conditions.

15. This provision outlines the requirements for providing notice or other communication under this agreement. All such communications must be in writing and can be delivered either by personal delivery or through U.S. Mail with prepaid postage or overnight courier. Once delivered personally or sent through the mail, the notice will be considered given after five (5) days from the deposit date in the U.S. Mail. Alternatively, if sent through an overnight courier, the notice will be considered given one business day after delivery to the such courier. It's important to note that the notice must be provided to a responsible officer or principal of the Client or Apex, depending on the case.

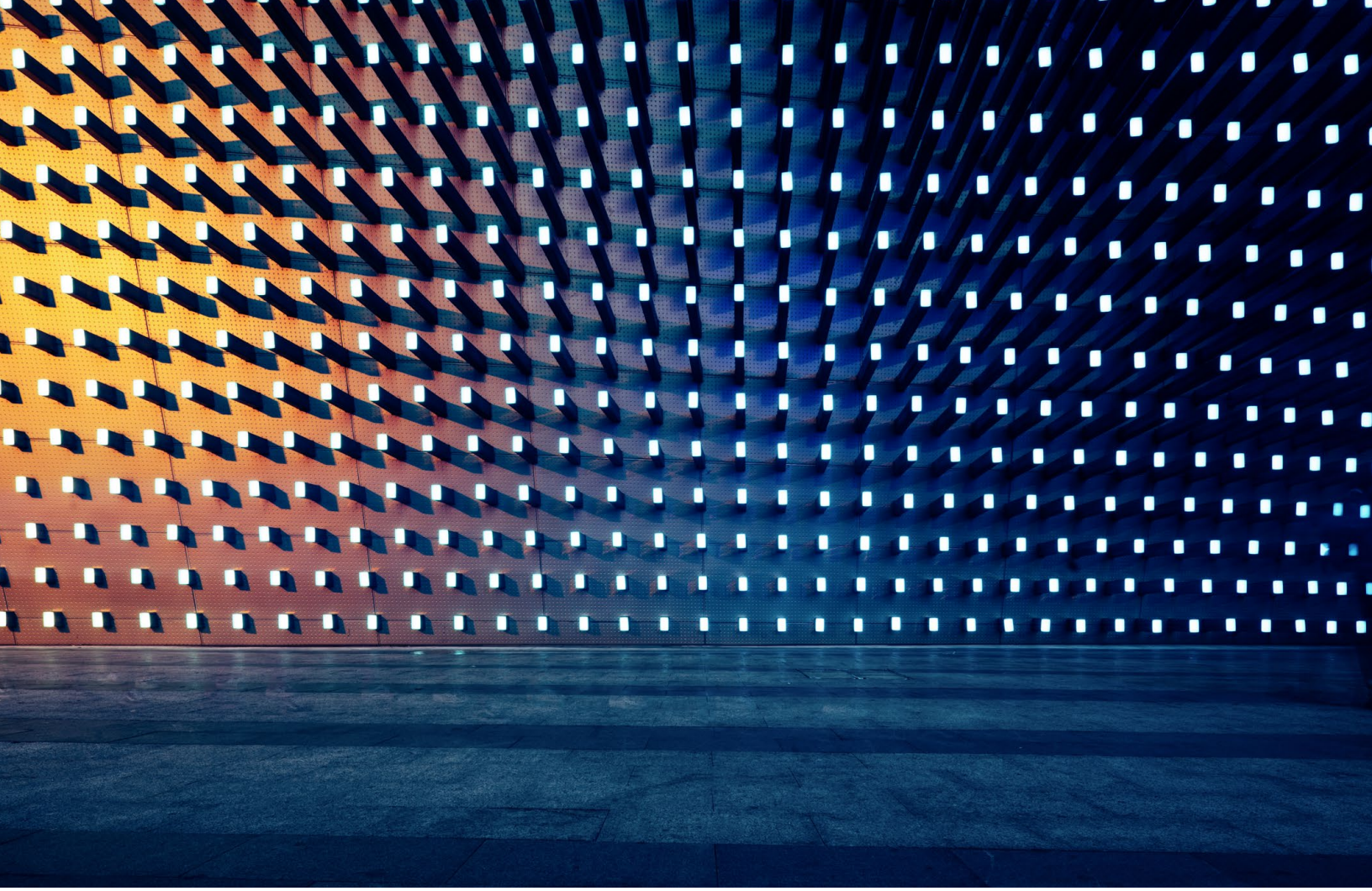
16. Force Majeure: In the event of any failure or delay in performance due to circumstances beyond Apex's control, including but not limited to strikes, lockouts, fires, floods, acts of God or public enemy, riots, civil disorders, insurrections, war or war conditions, or interference by civil or military authorities, Apex shall not be held liable for any resulting loss or damage. The time for performance under this agreement shall be extended for a period equal to the duration of the disabling cause and a reasonable time thereafter. This provision shall constitute a force majeure clause and shall be construed accordingly.

17. The applicable state and federal laws shall govern the interpretation and enforcement of these Terms and Conditions. No choice of law or conflict of laws provisions shall affect this governing law provision.

18. Severability: This applies to all clauses and covenants contained within these Terms and Conditions. In the event that any clause or covenant is deemed invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permissible by law. The validity, legality, and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall in no way be affected or impaired by the invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability of any provision deemed so.

