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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS**

**IN RE: STANISLAUS FOOD
PRODUCTS COMPANY
EMPLOYMENT CASES**

Included Actions:

*Rigoberto Valle v. Stanislaus Food Products
Company, Case No. CV-23-001433*

*Mario Castillo v. Stanislaus Food Products
Company, Case No. CV-23-003465*

*Victoria Martinez v. Stanislaus Food Products
Company, Case No. CV-23-004653*

*Rebeca Balbuena Andres v. Stanislaus Food
Products Company, Case No. CV-23-007019*

*Martin Sohal v. Stanislaus Food Products
Company, Case No. CV-24-000548*

Lead Case No.: CV-23-001433

*[Case Assigned for All Purposes to the Hon.
John D. Freeland, Dept. 23]*

**DECLARATION OF PAUL K. HAINES IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION
FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Date: December 20, 2024
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept.: 23

Action Filed: March 21, 2023
Trial Date: None Set

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I, PAUL K. HAINES, declare as follows:

1. I am a shareholder and principal of the law firm Haines Law Group, APC, and co-counsel for the named Plaintiffs Rigoberto Valle, Mario Castillo, Victoria Martinez, Rebeca Balbuena Andres, and Martin Sohal (together “Plaintiffs”) in the above-captioned matter. I am a member in good standing of the bar of the State of California and am admitted to practice in this Court. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration and could testify competently to them if called upon to do so.

2. I am a 2006 graduate of Pepperdine University School of Law, where I graduated *cum laude*. During law school, I worked as a law clerk for the appellate firm of Horvitz & Levy, located in Encino, California. I also spent a semester in law school working as an extern for the Honorable Edward Rafeedie, District Judge for the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

3. Since graduating from law school, my practice focused almost exclusively on employment litigation. In September 2007, I began working as an associate attorney at the international law firm of Littler Mendelson P.C., at its Los Angeles office, which according to its website is the “largest U.S.-based law firm exclusively devoted to representing management in every aspect of labor and employment law.” While at Littler Mendelson, I was primarily staffed on wage and hour class actions in both state and federal courts, and I also worked on a number of single and multi-plaintiff wage and hour matters as well.

4. During my employment at Littler Mendelson, I played a significant role in the class actions that I was staffed on, as I was often the only associate staffed on such cases. In particular, I received a wide array of wage and hour class action experience performing the following types of tasks: drafting demurrers and motions to strike and/or dismiss; removing actions from state court to federal court; drafting and responding to written discovery; drafting and opposing discovery related motions; arguing discovery related motions; drafting motions to consolidate related matters; interviewing putative class members and obtaining declarations in connection with class certification; drafting oppositions to motions for class certification; drafting

1 motions for decertification following class certification; conducting exposure analyses to assess
2 the strengths and weaknesses of asserted claims, the likelihood of prevailing at class certification,
3 and potential damages resulting from such claims; drafting mediation briefs; serving as the
4 primary contact to in-house counsel; deposing named plaintiffs and putative class members;
5 deposing retained expert witnesses; and defending the depositions of corporate witnesses. In
6 short, I played an integral role in all aspects of litigation from the inception of a matter through
7 and beyond class certification. I also supervised the work of several junior attorneys who were
8 staffed on the same wage and hour class actions.

9 5. In June 2011, I voluntarily resigned from Littler Mendelson in order to accept an
10 associate attorney position with the international law firm of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, at
11 its Los Angeles office, where I began working in July 2011. During my employment at Morgan,
12 Lewis & Bockius, I worked exclusively on the defense of wage and hour class and collective
13 actions. For the majority of cases that I worked on, I was the only associate staffed on the case,
14 and I performed the same job duties as described in the immediately preceding paragraph. In
15 addition to working on wage and hour class actions, at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius I also worked
16 on a number of “hybrid” actions asserting nationwide wage and hour claims under the Fair Labor
17 Standards Act, as well as California-specific claims under Rule 23 of the Rules of Civil Procedure.

