

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE – CIVIL COMPLEX CENTER**

ESABELLA SERPA, individually, and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

PRIDE BAKERIES, LLC DBA PANERA
BREAD BAKERY CAFES, a California limited
liability company; PRIDE BAKERIES II, LLC
DBA PANERA BREAD BAKERY CAFES, a
California limited liability company; and DOES
1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Lead Case No.: 30-2024-01376508-CU-OE-
CXC

[Consolidated with Case No. 30-2023-
01364775-CU-OE-CXC]

*[Assigned for All Purposes to the Hon.
Melissa R. McCormick, Dept. CX-105]*

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND
PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Action Filed: January 29, 2024

1 1. Having reviewed Plaintiff Esabella Serpa's ("Plaintiff") Motion for Preliminary
2 Approval of Class Action Settlement ("Motion"), all documents and declarations filed in
3 support thereof, and Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Amendment to Class
4 Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (collectively, the "Settlement Agreement" or the
5 "Settlement"), attached hereto as Exhibits A and B, respectively, and good cause appearing,
6 the Court finds and orders as follows:

7 2. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that the Settlement Agreement appears to
8 be fair, adequate, and reasonable and therefore meets the requirements for preliminary
9 approval. The Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement and the Settlement Class
10 based on the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement between Plaintiff and Defendants
11 Pride Bakeries, LLC DBA Panera Bread Bakery Cafes and Pride Bakeries II, LLC DBA
12 Panera Bread Bakery Cafes (collectively "Defendants") (Plaintiff and Defendants collectively,
13 the "Parties").

14 3. The Settlement falls within the range of reasonableness of a settlement which
15 could ultimately be given final approval by this Court. The gross settlement amount is
16 \$585,000.00. The court preliminarily approves the following deductions from the gross
17 settlement amount: (i) \$30,000.00 total penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act,
18 75% of which (\$22,500.00) shall be paid to the California Labor & Workforce Development
19 Agency ("LWDA") and 25% of which (\$7,500.00) shall be paid to the Aggrieved Employees;
20 (ii) an enhancement award to plaintiff not to exceed \$5,000.00; (iii) Class Counsel's
21 attorneys' fees not to exceed \$175,500.00; (iv) Class Counsel's litigation costs not to exceed
22 \$21,000.00; and (v) settlement administration costs not to exceed \$16,990.00.

23 4. A final approval hearing on the question of whether the proposed Settlement,
24 attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel, the PAGA Penalties to the LWDA and the
25 Aggrieved Employees, and the Class Representative Enhancement Payment should be finally
26 approved as fair, reasonable and adequate as to the members of the Class is scheduled for
27 September 24, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. in Department CX105.

28 5. The Court preliminarily certifies¹ for settlement purposes only the following

class (the "Class"): "all persons who worked for any Defendant in California as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee at any time during the Class Period."

6. "Class Period" means the period from August 4, 2019, through January 25, 2025.

7. "Aggrieved Employees" means all persons who worked for any Defendant in California as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee at any time during the PAGA Period.

8. "PAGA Period" means the period from July 25, 2022, through January 25, 2025.

9. The Court finds, for settlement purposes only, that the Settlement Class meets the requirements for certification under California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 in that: (1) the Settlement Class Members are so numerous that joinder is impractical; (2) there are questions of law and fact that are common, or of general interest, to all Settlement Class Members, which predominate over individual issues; (3) Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class Members; (4) Plaintiff and Class Counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Class Members; and (5) a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

10. The Court preliminarily appoints Plaintiff as Class Representative, for settlement purposes only.

11. The Court preliminarily appoints, for settlement purposes only, Jeffrey C. Bills, Aram Boyadjian, Andrew Sandoval, Emily Borman, and Courtney M. Miller of Wilshire Law Firm, PLC, as Class Counsel.

12. The Court preliminarily appoints Apex Class Action LLC as the Settlement Administrator.

13. The Court approves, as to form and content the Class Notice, Request for Exclusion Form, Objection Form, and Workweek/Pay Period Dispute Form (collectively "Class Notice") (with the certified Spanish-language translation) attached hereto as **Exhibit C**. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that plan for distribution of the Class Notice to Settlement Class Members satisfies due process, provides the best notice practicable under the

circumstances, and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto.

14. The Court orders the Parties and the Settlement Administrator to carry out their duties and obligations in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

15. The Court orders the following Implementation Schedule:

Event	Timing
Class Data: Last day for Defendant to provide Class Data to the Administrator	10 days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement
Class Notice: Last day for Administrator to mail the Class Notice to Class Members	14 days after receipt of the Class Data
Response Deadline: Last day for Class Members to submit written objections, challenges to workweeks, and requests for exclusion	60 days after Class Notice is mailed out by the Administrator (with an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice was remailed)
Administrator Declaration: Last day for the Administrator to provide counsel with a Declaration in Support of the Motion for Final Approval	14 days before the last day to file the Motion for Final Approval of Settlement
Filing Deadline: Last day to file the Motion for Final Approval of Settlement, request for attorneys' fees and costs, and service payment to Plaintiff	16 court days before the Final Approval Hearing
Final Approval Hearing	September 17, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in Dept. CX105 of the above-referenced Court.

16. The Court further orders that, pending further order of this Court, all proceedings in this lawsuit, except those contemplated herein and in the settlement, are stayed.

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1 17. The Court retains jurisdiction to enforce the Settlement pursuant to Code of Civil
2 Procedure section 664.6.

3 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

4
5
6 DATE: May 15, 2026



MELISSA R. MCCORMICK
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

EXHIBIT A

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

ESABELLA SERPA, individually, and on behalf
of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

PRIDE BAKERIES, LLC DBA PANERA
BREAD BAKERY CAFES, a California limited
liability company; PRIDE BAKERIES II, LLC
DBA PANERA BREAD BAKERY CAFES, a
California limited liability company; and DOES
1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 30-2023-01364775-CU-OE-CXC
Related Case No. 30-2024-01376508-CU-
OE-CXC

*Assigned for all purposes to Hon. Melissa R.
McCormick*

**CLASS ACTION AND PAGA
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between Plaintiff Esabella Serpa (“Plaintiff”) and Defendants Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes and Pride Bakeries II, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes (“Defendants”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendants collectively as “Parties,” or individually as “Party.”

1. DEFINITIONS.

1.1 “Actions” means Plaintiff’s lawsuit alleging class action wage and hour violations against Defendants captioned *Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.*, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2023-01364775-CU-OE-CXC, filed on November 29, 2023 (“PAGA Action”) and Case No. 30-2024-01376508-CU-OE-CXC, filed on January 29, 2024 (“Class Action”).

1.2 “Administrator” means Apex Class Action LLC, the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.

1.3 “Administration Costs” 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 all persons who worked for any Defendant in California as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee at any time during the PAGA Period.

1.5 “Class” means all persons who worked for any Defendant in California as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee at any time during the Class Period.

1.6 “Class Counsel” means John G. Yslas, Jeffrey C. Bils, Aram Boyadjian, and Andrew Sandoval of Wilshire Law Firm, PLC.

1.7 “Class Counsel Fees Payment” means an award of attorneys’ fees granted to Class Counsel and paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Parties have agreed Plaintiff will request approval from the Court of up to one-third (1/3) of the GSA, currently \$195,000.00 (One Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents).

1.8 “Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment” means the amount allocated to Class

Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable expenses and costs incurred to prosecute the Action, not to exceed \$21,000.00 (Twenty-One Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents) and paid from the Gross Settlement Amount.

1.9 “Class Data” means Class Member identifying information in Defendants’ possession including the Class Member’s name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, and number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods.

1.10 “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).

1.11 “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.

1.12 “Class Notice” means the Court approved Notice of Settlement and hearing date for Final Approval, to be mailed to Class Members in English with a Spanish translation in the form, without material variation, attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

1.13 “Class Period” or “Settlement Class Period” means the period from August 4, 2019 through January 25, 2025 (“Settlement Class Period”).

1.14 “Class Representative” means the named Plaintiff, Esabella Serpa, in the Actions.

1.15 “Class Representative Service Payment” or “Enhancement Award” means the payment to the Class Representative for initiating the Actions and providing services in support of the Action.

1.16 “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of Orange.

1.17 “Defendants” means named Defendants Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes and Pride Bakeries II, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes.