19. Nonwaiver: This applies to these Terms and Conditions. This means that any failure by one party to enforce a provision of these terms on one or more occasions shall not be construed as a waiver of that provision. In other words, any failure to enforce a provision does not give up the right to enforce it in the future. All provisions of these Terms and Conditions remain in full force and effect, regardless of any prior failure to enforce them.

Exhibit 4



ELM Solutions

2022 Real Rate Report®

The industry's leading analysis of law firm rates, trends, and practices

Wolters Kluwer

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Report Use Considerations

2022 Real Rate Report

- Examines law firm rates over time
- Identifies rates by location, experience, firm size, areas of expertise, industry, and timekeeper role (i.e., partner, associate, and paralegal)
- Itemizes variables that drive rates up or down

All the analyses included in the report derive from the actual rates charged by law firm professionals as recorded on invoices submitted and approved for payment.

Examining real, approved rate information, along with the ranges of those rates and their changes over time, highlights the role these variables play in driving aggregate legal cost and income. The analyses can energize questions for both corporate clients and law firm principals.

Clients might ask whether they are paying the right amount for different types of legal services, while law firm principals might ask whether they are charging the right amount for legal services and whether to modify their pricing approach.

Some key factors[1] that drive rates[2]:

Attorney location - Lawyers in urban and major metropolitan areas tend to charge more when compared with lawyers in rural areas or small towns.

Litigation complexity - The cost of representation will be higher if the case is particularly complex or time-consuming; for example, if there are a large number of documents to review, many witnesses to depose, and numerous procedural steps, the case is likely to cost more (regardless of other factors like the lawyer's level of experience).

Years of experience and reputation - A more experienced, higher-profile lawyer is often going to charge more, but absorbing this higher cost at the outset may make more sense than hiring a less expensive lawyer who will likely take time and billable hours to come up to speed on unfamiliar legal and procedural issues.

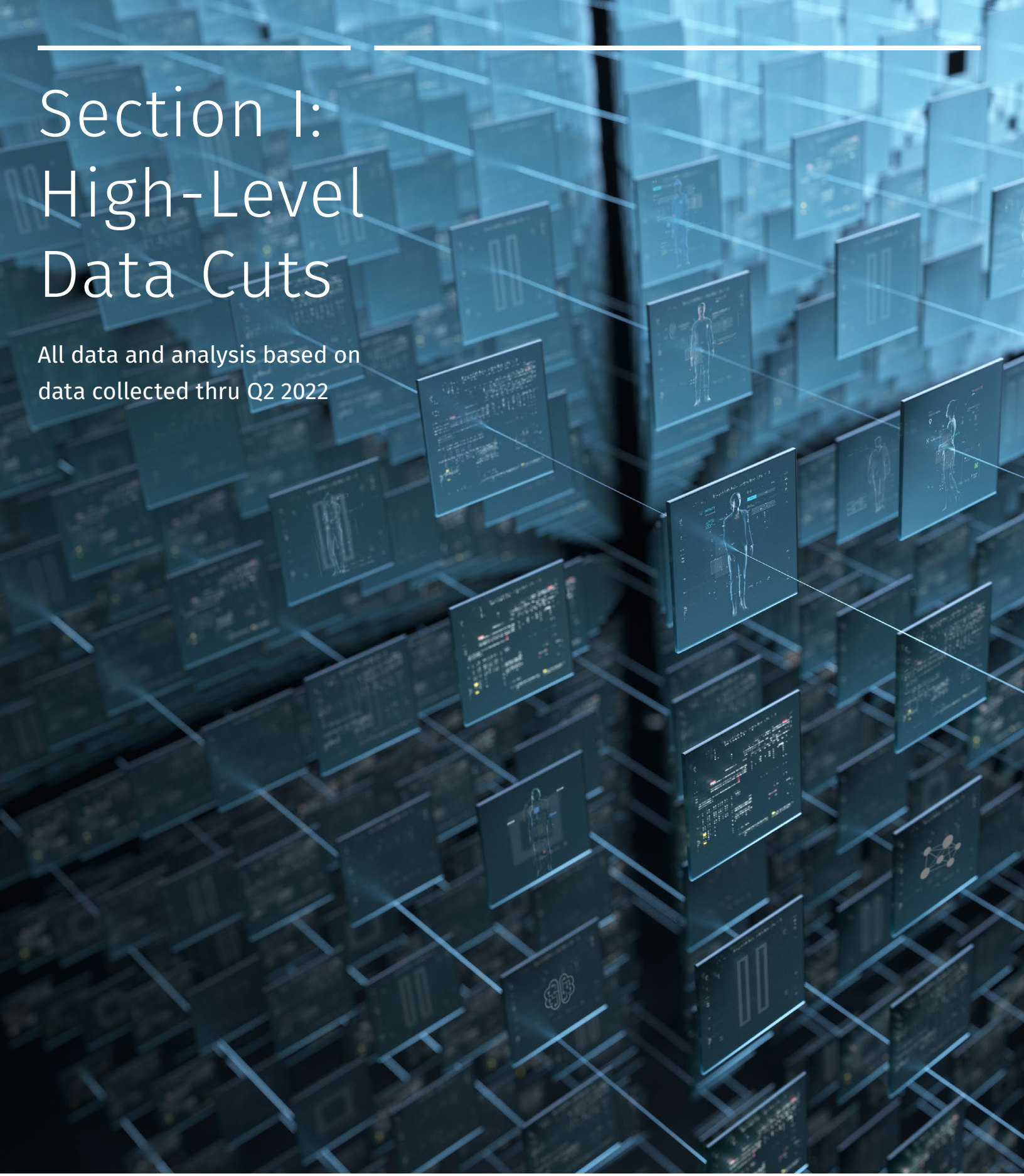
Overhead - The costs associated with the firm's support network (paralegals, clerks, and assistants), document preparation, consultants, research, and other expenses.