18 6. In July 2012, I transitioned into litigating wage and hour class actions from the
19 Plaintiff’s side, first as a Partner with the law firm of Boren, Osher & Luftman, LLP, and since
20 February 2016 as a Shareholder of Haines Law Group, APC. Currently, over ninety percent (90%)
21 of my practice is dedicated exclusively to the prosecution of wage and hour class actions, and my
22 law firm is currently responsible for prosecuting over seventy-five (75) wage and hour class
23 actions filed in both State and Federal courts throughout California.

24 7. I have also moved to certify and have received an order certifying a class action
25 and/or conditionally certifying a collective action in the following cases:

- 26 • *Medeiros v. Vortex Financial Management Inc.*, Case No. 30-2013-00644741-CU-OE-
27 CXC, California Superior Court, County of Orange, Honorable Judge Gail A. Andler,
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1 presiding (certifying a class of employees who were misclassified as independent
2 contractors);

- 3 • *Javine v. San Luis Ambulance Service, Inc.*, Case No. CV13-07480 BRO (SSx), United
4 States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge Beverly Reid
5 O’Connell, presiding (conditionally certifying an unpaid FLSA overtime wage class);
- 6 • *Prado v. Warehouse Demo Services, Inc.*, Case No. CV14-3170 JFW (Ex), United States
7 District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge John F. Walter, presiding
8 (certifying a rest period violation class and conditionally certifying a FLSA unpaid
9 overtime wage class);
- 10 • *Bower v. Cycle Gear, Inc.*, Case No. CV14-2712 HSG, United States District Court,
11 Northern District of California, Honorable Judge Haywood S. Gilliam, Jr., presiding
12 (conditionally certifying an unpaid FLSA overtime wage class);
- 13 • *Vega v. Weatherford U.S., Limited Partnership*, Case No. CV14-1790-JLT, United States
14 District Court, Eastern District of California, Honorable Jennifer L. Thurston, presiding
15 (conditionally certifying an unpaid FLSA overtime wage class);
- 16 • *Galvan v. AMVAC Chemical Corporation*, Case No. 30-2014-00716103-CU-OE-CXC,
17 California Superior Court, County of Orange, Honorable Judge William Claster, presiding
18 (certifying unpaid overtime wage class and waiting time penalty class);
- 19 • *Camacho v. Residential Fire Systems, Inc.*, Case No. 30-2015-775372-CU-OE-CXC,
20 California Superior Court, County of Orange, Honorable Glenda Sanders, presiding
21 (certifying piece rate pay plan classes, expense reimbursement class, wage statement
22 class, and waiting time penalties class);
- 23 • *Ontiveros v. Safelite Fulfillment, Inc., et al*, Case No. CV 15-7118-DMG (RAOx), United
24 States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Dolly M. Gee presiding
25 (certifying six classes of employees for rest period violations, wage statement violations,
26 meal period violations, and overtime and double-time violations);
- 27 • *Vasquez v. Kraft Heinz Foods Company*, Case No. 16-cv-2749-WQH-BLM, United States
28 District Court, Southern District of California, Honorable William Q. Hayes presiding

(certifying classes for automatic meal period deductions, manual time deductions, late meal periods, and derivative wage statement and waiting time penalties);

- *Caudle, et al. v. Sprint/United Management Company, et al.* Case No. C 17-06874-WHA, United States District Court, Northern District of California, Honorable William H. Alsup presiding (certifying three classes of employees for unlawful wage deduction violations, wage statement violations, and waiting time violations);
- *Barbara J. Bowlin-Burdick v. Life Care Centers of America, Inc.*, Case No. BC657139, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Honorable Maren E. Nelson, presiding (certifying classes for late meal period violations, on-remises rest period violations, wage statement violations, and waiting time violations);
- *Staublein v. Wells Fargo Bank, National Association*, Case No. CIVDS1712267, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Honorable David Cohn, presiding (certifying a wage statement class);
- *Danica N. Keich, et al. v. U.S. Healthworks, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 37-2017-00015343-CU-OE-CTL, San Diego County Superior Court, Honorable Eddie C. Sturgeon, presiding (certifying classes for rest period violations, meal period violations, on-call pay violations, wage statement violations, and waiting time violations);
- *George Gomez v. The Bedrock Company*, Case No. CIVDS1824255, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Honorable David Cohn, presiding (certifying claims for unpaid overtime and minimum wage violations, meal period violations, rest period violations, wage statement violations, and waiting time penalties); and
- *Aurora Gatica v. Valley Ag, Inc. et al.*, Case No. 19CECG03018, Fresno County Superior Court, Honorable Tyler D. Tharpe, presiding (certifying claims for meal period violations, unpaid rest period violations, wage statement violations, and waiting time penalties).