1.18 “Defense Counsel” means William K. Browning of Browning Hocker.

1.19 “Effective Date” means the date by which both of the following have occurred: (a) the

1 Court enters a Judgment on its Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement; and (b) the
2 Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (a) if no
3 Participating Class Member objects to the Settlement, the day the Court enters Judgment; (b) if
4 one or more Participating Class Members objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for
5 filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment; or (c) if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed,
6 the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur.

7 1.20 "Final Approval" means the Court's order granting final approval of the Settlement.

8 1.21 "Final Approval Hearing" means the Court's hearing on the Motion for Final Approval
9 of the Settlement.

10 1.22 "Final Judgment" means the Judgment entered by the Court upon granting Final
11 Approval of the Settlement.

12 1.23 "Gross Settlement Amount" or "GSA" means \$585,000.00 (Five Hundred Eighty-Five
13 Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents), which is the total amount Defendants agree to pay under the
14 Settlement, except as provided in Paragraph 8 below.

15 1.24 "Individual Class Payment" means the Participating Class Member's pro rata share of
16 the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the
17 Class Period.

18 1.25 "Individual PAGA Payment" means the Aggrieved Employee's pro rata share of 25%
19 of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of PAGA Pay Periods worked during
20 the PAGA Period.

21 1.26 "Judgment" means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.

22 1.27 "LWDA" means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency
23 entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i) (2016).

24 1.28 "LWDA PAGA Payment" means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA
25 under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i) (2016).

26 1.29 "Net Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following
27 payments in the amounts approved by the Court: PAGA Penalties payment, Class Representative
28 Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and

1 the Administration Costs Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members
2 as Individual Class Payments.

3 1.30 "Non-Participating Class Member" means any Class Member who opts out of the
4 Settlement by sending the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.

5 1.31 "Operative Complaint" means the operative complaint(s) filed in the Actions.

6 1.32 "PAGA Pay Period" means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee
7 worked for Defendants for at least one day during the PAGA Period.

8 1.33 "PAGA Period" means the period from July 25, 2022 through January 25, 2025.

9 1.34 "PAGA" means the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (Labor Code §§
10 2698, et seq.).

11 1.35 "PAGA Notice" means Plaintiff's September 28, 2023 letter (LWDA-CM-984451-23)
12 to the LWDA and Defendants providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a).

13 1.36 "PAGA Penalties" means the total amount of \$30,000.00 in PAGA civil penalties to be
14 paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% (\$7,500.00) to the Aggrieved Employees
15 and 75% (\$22,500.00) to the LWDA in settlement of PAGA claims.

16 1.37 "Participating Class Member" means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and
17 timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.

18 1.38 "Plaintiff" means Esabella Serpa, the named plaintiff in the Actions.

19 1.39 "Preliminary Approval" means the Court's Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the
20 Settlement.

21 1.40 "Released Class Claims" means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.2
22 below.

23 1.41 "Released PAGA Claims" means the claims being released as described in Paragraph
24 5.3 below.

25 1.42 "Released Parties" means Defendants.

26 1.43 "Request for Exclusion" means a Class Member's submission of a written request to be
27 excluded from the Class Settlement signed by the Class Member.

28 1.44 "Response Deadline" means forty-five (45) 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 fourteen (14) calendar days beyond the Response Deadline has expired.

1.45 "Settlement" means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.

1.46 "Workweek" means any week during which a Class Member worked for Defendants for at least one day, during the Class Period.

2. **RECITALS.**

2.1 On January 29, 2024, Plaintiff filed the Class Action alleging Defendants (1) failed to pay minimum and straight time wages; (2) failed to pay overtime wages; (3) failed to provide meal periods; (4) failed to authorize and permit rest periods; (5) failed to timely pay final wages at termination; (6) failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (7) failed to indemnify employees for expenditures; (8) failed to produce requested employment records; and (9) violated California's Unfair Competition Law, California Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*

2.2 On September 28, 2023, pursuant to Labor Code §2699.3, subd.(a) (2016), Plaintiff gave notice to the LWDA and Defendants that Plaintiff intended to proceed with a representative action under PAGA (LWDA-CM-984451-23). On November 29, 2023, Plaintiff filed a separate PAGA Action Complaint for penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, *et seq.*

2.3 Defendants deny the allegations in the Actions, deny any failure to comply with the laws identified in the Actions, and deny any and all liability for the causes of action alleged in the Actions.

2.4 On November 21, 2024, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by mediator Daniel Turner. The Parties agreed on general settlement terms at mediation. The Parties memorialized their agreement in a Memorandum of Understanding on September 30, 2025.

2.5 In advance of mediation, Class Counsel conducted a thorough investigation into the facts of, and applicable law to, the Actions. Prior to mediation, Plaintiff obtained and analyzed a representative sampling of time and payroll data for Class Members and the necessary policy documents through informal discovery to properly evaluate the strengths and weakness of the claims and engage in meaningful settlement discussions. Plaintiff's investigation was sufficient to satisfy the criteria for court approval set forth in *Dunk v. Ford Motor Co.* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1801 and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116, 129-130 ("*Dunk/Kullar*").

2.6 The Court has not granted class certification because the Parties engaged in mediation before any class certification.

2.7 The Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matters or actions 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 below, Defendants will pay \$585,000.00 (Five Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents) to fully settle, resolve, and extinguish all claims asserted in the Actions, including without limitation all claims asserted in the PAGA Notice. The Gross Settlement Amount is non-reversionary and does not include employer payroll taxes owed on the wage portions of the Individual Class Payments, which Defendants will pay separately.

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: A payment for the Class Representative Service Payment to Plaintiff of not more than \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents) in addition to any Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment the Class Representative is entitled to receive as a Participating Class Member. Defendants will not oppose Plaintiff's request for a Class Representative Service Payment that does not exceed this amount. As part of the motion for the

Class Counsel Fees and Litigation Expenses Payments, Plaintiff will seek Court approval for any Class Representative Service Payment no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered by the Court. 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 to be distributed to Participating Class Members. 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 one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount, which is currently estimated to be \$195,000.00 (One Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents) and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment for actual costs, not to exceed \$21,000.00 (Twenty-One Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents). Defendants will not oppose requests for these payments. Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will file a motion for Class Counsel Fees and Litigation Expenses Payment no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered by the Court. 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 for distribution to Participating Class Members. Released Parties shall have no liability to Class Counsel or any other Plaintiff's counsel arising from any claim to any portion of 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 Defendants harmless, and indemnifies Defendants, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these Payments.

3.2.3 To the Administrator: An Administrator Costs Payment not to exceed \$16,990.00 (Sixteen Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Dollars and Zero Cents) except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the Administration Costs are less or the Court

approves payment of less than \$16,990.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed to Participating Class Members.

3.2.4 To Each Participating Class Member: An Individual Class Payment is 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 individual Participating Class Member's Workweeks.

3.2.4.1 Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. Ten percent (10%) of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to the Settlement of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portion is subject to tax withholding and will be reported on an IRS W-2 Form. The remaining ninety percent (90%) of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to the settlement of claims for interest, reimbursement, 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 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 \$30,000.00 (Thirty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents) to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% (\$22,500.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (\$7,500.00) 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 of \$7,500.00 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 individual Aggrieved Employee's PAGA 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 to be distributed to Participating Class Members. 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, Defendants represent there are 1,872 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 65,938 workweeks during the Class Period.

4.2 Class Data. Not later than ten (10) days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendants will 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. Defendants have a 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 up to the date of the Final Approval Hearing. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendants 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.

4.3 Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendants shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount and the amounts necessary to fully pay Defendants' share of payroll taxes by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than fourteen (14) days after the Effective Date.

4.4 Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within ten (10) days after Defendants fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Costs 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. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (180 days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided ("Void Date"). 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 the 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 returned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within seven (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 whose re-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 canceled 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 Payments shall not obligate Defendants 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 Defendants fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount and 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 discharges Released Parties from all claims, transactions, or occurrences, that occurred during the Class Period, including all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained in the Operative Complaint; and claims under the Fair Employment and Housing Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the California Labor Code, and all equivalent claims under federal law ("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 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.