Firm size – The rates can increase if the firm is large and has various timekeeper roles at the firm. For example, the cost to work with an associate or partner at a larger firm will be higher compared to a firm that has one to two associates and a paralegal.

1 **David Goguen, J.D., University of San Francisco School of Law (2020) Guide to Legal Services Billing Retrieved from:** https://www.lawyers.com/legal-info/research/guide-to-legal-services-billing-rates.html
2 **Source: 2018 RRR.** Factor order validated in multiple analyses since 2010

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

All data and analysis based on data collected thru Q2 2022



Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities
By Matter Type

2022 - Real Rates for Associate and Partner **Trend Analysis - Mean**

City	Matter Type	Role	n	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	2022	2021	2020
Jackson MS	Litigation	Associate	56	$55	$225	$250	$178	$203	$175
	Non-Litigation	Partner	24	$315	$420	$485	$418	$394	$375
		Associate	25	$55	$126	$255	$155	$125	$259
Kansas City MO	Litigation	Partner	74	$413	$450	$556	$472	$450	$450
		Associate	50	$252	$329	$385	$319	$316	$305
	Non-Litigation	Partner	101	$411	$487	$615	$519	$487	$464
		Associate	73	$250	$320	$385	$322	$312	$285
Las Vegas NV	Non-Litigation	Partner	20	$350	$425	$525	$440	$422	$432
		Associate	11	$238	$267	$368	$301	$297	$282
Little Rock AR	Non-Litigation	Partner	11	$215	$215	$308	$264	$256	$298
Los Angeles CA	Litigation	Partner	322	$516	$725	$1,045	$799	$739	$702
		Associate	408	$400	$615	$855	$642	$606	$564
	Non-Litigation	Partner	521	$596	$868	$1,201	$903	$902	$858
		Associate	667	$441	$603	$845	$653	$712	$648

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities
By Matter Type

2022 - Real Rates for Associate and Partner **Trend Analysis - Mean**

City	Matter Type	Role	n	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	2022	2021	2020
Minneapolis MN	Non-Litigation	Associate	83	$340	$421	$528	$425	$408	$384
Nashville TN	Litigation	Partner	24	$275	$320	$456	$363	$378	$403
	Non-Litigation	Partner	78	$412	$484	$576	$505	$481	$470
		Associate	59	$270	$330	$384	$340	$315	$285
New Orleans LA	Litigation	Partner	47	$290	$332	$412	$343	$330	$340
		Associate	42	$231	$243	$340	$278	$290	$275
	Non-Litigation	Partner	32	$295	$347	$405	$419	$380	$391
		Associate	21	$244	$250	$278	$273	$303	$258
New York NY	Litigation	Partner	614	$475	$675	$1,088	$808	$784	$746
		Associate	631	$323	$460	$729	$545	$527	$509
	Non-Litigation	Partner	1,376	$765	$1,235	$1,638	$1,189	$1,139	$1,090
		Associate	1,809	$550	$776	$1,050	$796	$766	$716
Oklahoma City OK	Non-Litigation	Partner	14	$235	$338	$393	$337	$319	$311
Omaha NE	Litigation	Partner	12	$293	$339	$353	$329	$338	$341

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities
By Matter Type

2022 - Real Rates for Associate and Partner **Trend Analysis - Mean**

City	Matter Type	Role	n	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	2022	2021	2020
Rochester NY	Non-Litigation	Partner	12	$270	$360	$488	$386	$341	$446
		Associate	13	$220	$310	$375	$314	$278	$287
Sacramento CA	Non-Litigation	Partner	11	$381	$437	$682	$534	$559	$516
Salt Lake City UT	Litigation	Partner	14	$246	$353	$468	$363	$333	$379
	Non-Litigation	Partner	42	$297	$371	$447	$391	$363	$353
		Associate	22	$220	$240	$270	$248	$247	$228
San Diego CA	Litigation	Associate	23	$151	$225	$300	$255	$258	$264
	Non-Litigation	Partner	89	$332	$540	$1,066	$699	$667	$649
		Associate	71	$250	$325	$424	$373	$378	$351
San Francisco CA	Litigation	Partner	143	$423	$675	$995	$742	$711	$691
		Associate	98	$325	$430	$731	$525	$517	$470
	Non-Litigation	Partner	221	$475	$750	$950	$758	$746	$741
		Associate	151	$338	$486	$702	$545	$563	$507
San Jose CA	Litigation	Partner	33	$654	$921	$1,133	$916	$907	$864

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities
By Matter Type

2022 - Real Rates for Associate and Partner **Trend Analysis - Mean**

City	Matter Type	Role	n	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	2022	2021	2020
San Jose CA	Litigation	Associate	22	$461	$580	$745	$608	$593	$498
	Non-Litigation	Partner	50	$660	$864	$1,303	$969	$985	$887
		Associate	46	$380	$460	$775	$616	$639	$567
Seattle WA	Litigation	Partner	76	$497	$655	$760	$635	$567	$510
		Associate	61	$394	$468	$530	$447	$453	$395
	Non-Litigation	Partner	148	$410	$526	$760	$571	$547	$547
		Associate	113	$310	$395	$502	$422	$401	$377
St. Louis MO	Litigation	Partner	46	$260	$350	$435	$376	$373	$388
		Associate	17	$197	$225	$250	$228	$237	$232
	Non-Litigation	Partner	57	$352	$419	$540	$451	$446	$473
Tampa FL	Litigation	Partner	31	$369	$508	$595	$490	$467	$452
		Associate	15	$269	$298	$368	$316	$302	$306
Trenton NJ	Non-Litigation	Partner	21	$408	$600	$700	$569	$620	$581
		Associate	12	$480	$495	$500	$448	$376	$387