8. I have been appointed as Class Counsel in hundreds of wage and hour class action settlements in state and federal courts within California, and my law firm has recovered in excess of \$500 million dollars on behalf of our clients.

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1 9. In every year from 2015 through 2017, Thomson Reuters recognized me as a Top
2 Young Attorney in Southern California in the annual Rising Stars Edition of Super Lawyer. This
3 is an honor awarded to no more than two-and-a-half percent of attorneys under the age of forty in
4 Southern California each year. In every year from 2018 through 2024, Thomson Reuters
5 recognized me as a “Super Lawyer” in the annual Super Lawyer magazine, an honor awarded to
6 no more than five percent of all attorneys in Southern California each year.

7 10. In approximately 2018, I was selected to be a member of the Los Angeles Superior
8 Court, Complex Civil Department Ad Hoc Wage and Hour Committee, which was chaired by the
9 Honorable Judge Amy D. Hogue and Honorable Judge David S. Cunningham. The committee
10 was comprised of 8 plaintiff’s attorneys and 8 defense attorneys, and was consulted for
11 recommendations regarding wage and hour class action cases, including preparing model class
12 action and PAGA action settlement agreements which are now publicly available at
13 <http://www.lacourt.org/forms/all>.

14 11. In April 2019, I served as trial counsel for the Plaintiff in the matter of *Calhoun v.*
15 *Aqua Tech Water Management Inc.*, Case No. BS169815, Los Angeles County Superior Court,
16 Honorable Theresa M. Traber presiding, which was an individual wage-and-hour case that
17 resulted in a six-figure verdict in favor of Plaintiff. I was subsequently awarded attorney’s fees at
18 my requested rate of \$650 per hour in 2020.

19 12. In March 2023, my firm served as trial counsel for the plaintiff and the aggrieved
20 employees in the matter of *Abraham Taduran v. James R. Glidewell, Dental Ceramics, Inc. dba*
21 *Glidewell Laboratories*, Case No. 30-2017-00934037-CU-OE-CXC, Orange County Superior
22 Court, Honorable William Claster presiding, which was a case brought under the Private
23 Attorneys General Act, Labor Code §§ 2698 *et seq.*, and resulted in a six-figure verdict in favor
24 of the aggrieved employees.

25 13. I have recently been awarded attorney’s fees following a lodestar cross-check
26 based on a rate of \$850 per hour in the following cases:

- 27 • *Arcos v. Panoramic Doors, LLC*, Case No. 37-2021-00048823-CU-OE-CTL, San
28 Diego County Superior Court, Honorable Loren G. Freestone, presiding (using

an hourly rate of \$850 for work performed in 2021-2023);

- *Ramirez v. Wyndham Vacation Ownership, Inc.*, Case No. 20CV01715, Santa Barbara County Superior Court, Honorable James F. Rigali, presiding (using an hourly rate of \$850 for work performed from 2020-2024);
- *Aaron Hallum, et al. v. FCA US, LLC*, Case No. CIVDS1936782, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Honorable Joseph T. Ortiz, presiding (using an hourly rate of \$850 for work performed in 2021-2024);
- *Rafael Perez v. Kyocera SGS Precision Tools, Inc.*, Case No. 30-2022-01299232-CU-OE-CXC, Orange County Superior Court, Honorable Randall J. Sherman, presiding (awarding attorney's fees following a lodestar cross-check based on an hourly rate of \$850 for work performed in 2022-2024); and
- *Kevin Murphy, et al. v. Fusion Learning, Inc.*, Case No. 2:21-cv-06732-JAK (ASx), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable John A. Kronstadt, presiding (approving and finding reasonable an hourly rate of \$850 for work performed in 2022-2024).