5.2 **Released Class Claims:** All Participating Class Members will release all claims, rights,

demands, liabilities, and causes of action, alleged or which could have reasonably been alleged based on the facts alleged in the operative Complaint, including but not limited to: (1) failure to pay minimum and straight time wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, 1197 and 1197.1); (2) failure to pay overtime wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and 1198); (3) failure to provide meal periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512); (4) failure to authorize and permit rest periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7); (5) failure to timely pay final wages at termination (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 201-203); (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226); (7) failure to indemnify employees for expenditures (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 2802); (8) failure to produce requested employment records (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226, 432, and 1198.5); and (9) unfair business practices (pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*). The enumeration of these specific claims shall neither enlarge nor narrow the scope of *res judicata* based on the claims that were asserted in the Action or could have been asserted in the Action based on the facts and circumstances alleged in the Complaint. The Released Class Claims are those that accrued during the Class Period.

5.3 Released PAGA Claims: All Aggrieved Employees will release all claims for PAGA civil penalties that are alleged or reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts alleged in the operative Complaint and in Plaintiff's PAGA Notice, including but not limited to: (1) failure to pay minimum and straight time wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 204, 210, 510, 1194, 1194.2, 1197 and 1197.1); (2) failure to pay overtime wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 510, 1194 and 1198); (3) failure to provide meal periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 210, 226.7 and 512); (4) failure to authorize and permit rest periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 210 and 226.7); (5) failure to timely pay final wages at termination (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 201 – 203 and 213(d)); (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226 and 226.3); (7) failure to indemnify employees for expenditures (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code § 2802); (8) failure to produce requested employment records (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226, 432, and 1198.5); (9) failure to pay all earned wages twice per month and unlawfully withholding accrued wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 204, 210 and 216); (10)

failure to maintain accurate records of hours worked and meal periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 1174, and 1174.5); (11) recordkeeping requirement violations (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.6, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1198 and 1199); (12) willful misclassification (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code § 226.8); (13) retaliation (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code § 1102.5); and (14) civil penalties for wage and hour violations (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code § 558). The Released PAGA Claims are those that accrued during the PAGA Period.

6. **MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL.** Plaintiff will prepare and file a motion for preliminary approval (“Motion for Preliminary Approval”).

6.1 **Defendants’ Declaration in Support of Preliminary Approval.** Within ten (10) days of the full execution of this Agreement, Defendants will prepare and deliver to Class Counsel a signed Declaration from Defendants and Defense Counsel disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with the Administrator. In their Declaration, Defense Counsel and Defendants 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 **Plaintiff’s Responsibilities.** Plaintiff will prepare 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)) (2016); (ii) a draft proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement; (iii) a draft proposed Class Notice; (iv) 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 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) (2016)), Operative Complaint (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(1) (2016)), this Agreement (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(2) (2016)); and (vi) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members, and/or the Administrator. In their Declarations, Plaintiff and Class Counsel 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.

6.3 Responsibilities of Counsel. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing the Motion for Preliminary Approval. Class Counsel will obtain a prompt hearing date for the Motion for Preliminary Approval, file the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than sixteen (16) court days before the hearing, unless otherwise ordered by the Court, and deliver the Court's Preliminary Approval Order to the Administrator.

6.4 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 LLC to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, the Administrator 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 Costs. 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.

7.2 Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports to 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 for the funding of the GSA. Any interest that accrues on the GSA sums paid into

1 the QSF prior to distribution by the Administrator will become part of the NSA for distribution
2 to Participating Class Members.

3 7.4 Notice to Class Members.

4 7.4.1 No later than five (5) calendar days after receipt of the Class Data, the Administrator
5 shall notify Class Counsel that the list has been received and state the number of Class Members,
6 Aggrieved Employees, Workweeks, and Pay Periods in the Class Data.

7 7.4.2 Using best efforts to perform as soon as possible, and in no event later than 14
8 (fourteen) days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator will send to all Class Members
9 identified in the Class Data, via first-class United States Postal Service ("USPS") mail, the Class
10 Notice with Spanish translation substantially in the form attached to this Agreement as Exhibit
11 A. The first page of the Class Notice shall prominently estimate the dollar amounts of any
12 Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment payable to the Class Member, and
13 the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods used to calculate these amounts. Before
14 mailing Class Notices, the Administrator shall update Class Member addresses using the National
15 Change of Address database.

16 7.4.3 Not later than five (5) calendar days after the Administrator's receipt of any Class
17 Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the Class Notice
18 using any forwarding address provided by the USPS. If the USPS does not provide a forwarding
19 address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class Member Address Search, and re-mail the Class
20 Notice to the most current address obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further
21 attempts to locate or send Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by the
22 USPS a second time.

23 7.4.4 The deadlines for Class Members' written objections, challenges to Workweeks
24 and/or Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional fourteen days (14)
25 days beyond the forty-five (45) days otherwise provided in the Class Notice for all Class Members
26 whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class Member of the extended
27 deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.

28 7.4.5 If the Administrator, Defendants, or Class Counsel is contacted by or otherwise

discovers any persons who believe they should have been included in 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 fourteen (14) days after receipt of Class Notice, or the deadline dates in the Class Notice, whichever 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 forty-five (45) days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional fourteen (14) days for Class Members whose Class Notice is 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'

1 Releases under paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of this Agreement, regardless of whether the Participating
2 Class Member actually receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.

3 7.5.4 Every Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion is a
4 Non-Participating Class Member and shall not receive an Individual Class Payment or have the
5 right to object to the class action components of the Settlement. Because future PAGA claims are
6 subject to claim preclusion upon entry of the Judgment, Non-Participating Class Members who
7 are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release the Released PAGA Claims identified in
8 Paragraph 5.3 of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.

9 7.6 Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks. Each Class Member shall have forty-five (45)
10 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional fourteen (14) days for
11 Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Class Workweeks
12 and PAGA Pay Periods allocated to the Class Member in the Class Notice. The Class Member
13 may challenge the allocation by communicating with the Administrator via fax, email or mail.
14 The Administrator must encourage the challenging Class Member to submit supporting
15 documentation. In the absence of any contrary documentation, the Administrator is entitled to
16 presume that the Workweeks contained in the Class Notice are correct so long as they are
17 consistent with the Class Data. The Administrator's determination of each Class Member's
18 allocation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods shall be final and not appealable or otherwise
19 susceptible to challenge. The Administrator shall promptly provide copies of all challenges to the
20 calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel and the
21 Administrator's determination of the challenges.

22 7.7 Objections to Settlement.

23 7.7.1 Only Participating Class Members may object to the class action components of the
24 Settlement and/or this Agreement, including contesting the fairness of the Settlement, and/or
25 amounts requested for the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses
26 Payment and/or Class Representative Service Payment.

27 7.7.2 Participating Class Members may send written objections to the Administrator, by
28 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 forty-five (45) days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional fourteen (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, 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; Preliminary Approval Order; Class Notice; Motion for Final Approval; Motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and Class Representative Service Payment; the Final Approval Order; and the Judgment. The Administrator will also maintain and monitor an email 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 five (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 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 fourteen (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 ten (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 fifteen (15) days before any deadline set by 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 their records, Defendants represent there are 1,872 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 65,938

Workweeks during the Class Period. If, on final calculation, the total number of Workweeks is greater than 10% higher than 65,938 Workweeks (i.e. greater than 72,531 Workweeks), then the Gross Settlement Amount will increase on a proportional basis equal to the percentage increase in the number of Workweeks worked by the Class Members above the 10% (for example, if the final number of total workweeks increases by 15%, the Gross Settlement Amount will increase 5%). Defendants shall verify the total Workweeks and select an option prior to the filing for Preliminary Approval. If this provision is triggered so as to increase the Gross Settlement Amount, the Parties agree that the portion of the Gross Settlement Amount allocated to attorneys' fees will increase proportionally such that the total amount of attorneys' fees remains one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount after the upward adjustment required by this provision is implemented.