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities
By Years of Experience

2022 - Real Rates for Associate | **Trend Analysis - Mean**

City	Years of Experience	n	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	2022	2021	2020
Kansas City MO	3 to Fewer Than 7 Years	15	$270	$325	$360	$318	$295	$283
	7 or More Years	28	$292	$334	$391	$333	$312	$302
Los Angeles CA	Fewer Than 3 Years	63	$429	$595	$654	$556	$524	$488
	3 to Fewer Than 7 Years	144	$486	$688	$838	$662	$626	$530
	7 or More Years	171	$351	$550	$840	$600	$634	$586
Miami FL	3 to Fewer Than 7 Years	19	$300	$360	$457	$380	$331	$313
	7 or More Years	36	$295	$450	$595	$460	$433	$385
Minneapolis MN	Fewer Than 3 Years	11	$374	$405	$446	$408		$230
	3 to Fewer Than 7 Years	27	$340	$451	$510	$421	$358	$356
	7 or More Years	27	$423	$468	$585	$478	$438	$392
Nashville TN	7 or More Years	12	$219	$245	$345	$282	$266	$262
New Orleans LA	3 to Fewer Than 7 Years	12	$232	$243	$265	$261	$242	$245
	7 or More Years	18	$243	$312	$343	$306	$318	$294
New York NY	Fewer Than 3 Years	142	$443	$622	$775	$629	$600	$652