14. Fletcher W. Schmidt, a Partner at my firm, is a 2012 graduate of Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, where he graduated *cum laude* and was awarded membership in the Order of the Coif. Since August 2013, Mr. Schmidt's practice has been solely devoted to litigating plaintiff-side wage and hour class actions in California state and federal court, and he is currently responsible for managing a caseload of over seventy-five (75) active wage and hour class actions in which he is integrally involved in all aspects of the litigation. In each year from 2018 through 2024, Thomson Reuters and Los Angeles Magazine recognized Mr. Schmidt as a Top Young Attorney in Southern California in the annual Rising Star Edition of Super Lawyers. Mr. Schmidt has moved to certify and received an order certifying a class action and/or conditionally certifying a collective action as Class Counsel in twelve (12) cases, most recently in *Aurora Gatica v. Valley Ag, Inc. et al.*, Case No. 19CECG03018, Fresno County Superior Court. Mr. Schmidt has been named as Class Counsel in over fifty class action settlements that have been granted final

1 approval, including most recently in *Roberto Arcos, et al. v. Panoramic Doors, LLC*, Case No.
2 37-2021-00048823-CU-OE-CTL, San Diego County Superior Court, Honorable Loren G.
3 Freestone, presiding (awarding attorney's fees following a lodestar cross-check based on a rate
4 of \$750 per hour for work performed in 2021-2023); *Ramirez v. Wyndham Vacation Ownership,*
5 *Inc.*, Case No. 20CV01715, Santa Barbara County Superior Court, Honorable James F. Rigali,
6 presiding (awarding attorney's fees following a lodestar cross-check based on a rate of \$750 per
7 hour for work performed in 2020-2024); *Aaron Hallum, et al. v. FCA US, LLC*, Case No.
8 CIVDS1936782, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Honorable Joseph T. Ortiz, presiding
9 (awarding attorney's fees following a lodestar cross-check based on an hourly rate of \$750 for
10 work performed in 2021-2024); *Rafael Perez v. Kyocera SGS Precision Tools, Inc.*, Case No. 30-
11 2022-01299232-CU-OE-CXC, Orange County Superior Court, Honorable Randall J. Sherman,
12 presiding (awarding attorney's fees following a lodestar cross-check based on an hourly rate of
13 \$750 for work performed in 2022-2024); and *Kevin Murphy, et al. v. Fusion Learning, Inc.*, Case
14 No. 2:21-cv-06732-JAK (ASx), United States District Court, Central District of California,
15 Honorable John A. Kronstadt, presiding (approving and finding reasonable an hourly rate of \$750
16 for work performed in 2022-2024).

17 15. Matthew K. Moen, a Senior Associate at my firm, is a 2015 graduate of Loyola
18 Law School, Los Angeles. Since January 2016, Mr. Moen's practice has been dedicated
19 exclusively to the practice of Plaintiff-side employment law in California state and federal court,
20 and he is currently staffed on over thirty (30) active wage and hour class actions in which he is
21 integrally involved in all aspects of the litigation. In each year from 2020 through 2024, Thomson
22 Reuters and Los Angeles Magazine recognized Mr. Moen as a Top Young Attorney in Southern
23 California in the annual Rising Star Edition of Super Lawyers. Mr. Moen has moved to certify
24 and received an order certifying a class action and/or conditionally certifying a collective action
25 as Class Counsel in three (3) cases, most recently in *Aurora Gatica v. Valley Ag, Inc. et al.*, Case
26 No. 19CECG03018, Fresno County Superior Court. Mr. Moen has been named as Class Counsel
27 in over thirty class action settlements that have been granted final approval, including most
28 recently in *Roberto Arcos, et al. v. Panoramic Doors, LLC*, Case No. 37-2021-00048823-CU-