9. **DEFENDANTS' RIGHT TO WITHDRAW.** Defendants represent, as of the date of this Settlement Agreement, there are 1,872 Class Members. If the number of valid Requests for Exclusion identified in the Exclusion List is greater than 5%, Defendants may, but are not obligated, to elect to withdraw from the Settlement. The Parties agree that, if Defendants withdraw, 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, Defendants will remain responsible for paying all Settlement Administration Costs incurred to that point. Defendants must notify Class Counsel and the Court of their election to withdraw not later than thirty (30) 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 sixteen (16) court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, unless otherwise scheduled by the Court, 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 section 2699, subd. (l) (2016); a Proposed Final Approval Order; and a proposed Judgment (collectively "Motion for Final Approval"). Plaintiff shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel 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 (5) 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, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and/or Administrator Costs 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, the Actions, 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 as 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 Costs 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 §384, the Parties will work together in good faith to jointly submit 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 Defendants that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint has merit or that Defendants have any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendants' defenses in the Actions 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, Defendants reserve the right to contest certification of any class for any reason, Defendants reserve all available defenses to the claims in the Actions, and Plaintiff reserves the right to move for class certification on any grounds available and to contest Defendants' 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, Defendants, 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 the other Party of any judicial or agency order, inquiry, or subpoena seeking such information. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendants, 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, with any 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 Defense Counsel's and Class Counsel's ethical obligations and Class Counsel's fiduciary duties 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 Defendants, respectively, to take all appropriate

1 action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate
2 its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this
3 Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.

4 12.6 Cooperation. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their
5 best efforts, in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying the
6 Settlement Agreement, submitting supplemental evidence and supplementing points and
7 authorities as requested by the Court. In the event the Parties are unable to agree upon the form
8 or content of any document necessary to implement the Settlement, or on any modification of the
9 Agreement that may become necessary to implement the Settlement, the Parties will seek the
10 assistance of a mediator and/or the Court for resolution.

11 12.7 No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not
12 directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or
13 encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of
14 action, or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.

15 12.8 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendants nor Defense Counsel are
16 providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied
17 upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR
18 Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.

19 12.9 Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended,
20 modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their
21 representatives, and approved by the Court.

22 12.10 Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure
23 to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.

24 12.11 Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be
25 governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the state of California, without
26 regard to conflict of law principles.

27 12.12 Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation
28 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 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.

12.15 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.

12.16 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:

John G. Yslas
john.yslas@wilshirelawfirm.com
Jeffrey C. Bils (SBN 301629)
jeffrey.bils@wilshirelawfirm.com
Aram Boyadjian (SBN 334009)
aram.boyadjian@wilshirelawfirm.com
Andrew Sandoval (SBN 346996)
andrew.sandoval@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
660 S. Figueroa St., Sky Lobby
Los Angeles, California 90017
Telephone: (213) 381-9988
Facsimile: (213) 381-9989

To Defendants:

William K. Browning, Bar No. 166742
BROWNING | HOCKER
501 West Broadway, Suite 540
San Diego, California 92101
(619) 234-2194

12.17 Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more

counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or by 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.

12.18 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 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.

12.19 Binding Agreement. The Parties intend that this Agreement shall be fully enforceable and binding upon all Parties within the provisions of Cal. Civil Proc. § 664.6, and that it shall be admissible and subject to disclosure in any proceeding to enforce its terms pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §§ 1122(a)(1) and 1123(b), notwithstanding the confidentiality provisions that otherwise might apply under federal or state law. The Parties further agree and intend that the Los Angeles County Superior Court may enforce this Agreement pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 664.6.

IT IS SO AGREED.

By the Parties:

DATED: 11/6/2025

Signed by:

B128BA10F9CC429...

Plaintiff Esabella Serpa

DATED: _____

Defendants Pride Bakeries, LLC; Pride Bakeries II, LLC

By: _____

Position: _____

counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or by 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.

12.18 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 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.

12.19 Binding Agreement. The Parties intend that this Agreement shall be fully enforceable and binding upon all Parties within the provisions of Cal. Civil Proc. § 664.6, and that it shall be admissible and subject to disclosure in any proceeding to enforce its terms pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §§ 1122(a)(1) and 1123(b), notwithstanding the confidentiality provisions that otherwise might apply under federal or state law. The Parties further agree and intend that the Los Angeles County Superior Court may enforce this Agreement pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 664.6.

IT IS SO AGREED.

By the Parties:

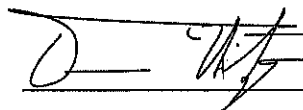
DATED: 11/6/2025

Signed by:

B126BA60F93CC429...

Plaintiff Esabella Serpa

DATED: 11/11/2025



Defendants Pride Bakeries, LLC; Pride Bakeries II, LLC

By: D Shane Hitzeman

Position: President

1 Approved by counsel:

2 DATED: November 6, 2025

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM

3
4 BY:  _____

John G. Ysla

Jeffrey C. Bils

Aram Boyadjian

Andrew Sandoval

Counsel for Plaintiff

10
11 DATED:

BROWNING HOCKER

12
13 BY: _____

William Browning

Counsel for Defendants

1 Approved by counsel:

2 DATED: November 6, 2025

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM

3
4 BY: 

John G. Yslas

Jeffrey C. Bils

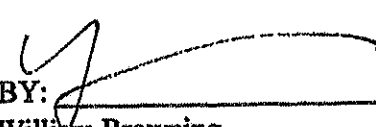
Aram Boyadjian

Andrew Sandoval

8 Counsel for Plaintiff

10
11 DATED: 11/12/2025

BROWNING HOCKER

12
13 BY: 

William Browning

15 Counsel for Defendants

EXHIBIT B

AMENDMENT TO CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Subject to court approval, this amendment is made to the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement” or “Settlement” or “Settlement Agreement”) entered into by and between Plaintiff Esabella Serpa (“Plaintiff”) and Defendants Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes and Pride Bakeries II, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes (collectively “Defendants”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendants collectively as “Parties” or individually as a “Party.”

The Parties agree to replace Section 1.42 of the Settlement Agreement as follows:

1.42 “Released Parties” means Defendants and Defendants’ subsidiaries, owners, shareholders, and managerial employees.

The Parties agree to replace Section 1.44 of the Settlement Agreement as follows:

1.44. “Response Deadline” means 60 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice and shall be the last date on which Class Members may: (a) fax, email, or mail Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, (b) fax, email, or mail his or her Objection to the Settlement, or (c) fax, email, or mail challenge to the number of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods allocated to the Class Member in the Class Notice. Class Members to whom Class Notices are resent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator shall have their deadline extended an additional 14 calendar days beyond the Response Deadline.

The Parties agree to replace Section 5 of the Settlement Agreement as follows:

5. RELEASE OF CLAIMS. Effective on the date when Defendants fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount and all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments, Plaintiff, Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, and Class Counsel will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

The Parties agree to replace Section 7.4.4 of the Settlement Agreement as follows:

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 fourteen days (14) days beyond the 60 days otherwise provided in the Class Notice for all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.

The Parties agree to replace Section 7.5.1 of the Settlement Agreement as follows:

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 fourteen (14) days for Class Members whose Class Notice is 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.

The Parties agree to replace Section 7.6 of the Settlement Agreement as follows:

7.6 Each Class Member shall have 60 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional fourteen (14) days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods allocated to the Class Member in the Class Notice. 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 Parties shall file with the Court all disputes submitted by Class Members, the evidence submitted, and the resolution of the disputes. Although the Administrator may make the initial decision regarding claim disputes, the Court may review any decision made by the Administrator regarding a claim dispute. The Administrator shall promptly provide copies of all challenges to the calculation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel and the Administrator's determination of the challenges.

The Parties agree to replace Section 7.7.2 of the Settlement Agreement as follows:

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 fourteen (14) days for Class Members whose Class Notice was re-mailed).

The Parties agree to replace Section 7.8.4 of the Settlement Agreement as follows:

7.8.4 Workweek and/or Pay Period Challenges. The Administrator has the authority to address and make decisions consistent with the terms of this Agreement on all Class Member challenges over the calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods. The Parties shall file with the Court all disputes submitted by Class Members, the evidence submitted, and the resolution of the disputes. Although the Administrator may make the initial decision regarding claim disputes, the Court may review any decision made by the Administrator regarding a claim dispute.