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

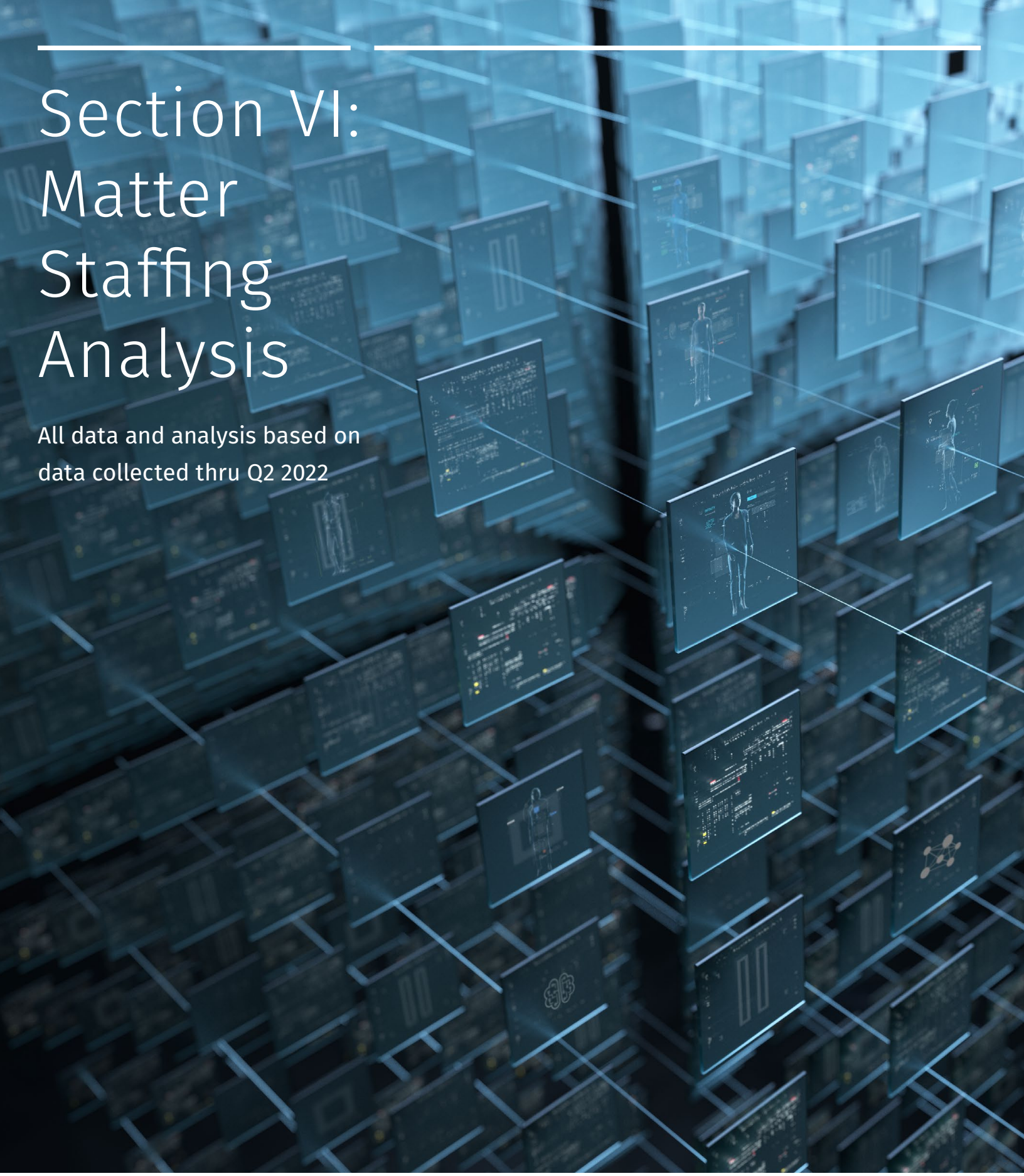
Cities
By Years of Experience

2022 - Real Rates for Partner **Trend Analysis - Mean**

City	Years of Experience	n	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile	2022	2021	2020
Kansas City MO	Fewer Than 21 Years	46	$400	$450	$537	$473	$411	$397
	21 or More Years	68	$440	$553	$658	$539	$497	$491
Las Vegas NV	Fewer Than 21 Years	12	$284	$381	$495	$389	$349	$343
	21 or More Years	13	$350	$425	$515	$468	$456	$472
Los Angeles CA	Fewer Than 21 Years	183	$533	$801	$1,075	$804	$797	$682
	21 or More Years	333	$550	$765	$1,133	$863	$842	$808
Memphis TN	Fewer Than 21 Years	14	$288	$331	$380	$345	$317	$328
	21 or More Years	15	$355	$415	$425	$394	$382	$375
Miami FL	Fewer Than 21 Years	57	$370	$450	$598	$490	$498	$443
	21 or More Years	104	$388	$581	$749	$584	$580	$536
Milwaukee WI	21 or More Years	16	$302	$454	$613	$589	$515	$530
Minneapolis MN	Fewer Than 21 Years	36	$470	$530	$607	$532	$486	$499
	21 or More Years	84	$507	$675	$796	$656	$620	$589
Nashville TN	Fewer Than 21 Years	28	$375	$405	$535	$449	$405	$397

Section VI: Matter Staffing Analysis

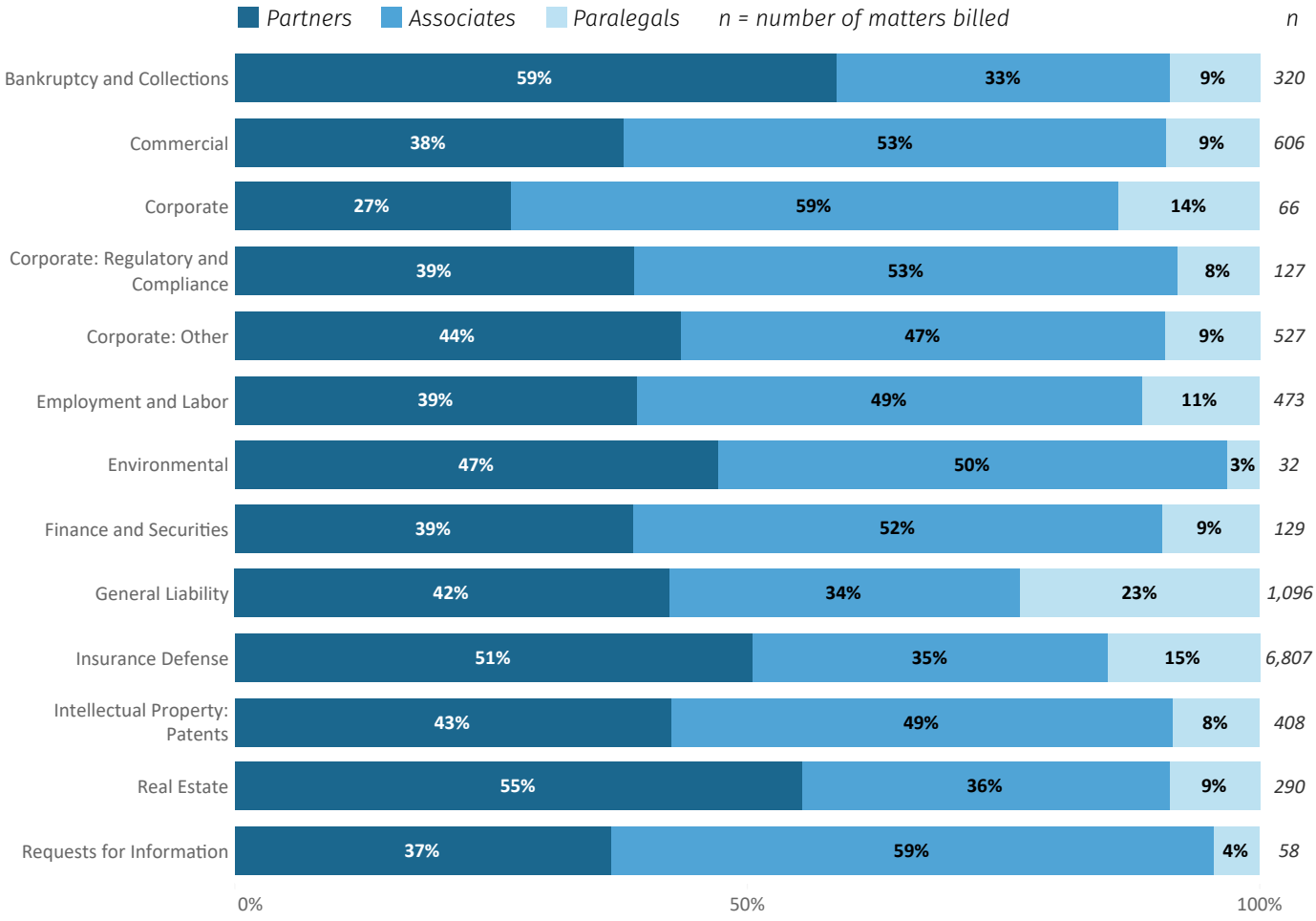
All data and analysis based on data collected thru Q2 2022