1 OE-CTL, San Diego County Superior Court, Honorable Loren G. Freestone, presiding (awarding
2 attorney's fees following a lodestar cross-check based on a rate of \$650 per hour for work
3 performed in 2021-2023); *Aaron Hallum, et al. v. FCA US, LLC*, Case No. CIVDS1936782, San
4 Bernardino County Superior Court, Honorable Joseph T. Ortiz, presiding (awarding attorney's
5 fees following a lodestar cross-check based on an hourly rate of \$650 for work performed in 2021-
6 2024); *Rafael Perez v. Kyocera SGS Precision Tools, Inc.*, Case No. 30-2022-01299232-CU-OE-
7 CXC, Orange County Superior Court, Honorable Randall J. Sherman, presiding (awarding
8 attorney's fees following a lodestar cross-check based on an hourly rate of \$650 for work
9 performed in 2022-2024); and *Kevin Murphy, et al. v. Fusion Learning, Inc.*, Case No. 2:21-cv-
10 06732-JAK (ASx), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable John
11 A. Kronstadt, presiding (approving and finding reasonable an hourly rate of \$650 for work
12 performed in 2022-2024).

13 16. Susan J. Perez, an Associate at my firm, is a 2019 graduate of Loyola Law School,
14 Los Angeles. Ms. Perez has worked as an associate at Haines Law Group, APC since January
15 2022, since which time her practice has been dedicated exclusively to the practice of Plaintiff-
16 side employment law in California state and federal courts. Ms. Perez has been named as Class
17 Counsel in the following class action settlements that have been granted final approval: *Stephen*
18 *Fiant v. Ernie Ball, Inc.*, San Luis Obispo County Superior Court, Case No. 21CV-0016; *Erving*
19 *v. Lazer Spot, Inc.*, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVSB2101370; *Santiago*
20 *Gutierrez v. M.M.C.L., Inc.*, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2021-01182371
21 (awarding attorney's fees following a lodestar cross-check based on an hourly rate of \$475 for
22 work performed in 2022-2023); *Robert Lewis v. IMERYS Filtration Minerals, Inc., et al.*, Santa
23 Barbara County Superior Court, Case No. 22CV02874 (awarding attorney's fees following a
24 lodestar cross-check based on an hourly rate of \$475 for work performed in 2022-2023); *Gerardo*
25 *Sanchez v. Dutton Home Services, LLC*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No.
26 22STCV01834 (awarding attorney's fees following a lodestar cross-check based on an hourly
27 rate of \$475 for work performed in 2022-2023); *Aaron Hallum, et al. v. FCA US, LLC*, Case No.
28 CIVDS1936782, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Honorable Joseph T. Ortiz, presiding

1 (awarding attorney's fees following a lodestar cross-check based on an hourly rate of \$475 for
2 work performed in 2022-2024); and *Rafael Perez v. Kyocera SGS Precision Tools, Inc.*, Case No.
3 30-2022-01299232-CU-OE-CXC, Orange County Superior Court, Honorable Randall J.
4 Sherman, presiding (awarding attorney's fees following a lodestar cross-check based on an hourly
5 rate of \$475 for work performed in 2022-2024).

6 17. In approximately July 2023, Plaintiff Victoria Martinez retained my firm to
7 represent her in claims against Defendant Stanislaus Food Products Company ("Defendant"). On
8 August 17, 2023, my office assisted Plaintiff Martinez in filing a class action lawsuit against
9 Defendant in Stanislaus County Superior Court, entitled *Victoria Martinez v. Stanislaus Food*
10 *Products Company*, Case No. CV-23-004653. Shortly thereafter, my office was informed of the
11 instant litigation initiated against Defendant by Plaintiff Rigoberto Valle.

12 18. As counsel for Plaintiffs, I have been intimately involved in every aspect of this
13 case since my office was first retained by Plaintiff Martinez through the present. Based on my
14 extensive knowledge of the facts and the law in this case, I believe that the proposed settlement
15 is a fair and reasonable result for the Class. The details of the work completed by Class Counsel
16 in this case are set forth in additional detail in the declarations of my co-counsel, Mehrdad
17 Bokhour and Joshua Falakassa, filed concurrently herewith.

18 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of California and the United States that
19 the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on November 18, 2024, at El Segundo, California.

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22 Paul K. Haines
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