The Parties agree to replace Section 8 of the Settlement Agreement as follows:

8. CLASS SIZE ESTIMATES and ESCALATOR CLAUSE. Based on their records, Defendants represent there are 1,872 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 65,938 Workweeks during the Class Period and 1,047 Aggrieved Employees who collectively worked a total of 14,552 PAGA Pay Periods during the PAGA Period. If, on final calculation, the total number of Workweeks is greater than 10% higher than 65,938 Workweeks (i.e. greater than 72,531 Workweeks), then the Gross Settlement Amount will increase on a proportional basis equal to the percentage increase in the number of Workweeks worked by the Class Members above the 10%

(for example, if the final number of total workweeks increases by 15%, the Gross Settlement Amount will increase 5%). Defendants shall verify the total Workweeks and select an option prior to the filing for Preliminary Approval. If this provision is triggered so as to increase the Gross Settlement Amount, the Parties agree that the portion of the Gross Settlement Amount allocated to attorneys' fees will increase proportionally such that the total amount of attorneys' fees remains one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount after the upward adjustment required by this provision is implemented.

SIGNATURES

I have read this Amendment to the Agreement and agree to its terms.

Plaintiff Esabella Serpa

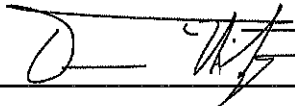
Date: 4/20/2026

Signed by:

Esabella Serpa

Defendants Pride Bakeries, LLC; and Pride Bakeries II, LLC

Date: 04/18/2026


Name: Dennis Shane Hitzeman
Title: President

Approved by Counsel:

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM, PLC

Date: 4/20/2026



John G. Yslas
Jeffrey C. Bils
Counsel for Plaintiff

BROWNING | HOCKER

Date: 4/20/2026



William K. Browning
Counsel for Defendant

EXHIBIT C

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

Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.
Orange County Superior Court, Case Nos. 30-2023-01364775-CU-OE-CXC (lead), 30-2024-01376508-CU-OE-CXC

***The Orange County Superior Court authorized this notice.
It is not junk mail, spam, an advertisement, or solicitation by a lawyer.
Please read it carefully! You are not being sued.***

You may be eligible to receive money from an employee class and a representative action lawsuit (“Action”) against Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes and Pride Bakeries II, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes (“Defendants”) for alleged wage and hour violations. The Actions were filed by former employee, Esabella Serpa, and seek payment of back wages and other relief for a class of all persons currently or formerly employed by Defendants as hourly-paid, non-exempt employees in the State of California (“Class Members”) who worked for Defendants during the Class Period (August 4, 2019 through January 25, 2025); and (2) penalties under the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”) for all Class Members who worked for Defendants during the PAGA Period (July 25, 2022 through January 25, 2025) (“Aggrieved Employees”)

The proposed Settlement has two main parts: (1) a Class settlement requiring Defendants to fund Individual Class Payments, and (2) a PAGA settlement requiring Defendants to fund Individual PAGA Payments and pay PAGA Penalties to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”).

Based on Defendants’ records, and the Parties’ current assumptions, **your Individual Class Payment is estimated to be \$ [REDACTED] (less withholding) and your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$ [REDACTED]**. 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 Defendants’ 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 Defendants’ records showing that **you worked [REDACTED] Workweeks during the Class Period and you worked [REDACTED] Pay Periods during the PAGA Period**. If you believe that you worked more during either period, you can submit a challenge by the deadline date.

The Court has already preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement and approved this Notice. The Court has not yet decided whether to grant final approval of the Settlement. Your legal rights are affected whether you act or not act. **READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY**. 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 Defendants to make payments under the Settlement and requires Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against Defendants.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT	
DO NOTHING	Receive money. Give up rights to sue Defendants for claims released in the Settlement.
EXCLUDE YOURSELF	Receive no money from the Class settlement. You will retain the right to pursue your own legal claims against Defendants. However, even if you exclude yourself from the Class settlement, you will still receive a portion of the PAGA settlement and be bound by it if you worked during the PAGA Period.
OBJECT	Write to the Court about why you object to the Settlement. If the Settlement receives Final Approval, you will receive money and give up rights to sue Defendants for claims released in the Settlement.
CHALLENGE YOUR NUMBER OF WORKWEEKS AND/OR PAY PERIODS	Challenge your number of Workweeks or Pay Periods listed in this Notice and provide supporting evidence. If you challenge your workweeks or pay periods, you will still be part of the Settlement and will give up rights to sue Defendants for claims released in the Settlement.

BASIC INFORMATION

1. WHY AM I RECEIVING THIS NOTICE?

Defendants’ records indicate that you worked for Defendants as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee at some point(s) between August 4, 2019 through January 25, 2025, and are therefore a member of the Class for purposes of this Settlement.

You received this Notice because you have a right to know about a proposed Settlement of the Action, and about all of your options, before the Court decides whether to finally approve the Settlement. The Settlement will resolve all Class Members’ claims, which are described below, during the Class Period. The Settlement will also resolve claims for civil penalties brought under the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”). If you are a Class Member, you are also an “Aggrieved Employee” if you worked for Defendants during the “PAGA Period,” which is July 25, 2022 through January 25, 2025.

If the Court grants Final Approval to the Settlement, a settlement Administrator appointed by the Court will issue the payments provided for by the Settlement to Class Members. You are encouraged to always keep your address up to date with the Administrator (the Administrator’s contact information can be found in Section 12, below).

This Notice package explains the allegations and background regarding the lawsuit, the Settlement, your legal rights, what benefits are available, who is eligible for them, and how to receive those benefits.

QUESTIONS? CALL **1-800-355-0700** TOLL FREE

The Court in charge of the Action is the Orange County Superior Court, and the case is titled, *Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.*, Case Nos. 30-2023-01364775-CU-OE-CXC (lead) and 30-2024-01376508-CU-OE-CXC. The person who sued, Esabella Serpa, is the Plaintiff, and the companies sued, Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes and Pride Bakeries II, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, are the Defendants.

2. WHAT IS THE LAWSUIT ABOUT?

The Plaintiff in the lawsuit alleges wage and hour violations against Defendants for: (1) Failure to Pay Minimum and Straight Time Wages; (2) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages; (3) Failure to Provide Meal Periods; (4) Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods; (5) Failure to Timely Pay Final Wages at Termination; (6) Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements; (7) Failure to Indemnify Employees for Expenditures; (8) Failure to Produce Requested Employment Records; and (9) Unfair Business Practices. In addition, Plaintiff is seeking to recover civil penalties pursuant to PAGA ("PAGA Penalties") based on the alleged violations of the California Labor Code listed above. Defendants deny Plaintiff's claims and deny any wrongdoing.

3. WHY IS THIS A CLASS ACTION?

In an employment class action, one or more people called "Class Representatives" (in this case, the Plaintiff) sue on behalf of all workers who they contend have similar claims. All of these workers are a Class or Class Members. Bringing one lawsuit, as opposed to many small ones, saves money, time and court resources. The court resolves the issues for all Class Members, except for those who exclude themselves from the Class.

4. WHY IS THERE A SETTLEMENT?

The Court has not decided in favor of the Plaintiff or Defendants on the merits of the claims alleged in the lawsuit. There has been no trial. Instead, in acknowledgement of the risk that both Parties face should the case proceed, the Parties have agreed to a negotiated settlement. This way, all Parties avoid the cost of preparing for and conducting a trial, the risk of losing the right to a trial, and the workers affected by the alleged violations receive compensation. The Settlement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. The Plaintiff, as well as Plaintiff's lawyers (called "Class Counsel"), believes the Settlement is fair and reasonable and in the best interests of all Class Members.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE SETTLEMENT?

5. WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE SETTLEMENT?

If you received this Notice, you are a Class Member for settlement purposes. The Class includes: all persons who worked for any Defendants in California as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee at any time from August 4, 2019 through January 25, 2025.

6. ARE THERE EXCEPTIONS TO BEING INCLUDED?

You are not a Class Member if you already have resolved the claims asserted in this lawsuit, whether by settlement or a separate legal proceeding (i.e., another lawsuit).

THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS—WHAT YOU GET

7. WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

Defendants have agreed to pay a Gross Settlement Amount ("GSA") of \$585,000.00 (Five Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents) to settle the lawsuit. From the GSA, Class Counsel will apply to the Court for attorneys' fees of up to 30% of the GSA, currently \$175,500.00 and up to \$21,000.00 in costs; a Class Representative Service Payment of \$5,000.00 to Plaintiff (for Plaintiff's work and efforts prosecuting this case); a PAGA Penalties payment of \$30,000.00 to resolve the PAGA claims; and Settlement Administration Costs to Apex Class Action LLC, not to exceed \$16,990.00. The exact amount of the Class Counsel's Fees and Litigation Expenses, Class Representative Service Payment, and Administration Costs will be determined by the Court at the Final Approval hearing. The remaining portion of the Settlement amount, the "Net Settlement Amount" or the "NSA," is currently estimated to be approximately \$XXXXXXX. The NSA will be apportioned and paid out as Individual Class Payments to the Settlement Class Members, who are the Class Members that do not request to be excluded ("opt out") of the Settlement.