Section VI: Matter Staffing Analysis

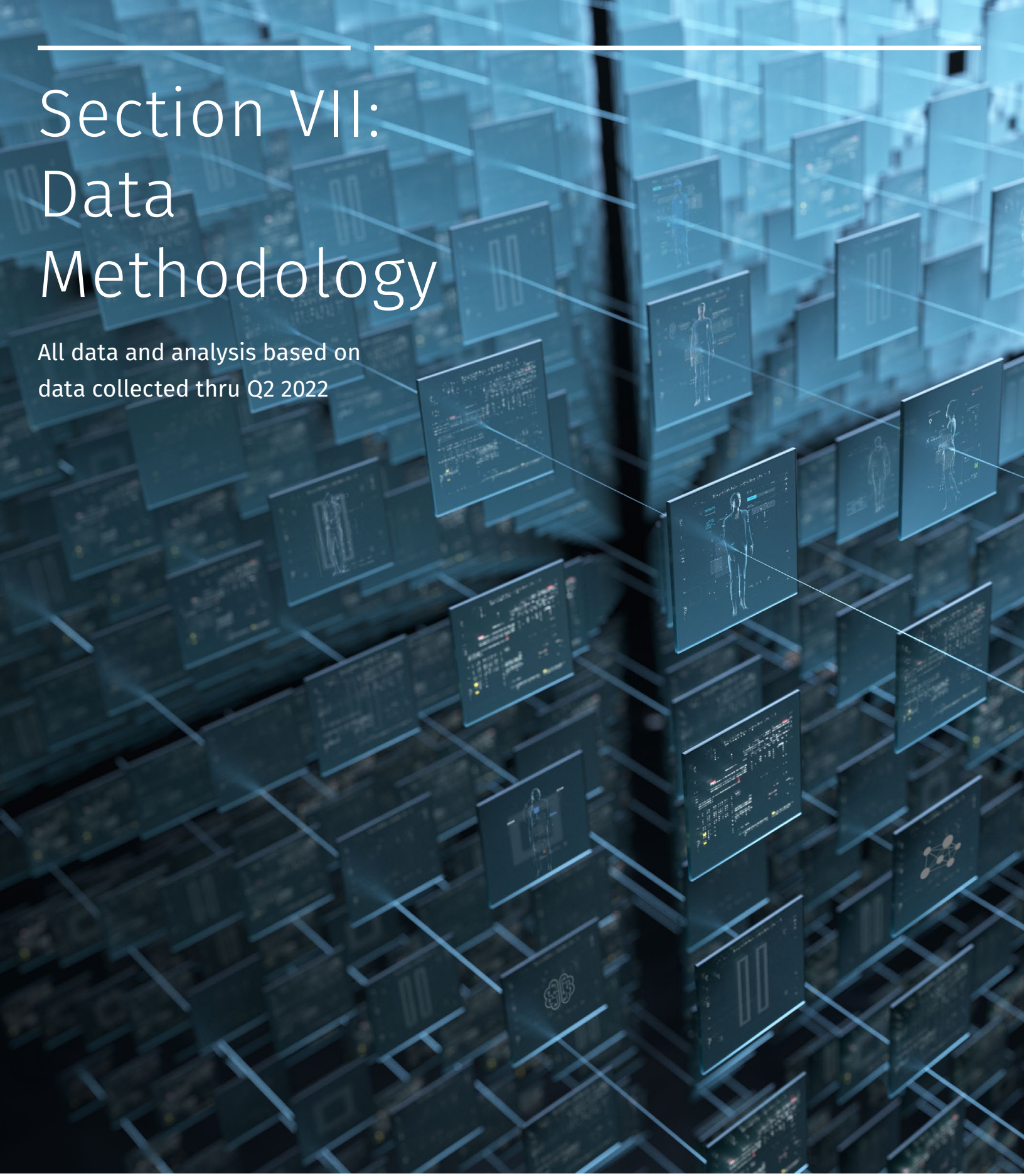
Long Litigation Matters, More Than 100 Total Hours Billed

2019 to 2022 -- Percentage of Hours Billed per Matter



Section VII: Data Methodology

All data and analysis based on data collected thru Q2 2022



Appendix: Data Methodology

Invoice Information

Data in Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions' reference database and the 2022 Real Rate Report were taken from invoice line-item entries contained in invoices received and approved by participating companies.

Invoice data were received in the Legal Electronic Data Exchange Standard (LEDES) format (LEDES.org). The following information was extracted from those invoices and their line items:

- Law firm (which exists as a random number in the ELM Solutions reference database)
- Timekeeper ID (which exists as a random number in the ELM Solutions reference database)
- Matter ID (which exists as a random number in the ELM Solutions reference database)
- Timekeeper's position (role) within the law firm (partner, associate, paralegal, etc.)
- Uniform Task-Based Management System Code Set, Task Codes, and Activity Codes (UTBMS.com)
- Date of service
- Hours billed
- Hourly rate billed
- Fees billed

Non-Invoice Information

To capture practice area details, the matter ID within each invoice was associated with matter profiles containing areas of work in the systems of each company. The areas of work were then systematically categorized into legal practice areas. Normalization of practice areas was done based on company mappings to system-level practice areas available in the ELM Solutions system and by naming convention.