PAGA Penalties payment: As part of the PAGA portion of the Settlement, the Parties will ask the Court to approve a \$30,000.00 PAGA Penalties payment in settlement of claims for civil penalties under PAGA. As required under PAGA, 75% of the PAGA Penalties payment, or \$22,500.00, will be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency. The remaining 25% of the PAGA Penalties payment, or \$7,500.00, will be distributed to the Aggrieved Employees as Individual PAGA Payments.

8. HOW MUCH WILL MY PAYMENT BE?

An approximation of your Individual Class Payment appears on the first page of this Notice. If you are also an Aggrieved Employee, an approximation of your Individual PAGA Payment will also appear on the first page of this Notice.

Individual Class Payment: Your Individual Class Payment is based on the number Workweeks you worked, as represented in Defendants' records, in comparison to the total number of Workweeks worked by all Class Members during the Class Period (August 4, 2019 through January 25, 2025). Ninety percent (90%) of each Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be treated as a payment in settlement of the alleged claims for penalties and interest and will be reported on a Form 1099 by the Settlement Administrator, and ten percent (10%) of each Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be treated as a payment in settlement of alleged claims for unpaid wages. The 10% allocated as unpaid wages will be reduced by applicable payroll tax withholdings and deductions and reported on a Form W-2.

Individual PAGA Payment: If you worked for Defendants from July 25, 2022 through January 25, 2025 (“PAGA Period”), you are also an “Aggrieved Employee” and will receive an Individual PAGA Payment in addition to your Individual Class Payment. The Individual PAGA Payments are based on the number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by each Aggrieved Employee in comparison to the total amount of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period. One hundred percent (100%) of each Aggrieved Employees’ Individual PAGA Payment will be characterized as penalties and will not be reduced by payroll tax withholdings and deductions. The Individual PAGA Payment will be reported on a Form 1099 by the Settlement Administrator. An approximation of your anticipated Individual PAGA Payment appears on the first page of this Notice.

For the Class Members who are also Aggrieved Employees, their Individual Class Payment will be combined with their Individual PAGA Payment, and they will receive a single check for the combined payments. If a Class Member chooses to opt-out of the Settlement, they will still receive an Individual PAGA Payment, as Aggrieved Employees cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement under California law.

HOW YOU GET A PAYMENT

9. WHAT IF MY WORKWEEKS OR PAY PERIODS STATED IN THIS NOTICE ARE INCORRECT?

If you believe that the number of Workweeks or PAGA Pay Periods you worked that are stated in this notice are incorrect, please correct them and provide any supporting evidence to the settlement Administrator, whose contact information is listed in Section 12 below, by no later than **[60 days from mailing]**. The Parties shall file with the Court all disputes submitted by Class Members, the evidence submitted, and the resolution of the disputes. Although the Administrator may make the initial decision regarding claim disputes, the Court may review any decision made by the Administrator regarding a claim dispute.

10. HOW AND WHEN WOULD I GET MY PAYMENT?

You do not need to do anything to receive a payment.

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing on **September 24, 2026**, to decide whether to approve the Settlement. If the Judge approves the Settlement, and anyone objects, there may be appeals. It is always uncertain when these objections and appeals can be resolved and resolving them can take time. If there is no objection, the Effective Date of the Settlement will be the date of entry of the Court’s Order granting final approval.

Following the Effective Date, Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments will be submitted to Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees approximately 30 days after the Court’s approval of the Settlement becomes final so long as there are no appeals.

Settlement checks should be cashed promptly upon receipt. Proceeds of checks which remain uncashed after 180 days from the date of issuance will be forwarded 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). If your settlement check is lost or misplaced, you should contact the Settlement Administrator immediately to request a replacement.

For an update on the status of payments, please contact the Settlement Administrator (see Section 12).

11. WHAT AM I GIVING UP TO GET A PAYMENT?

If the Court approves this Settlement and unless you exclude yourself, you will become a Participating Class Member, and that means that you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendants concerning the legal claims being resolved in this Settlement. Specifically, you will be giving up or “releasing” the Released Class Claims described below against Defendants and all of Defendants’ subsidiaries, owners, shareholders, and managerial employees (“Released Parties”). The releases become effective once Defendants fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount and all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments.

Released Class Claims: The “Released Class Claims” are all claims, rights, demands, liabilities, and causes of action, alleged or which could have reasonably been alleged based on the facts alleged in the operative Complaint, including but not limited to: (1) failure to pay minimum and straight time wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, 1197 and 1197.1); (2) failure to pay overtime wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and 1198); (3) failure to provide meal periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512); (4) failure to authorize and permit rest periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7); (5) failure to timely pay final wages at termination (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 201-203); (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226); (7) failure to indemnify employees for expenditures (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 2802); (8) failure to produce requested employment records (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226, 432, and 1198.5); and (9) unfair business practices (pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*). The enumeration of these specific claims shall neither enlarge nor narrow the scope of *res judicata* based on the claims that were asserted in the Action or could have been asserted in the Action based on the facts and circumstances alleged in the Complaint. The Released Class Claims are those that accrued during the Class Period.

Released PAGA Claims: If you an Aggrieved Employee (i.e. if you worked for Defendants during the PAGA Period), you will also release all claims for PAGA civil penalties that are alleged or reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts alleged in the operative Complaint and in Plaintiff’s PAGA Notice, including but not limited to: (1) failure to pay minimum and straight time wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 204, 210, 510, 1194, 1194.2, 1197 and 1197.1); (2) failure to pay overtime wages (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 510, 1194 and 1198); (3) failure to provide meal periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 210, 226.7 and 512); (4) failure to authorize and permit rest periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 210 and 226.7); (5) failure to timely pay final wages at termination (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 201 – 203 and 213(d)); (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226 and 226.3); (7) failure to indemnify employees for expenditures (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code § 2802); (8) failure to produce requested employment records (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226, 432, and 1198.5); (9) failure to pay all earned wages twice per month and unlawfully withholding accrued wages (pursuant to

QUESTIONS? CALL **1-800-355-0700** TOLL FREE

Cal. Labor Code §§ 204, 210 and 216); (10) failure to maintain accurate records of hours worked and meal periods (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 1174, and 1174.5); (11) recordkeeping requirement violations (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.6, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1198 and 1199); (12) willful misclassification (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code § 226.8); (13) retaliation (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code § 1102.5); and (14) civil penalties for wage and hour violations (pursuant to Cal. Labor Code § 558). The Released PAGA Claims are those that accrued during the PAGA Period.

EXCLUDING YOURSELF FROM THE SETTLEMENT

12. HOW DO I EXCLUDE MYSELF FROM THE SETTLEMENT?

To exclude yourself from the Settlement, you must send the Settlement Administrator a written and signed request for exclusion no later than **[60 days after Class Notice is Mailed]** via mail, email, or fax using the following contact information:

Apex Class Action LLC
Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.
PO Box 54668, Irvine, CA 92619
support@apexclassaction.com
Fax: (949) 989-4428

You may use the attached Request for Exclusion Form. If you send a request for exclusion by mail, it must be postmarked by the due date. Be sure to include your name, address, and email address or telephone number, and any other information you think would be helpful to the settlement Administrator to identify you.

If you ask to be excluded from the Settlement, you will not be legally bound by anything that happens in the Action, except as it relates to settlement of the PAGA claim. If you ask to be excluded from the Settlement you will not be able to object to the Settlement and you will not receive an Individual Class Payment, but you will still receive an Individual PAGA Payment if you worked for Defendants during the PAGA Period (July 25, 2022 through January 25, 2025). If you ask to be excluded, you may be able to sue (or continue to sue) Defendants in the future.

13. IF I DON'T EXCLUDE MYSELF, CAN I SUE DEFENDANTS FOR THE SAME THING LATER?

No. Unless you exclude yourself, you give up any right to sue Defendants for the claims that this Settlement resolves. If you have a pending lawsuit, speak to your lawyer in that case immediately. You must exclude yourself from this Class to continue your own lawsuit. Remember, the exclusion deadline is **[60 days after Class Notice is Mailed]**.

14. IF I EXCLUDE MYSELF, CAN I GET MONEY FROM THIS SETTLEMENT?

No, you will not receive an Individual Class Payment if you exclude yourself. You will still receive an Individual PAGA Payment if you worked for Defendants during the PAGA Period (July 25, 2022 through January 25, 2025). However, if you timely exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will retain the right to pursue your own legal action against Defendants, if you desire.

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU IN THIS LAWSUIT

15. DO I HAVE A LAWYER IN THIS CASE?

The Court has preliminarily determined that Wilshire Law Firm is qualified to represent you and the Class Members in the lawsuit. These lawyers are called Class Counsel and their contact information is listed below. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

John G. Yslas
john.yslas@wilshirelawfirm.com
Jeffrey C. Bils
jeffrey.bils@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
660 S. Figueroa St., Sky Lobby
Los Angeles, California 90017
Telephone: (213) 381-9988
Facsimile: (213) 381-9989

16. HOW WILL THE LAWYERS BE PAID?

Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve up to **30%** of the GSA (currently **\$175,500.00**) for attorneys' fees incurred in investigating the facts, litigating the case, and negotiating the Settlement. Class Counsel will also seek Court-approval of up to \$21,000.00 in litigation expenses incurred in this matter. The Court may award Class Counsel less than what they request. Class Counsel will also ask the Court to approve payment to Plaintiff Esabella Serpa in the amount of \$5,000.00 in addition to Plaintiff's Individual Class Payment and Individual PAGA Payment for the initiative, risk, and time and energy Plaintiff has spent in service to the Class as the Class Representative. The Court may award the Class Representative less than what is requested.

OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENT

QUESTIONS? CALL **1-800-355-0700** TOLL FREE

You can and have the right to tell the Court you do not agree with the Settlement or some part of it.

17. HOW DO I TELL THE COURT THAT I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT?

If you don't think the Settlement is fair, you can object to some or all of the Settlement. You can either object to the Settlement in person at the Final Approval Hearing or you can submit a written objection. Written objections must be sent to the Settlement Administrator no later than **[60 days after Class Notice is Mailed]**, via mail, email, or fax using the following contact information:

Apex Class Action LLC
Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.
PO Box 54668, Irvine, CA 92619
support@apexclassaction.com
Fax: (949) 989-4428

You may use the attached Objection Form. If you send a written objection by mail, it must be postmarked by the due date. The written objection should state your name and address and describe all legal and factual reasons that you object to the terms of the Settlement. You should also include or attach any documents upon which your objection is based. If the Court overrules the objection at the Final Approval Hearing, the Settlement Agreement will be approved, and you will receive your payment. If you do not submit a written objection, you may still appear at the Final Approval hearing to voice your objection or to otherwise observe the proceedings.

18. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OBJECTING AND REQUESTING EXCLUSION?

Objecting is simply telling the Court that you do not agree with something about the Settlement. You can object only if you stay in the Class.

Requesting exclusion is telling the Court that you do not want to be part of the Class. If you exclude yourself, you have no basis to object because the case no longer affects you, and you do not get any money from this Settlement. If you submit both an objection and a request to be excluded from the settlement, the request to be excluded will control and you will not get any money from this settlement.

THE COURT'S APPROVAL HEARING

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing to decide whether to approve the Settlement. You may attend and you may ask to speak, but you don't have to.

19. WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE COURT DECIDE WHETHER TO APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT?

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing at on **September 24, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.** in Department CX-105 of the Orange County Superior Court (Civil Complex Center) located at 751 West Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, California 92701 to determine whether the Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate. If there are objections, the Court will consider them at that time. The Court will also be asked to approve the requests for the Class Representative Service Payment and the Class Counsel Fees and Litigation Expenses Payments.

20. DO I HAVE TO COME TO THE HEARING?

No. Class Counsel will answer questions the Court may have. However, you are welcome to attend. If you send an objection, you do not have to come to the Court to talk about it. As long as you mailed your written objection to the settlement administrator on time, the Court will consider it. You may also pay your own lawyer to attend, but it is not necessary.

IF YOU DO NOTHING

21. WHAT IF I DO NOTHING AT ALL?

If you do nothing, you will receive a Settlement payment, and you will be bound by the terms of Settlement, which means that you will not be able to start a lawsuit, continue a lawsuit, or be a part of any other lawsuit against the Defendants about the legal issues in the Action.

If you worked for Defendants during the PAGA Period (July 25, 2022 through January 25, 2025), you are bound by the terms of the PAGA release, even if you do not cash the check for your Individual PAGA Payment.

GETTING MORE INFORMATION

22. HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

You may contact Class Counsel at the contact information listed above in Section 15 if you have any questions about the Settlement. You may also contact the Court-appointed Settlement Administrator, Apex Class Action LLC, by calling toll free **1-800-355-0700**, or you can write to the Administrator at the following address:

Apex Class Action LLC
Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.
PO Box 54668, Irvine, CA 92619
support@apexclassaction.com

The Settlement Administrator will post all key documents on its website, including the operative complaint, the PAGA notices letter(s) to the LWDA, the settlement agreement and any amendments thereto, the class notice and any included forms, the orders granting preliminary and final approval, and the judgment. The judgment will be posted for at least 180 days.

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT OR COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANTS FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS SETTLEMENT OR THE CLAIM PROCESS. YOU MAY, HOWEVER, CALL CLASS COUNSEL OR THE SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR, LISTED ABOVE.

QUESTIONS? CALL **1-800-355-0700** TOLL FREE

REQUEST FOR EXCLUSION FORM

Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.

Orange County Superior Court, Case Nos. 30-2023-01364775-CU-OE-CXC (lead), 30-2024-01376508-CU-OE-CXC

IF YOU WANT TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND RECEIVE AN INDIVIDUAL CLASS SETTLEMENT PAYMENT, DO NOT FILL OUT THIS FORM.

If you do not want to be included in this class action settlement, and do not want to receive an individual class settlement payment, complete, date, and sign this form and send it back to the Settlement Administrator, which must be timely faxed, emailed, or postmarked no later than **[60 days after Class Notice is Mailed]**. You can send this form to the Settlement Administrator at:

Apex Class Action LLC

Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.

PO Box 54668, Irvine, CA 92619

support@apexclassaction.com

Fax: (949) 989-4428

If you submit this Request for Exclusion form, you will **not** receive an individual class settlement payment under the class action portion of the Settlement, and you will not be bound by the release set forth in the Settlement if the Court grants final approval of the Settlement. You will be excluded from the class action portion of the Settlement, and will not be a Class Member.

If you are entitled to receive a share of the PAGA Payment, you will receive your individual PAGA settlement payment even if you elect to exclude yourself from the class action portion of the Settlement. The employees who are entitled to receive a share of the PAGA Payment are those who meet the following definition: means all persons who worked for any Defendant in California as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee at any time during the PAGA Period (July 25, 2022, through January 25, 2025).

By completing, signing, and returning this form, you are confirming your agreement with the following statement:

I have received notice of the proposed Settlement in this consolidated class action lawsuit, and I wish to be excluded from the class settlement. I understand by requesting exclusion from the class settlement, I will not receive any money from the class settlement, but I will retain whatever individual rights I may have, if any, to pursue a claim against the Defendants with respect to the class claims raised in the above-referenced lawsuit.

Your Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number, Including Area Code: _____

Last four digits of Social Security Number: XXX-XX-_____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

OBJECTION FORM

Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.

Orange County Superior Court, Case Nos. 30-2023-01364775-CU-OE-CXC (lead), 30-2024-01376508-CU-OE-CXC

If you want to object to the Class Settlement, complete, date, and sign this form and send it back to the Settlement Administrator. For the written objection to be considered timely, it must be faxed, emailed, or postmarked to the Administrator no later than **60 days after Class Notice is Mailed. You can send this form to the Settlement Administrator at:**

Apex Class Action LLC

Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.