The majority of analyses included in this report have been mapped to one of 11 practice areas, further divided into sub-areas and litigation/non-litigation (for more information on practice areas and sub-areas, please refer to pages 232-234).

To capture location and jurisdiction details, law firms and timekeepers were systematically mapped to the existing profiles within ELM Solutions systems, as well as with publicly available data sources for further validation and normalization. Where city location information is provided, it includes any address within that city's defined Core-Based Statistical Area (CBSA) as defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The CBSAs are urban centers with populations of 10,000 or more and include all adjacent counties that are economically integrated with that urban center.

Where the analyses focus on partners, associates, and paralegals, the underlying data occasionally included some sub-roles, such as "senior partner" or "junior associate." In such instances, those timekeeper sub-roles were placed within the broader partner, associate, and paralegal segments.

Demographics regarding law firm size, location, and lawyer years of experience were augmented by incorporating publicly available information.

Appendix: Data Methodology

A Note on US Cities

Principal City	CBSA Name
Hartford, CT	Hartford-East Hartford-Middletown, CT
Honolulu, HI	Urban Honolulu HI
Houston, TX	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX
Indianapolis, IN	Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson, IN
Jackson, MS	Jackson, MS
Jacksonville, FL	Jacksonville, FL
Kansas City, MO	Kansas City, MO-KS
Lafayette, LA	Lafayette, LA
Las Vegas, NV	Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV
Lexington, KY	Lexington-Fayette, KY
Little Rock, AR	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, AR
Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA
Louisville, KY	Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN
Madison, WI	Madison, WI
Memphis, TN	Memphis-Forrest City, TN-MS-AR
Miami, FL	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL
Milwaukee, WI	Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI
Minneapolis, MN	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI
Nashville, TN	Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN
New Haven, CT	New Haven-Milford, CT
New Orleans, LA	New Orleans-Metairie, LA
New York, NY	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA
Oklahoma City, OK	Oklahoma City, OK
Omaha, NE	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA
Orlando, FL	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD
Phoenix, AZ	Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ
Pittsburgh, PA	Pittsburgh, PA
Portland, ME	Portland-South Portland, ME
Portland, OR	Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA
Providence, RI	Providence-Warwick, RI-MA
Raleigh, NC	Raleigh-Cary, NC
Reno, NV	Reno-Carson City-Fernley, NV

Appendix: Data Methodology

Bankruptcy and Collections

Chapter 11
Collections
General/Other
Workouts and Restructuring

Commercial (Commercial Transactions and Agreements)

Contract Breach or Dispute
General, Drafting, and Review
General/Other

Corporate[1]

Antitrust and Competition
Corporate Development
General/Other
Governance
Information and Technology
Mergers, Acquisitions, and Divestitures
Partnerships and Joint Ventures
Regulatory and Compliance
Tax
Treasury
White Collar/Fraud/Abuse

Employment and Labor

ADA
Agreements
Compensation and Benefits
Discrimination, Retaliation, and Harassment/EEO
Employee Dishonesty/Misconduct
ERISA
General/Other
Immigration
Union Relations and Negotiations/NLRB
Wages, Tips, and Overtime
Wrongful Termination

Environmental

General/Other
Health and Safety
Superfund
Waste/Remediation

Finance and Securities

Commercial Loans and Financing
Debt/Equity Offerings
Fiduciary Services
General/Other
Investments and Other Financial Instruments
Loans and Financing
SEC Filings and Financial Reporting
Securities and Banking Regulations

General Liability

Asbestos/Mesothelioma
Auto and Transportation
Consumer Related Claims
Crime, Dishonesty and Fraud
General/Other
Personal Injury/Wrongful Death
Premises
Product and Product Liability
Property Damage
Toxic Tort

1 All references to "Corporate: General/Other" in the Real Rate Report are the aggregation of all Corporate sub-areas excluding the Mergers, Acquisitions, and Divestitures sub-area and the Regulatory and Compliance sub-area.

Exhibit 5

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Business & Practice

Big Law Rates Topping $2,000 Leave Value 'In Eye of Beholder'

By Roy Strom

Column
June 9, 2022, 2:30 AM

Welcome back to the Big Law Business column on the changing legal marketplace written by me, Roy Strom. Today, we look at a new threshold for lawyers' billing rates and why it's so difficult to put a price on high-powered attorneys. Sign up to receive this column in your inbox on Thursday mornings. Programming note: Big Law Business will be off next week.

Some of the nation's top law firms are charging more than $2,000 an hour, setting a new pinnacle after a two-year burst in demand.

Partners at Hogan Lovells and Latham & Watkins have crossed the threshold, according to court documents in bankruptcy cases filed within the past year.

Other firms came close to the mark, billing more than $1,900, according to the documents. They include Kirkland & Ellis, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, Boies Schiller Flexner, and Sidley Austin.

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett litigator Bryce Friedman, who helps big-name clients out of jams, especially when they're accused of fraud, charges $1,965 every 60 minutes, according to a court document.

In need of a former acting US Solicitor General? Hogan Lovells partner Neal Katyal bills time at $2,465 an hour. Want to hire famous litigator David Boies? That'll cost $1,950 an hour (at least). Reuters was first to report their fees.

Eye-watering rates are nothing new for Big Law firms, which typically ask clients to pay higher prices at least once a year, regardless of broader market conditions.

"Value is in the eye of the beholder," said John O'Connor, a San Francisco-based expert on legal fees. "The perceived value of a good lawyer can reach into the multi-billions of dollars."

Kirkland & Ellis declined to comment on its billing rates. None of the other firms responded to requests to comment.

Charge It Up

Big Law firms are crossing the $2,000-an-hour threshold after two years of surging rates driven by an increase in demand for lawyers.

Firm	Highest Billing Rate
Hogan Lovells	$2,465
Latham & Watkins	$2,075
Kirkland & Ellis	$1,995
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett	$1,965
Boies Schiller Flexner	$1,950
Sidley Austin	$1,900

Source: Court documents

Bloomberg Law

Law firms have been more successful raising rates than most other businesses over the past 15 years.

Law firm rates rose by roughly 40 percent from 2007 to 2020, or just short of 3 percent per year, Thomson Reuters Peer Monitor data show. US inflation rose by about 28% during that time.

The 100 largest law firms in the past two years achieved their largest rate increases in more than a decade, Peer Monitor says. The rates surged more than 6% in 2020 and grew another 5.6% through November of last year. Neither level had been breached since 2008.

The price hikes occurred during a once-in-a-decade surge in demand for law services, which propelled profits at firms to new levels. Fourteen law firms reported average profits per equity partner in 2021 over $5 million, according to data from The American Lawyer. That was up from six the previous year.

The highest-performing firms, where lawyers charge the highest prices, have outperformed their smaller peers. Firms with leading practices in markets such as mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, and real estate were forced to turn away work at some points during the pandemic-fueled surge.

Firms receive relatively tepid pushback from their giant corporate clients, especially when advising on bet-the-company litigation or billion-dollar deals.

The portion of bills law firms collected—a sign of how willingly clients pay full-freight—rose during the previous two years after drifting lower following the Great Financial Crisis. Collection rates last year breached 90% for the first time since 2009, Peer Monitor data show.

Professional rules prohibit lawyers from charging “unconscionable” or “unreasonable” rates. But that doesn’t preclude clients from paying any price they perceive as valuable, said Jacqueline Vinaccia, a San Diego-based lawyer who testifies on lawyer fee disputes.

Lawyers’ fees are usually only contested when they will be paid by a third party.

That happened recently with Hogan Lovells’ Katyal, whose nearly $2,500 an hour fee was contested in May by a US trustee overseeing a bankruptcy case involving a Johnson & Johnson unit facing claims its talc-based powders caused cancer.

The trustee, who protects the financial interests of bankruptcy estates, argued Katyal’s fee was more than $1,000 an hour higher than rates charged by lawyers in the same case at Jones Day and Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom.

A hearing on the trustee’s objection is scheduled for next week. Hogan Lovells did not respond to a request for comment on the objection.

Vinaccia said the firm’s options will be to reduce its fee, withdraw from the case, or argue the levy is reasonable, most likely based on Katyal’s extensive experience arguing appeals.

Still, the hourly rate shows just how valuable the most prestigious lawyers’ time can be—even compared to their highly compensated competitors.

“If the argument is that Jones Day and Skadden Arps are less expensive, then you’re already talking about the cream of the crop, the top-of-the-barrel law firms,” Vinaccia said. “I can’t imagine a case in which I might argue those two firms are more reasonable than the rates I’m dealing with.”

Worth Your Time

On Cravath: Cravath Swaine & Moore is heading to Washington, opening its first new office since 1973 by hiring former heads of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Meghan Tribe reports the move comes as Big Law firms are looking to add federal government expertise as clients face more regulatory scrutiny.

On Big Law Promotions: It’s rare that associates get promotions to partner in June, but Camille Vasquez is now a Brown Rudnick partner after she shot to fame representing Johnny Depp in his defamation trial against ex-wife Amber Heard.

On Working From Home: I spoke this week with Quinn Emanuel’s John Quinn about why he thinks law firm life is never going back to the office-first culture that was upset by the pandemic. Listen to the podcast here.

00:00:00

That's it for this week! Thanks for reading and please send me your thoughts, critiques, and tips.

To contact the reporter on this story: Roy Strom in Chicago at rstrom@bloomberglaw.com

To contact the editors responsible for this story: Chris Opfer at copfer@bloomberglaw.com; John Hughes at jhughes@bloombergindustry.com

Documents

Trustee's Objection

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PROOF OF SERVICE

Michael Pereira v. Rode Microphones, LLC

23STCV17940

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I, Dariane Rose, am employed in the county of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this action. My business address is 3055 Wilshire Blvd., 12th Fl., Los Angeles, California 90010. My electronic service address is dariane.rose@wilshirelawfirm.com.

On January 30, 2025, I served the foregoing **DELCARATION OF MOLLY DESARIO IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLAS ACTION SETTLEMENT**, on the interested parties by the following one of the method of service:

Carol Gefis (SBN 147814)
cgefis@aalrr.com
Joshua D. Carlon (SBN 263838)
joshua.carlon@aalrr.com
ATKINSON, ANDELSON, LOYA, RUUD & ROMO
201 S. Lake Ave., Suite 300
Pasadena, CA 91101
Telephone: (625) 583-8600

Attorneys for Defendants

(X) **BY UPLOAD:** I hereby certify that the documents were uploaded by my office to the State of California Labor and Workforce Development Agency Online Filing Site.

(X) **BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE:** Based on a court order or an agreement of the parties to accept electronic service, I caused the documents to be sent to the persons at the electronic service addresses listed above via third-party cloud service **CASEANYWHERE**.

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

Executed this **January 30, 2025**, at Los Angeles, California.

Dariane Rose