PO Box 54668, Irvine, CA 92619

support@apexclassaction.com

Fax: (949) 989-4428

If you choose, you may object to the proposed Settlement. The Court will consider your objection before deciding whether to grant final approval of the Class Action Settlement. By objecting, you are requesting that the Court *not* grant final approval of Settlement. If you are concerned that the settlement terms are unfair, you may submit an objection for the Court's review. The Court may or may not agree with your objection. Objecting to the Settlement will not exclude you from the Settlement, and if the Court grants final approval to the Settlement, you will get your individual class settlement payment and the release of claims will apply to you.

If you wish to object to the Settlement, you may complete this Objection form and state the basis for your objection, or you may write your objection in any other written format you choose. Alternatively, you may appear at the Final Approval Hearing and make your objection to the Court regardless of whether you submit a written objection. Send the completed Objection form or other written statement, along with legal briefs or other documents that support your objection, if any, by sending it to the Settlement Administrator no later than **60 days after Class Notice is Mailed**.

Your Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number, Including Area Code: _____

Last four digits of Social Security Number: XXX-XX-_____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

WORKWEEK/PAY PERIOD DISPUTE FORM

Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.
Orange County Superior Court, Case Nos. 30-2023-01364775-CU-OE-CXC (lead), 30-2024-01376508-CU-OE-CXC

INSTRUCTIONS

If you worked for Defendants Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes and/or Pride Bakeries II, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes in California as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee at any time from August 4, 2019, through January 25, 2025 ("Class Period"), then you are a Class Member.

If you worked for Defendants Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes and/or Pride Bakeries II, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes in California as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee at any time from July 25, 2022, through January 25, 2025 ("PAGA Period"), then you are an Aggrieved Employee.

The amount of your estimated settlement payment is based upon the workweeks you worked for any of the Defendants during the Class Period and/or pay periods you worked for any of the Defendants during the PAGA Period.

A "workweek" is defined as any week in which you worked for any of the Defendants at least one (1) day during the Class Period. A "pay period" is defined as any pay period in which you worked for any of the Defendants at least one (1) day. The number of workweeks and/or pay periods applicable to your claim is set forth in Section I below. If you believe that the number of workweeks and/or pay periods stated is incorrect, you may dispute the number of workweeks and/or pay periods by submitting this completed Workweek/Pay Period Dispute Form with any supporting documents on or before **[60 days after initial mailing]**. **If you believe that the number of workweeks and/or pay periods stated below is correct, you do not have to do anything.**

I. YOUR COMPENSABLE WORKWEEKS AND/OR PAY PERIODS

Your total number of workweeks are: **<<NUMBER OF WORKWEEKS>>**

Your total number of pay periods are: **<<NUMBER OF PAY PERIODS>>**

II. YOUR ESTIMATED SETTLEMENT PAYMENT

Based upon the number of workweeks and/or pay periods stated above, your estimated pre-tax settlement payment is **<<INSERT>>**.

III. CHALLENGE TO WORKWEEKS AND/OR PAY PERIODS

If you wish to dispute the workweeks and/or pay period data listed, you must **fax, email,** or postmark your dispute and provide all supporting information and/or documentation, if any, to the Settlement Administrator by **[60 days after initial mailing]**.

Check the box below ONLY if you wish to dispute the data listed in Section I:

☐ I wish to dispute the number of **workweeks** listed in Section I. I believe the correct amount of my workweeks is _____. I understand that, by submitting this dispute, I hereby authorize the Settlement Administrator to review Defendants' records and make a determination as to the validity of my dispute based upon Defendants' records as well as the records and information that I submit to the Settlement Administrator.

☐ I wish to dispute the number of **pay periods** listed in Section I. I believe the correct amount of my pay periods is _____. I understand that, by submitting this dispute, I hereby authorize the Settlement Administrator to review Defendants' records and make a determination as to the validity of my dispute based upon Defendants' records as well as the records and information that I submit to the Settlement Administrator.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United States of America that the information I provided in this Workweek/Pay Period Dispute Form is true and correct.

Dated: _____

Signature: _____

Print or Type Name: _____

SEND TO:

Apex Class Action LLC
Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.
PO Box 54668, Irvine, CA 92619
support@apexclassaction.com
Fax: (949) 989-4428

IF YOU ARE CONTESTING THE AMOUNT OF YOUR WORKWEEKS AND/OR PAY PERIODS, YOU MUST SIGN, POSTMARK, AND RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR ON OR BEFORE **[60 days after initial mailing].**

QUESTIONS? CALL **1-800-355-0700** TOLL FREE

AVISO DE DEMANDA COLECTIVA Y ACUERDO DE PAGA APROBADOS POR EL TRIBUNAL Y FECHA DE AUDIENCIA PARA LA APROBACIÓN DEFINITIVA

Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.
Tribunal Superior del Condado de Orange, Casos Número 30-2023-01364775-CU-OE-CXC (caso principal), 30-2024-01376508-CU-OE-CXC

***El Tribunal Superior del Condado de Orange autorizó este aviso.
No se trata de correo basura, spam, publicidad ni solicitud de un abogado.
¡Por favor, léalo con atención! No le están demandando.***

Usted podría ser elegible para recibir dinero de una demanda colectiva de empleados y una demanda representativa (“Demanda”) contra Pride Bakeries, LLC en negocios bajo el nombre de Panera Bread Bakery Cafes y Pride Bakeries II, LLC en negocios bajo el nombre de Panera Bread Bakery Cafes (“Demandados”) por presuntas violaciones de salarios y horas. Las Demandas fueron presentadas por la exempleada Esabella Serpa y busca el pago de salarios atrasados y otras compensaciones para una clase de todas las personas empleadas actualmente o en el pasado como empleados no exentos pagados por hora en el Estado de California (“Miembros de la Clase”) que trabajaron para los Demandados durante el Período de Clase (del 4 de agosto de 2019 al 25 de enero de 2025); y (2) sanciones bajo la Ley de Acción Privada del Fiscal General del Código Laboral de California de 2004 (“PAGA”) para todos los Miembros de la Clase que trabajaron para los Demandados durante el Período de PAGA (del 25 de julio de 2022 al 25 de enero de 2025) (“Empleados Afectados”).

El Acuerdo propuesto tiene dos partes principales: (1) un acuerdo Colectivo que exige a los Demandados financiar los Pagos Individuales de Clase, y (2) un acuerdo de PAGA que exige a los Demandados financiar los Pagos Individuales de PAGA y pagar las sanciones de PAGA a la Agencia de Desarrollo Laboral y de la Fuerza Laboral de California (“LWDA”).

Según los registros de los Demandados y las suposiciones actuales de las Partes, su Pago Individual de Clase se estima en \$ [REDACTED] (menos retención) y su Pago Individual de PAGA se estima en \$ [REDACTED]. Es probable que la cantidad real que reciba varíe y dependa de varios factores. (Si no se indica ninguna cantidad para su Pago Individual de PAGA, según los registros de los Demandados, no tiene derecho a dicho pago en virtud del Acuerdo, ya que no trabajó durante el Período de PAGA).

Las estimaciones anteriores se basan en los registros de los Demandados que muestran que trabajó [REDACTED] Semanas laborales durante el Período de Clase y [REDACTED] Períodos de Pago durante el Período de PAGA. Si considera que trabajó más tiempo en alguno de los dos períodos, puede presentar una impugnación antes de la fecha límite.

El Tribunal ya ha aprobado preliminarmente el Acuerdo propuesto y este Aviso. Pero aún no ha decidido si concede la aprobación definitiva al Acuerdo. Sus derechos legales se ven afectados tanto si actúa como si no lo hace. **LEA ESTE AVISO DETENIDAMENTE.** En la Audiencia de Aprobación Definitiva, el Tribunal decidirá si aprueba definitivamente el Acuerdo y qué parte del mismo se pagará al Demandante y a sus abogados (“Abogados de la Clase”). El Tribunal también decidirá si dicta una sentencia que obligue a los Demandados a efectuar pagos en virtud del Acuerdo y exija a los Miembros de Clase y a los Empleados Afectados que renuncien a su derecho a presentar ciertas reclamaciones contra los Demandados.

SUS DERECHOS Y OPCIONES LEGALES EN ESTE ACUERDO	
NO HAGA NADA	Recibir dinero. Renunciar al derecho a demandar a los Demandados por las reclamaciones liberadas en el Acuerdo.
EXCLUIRSE	No recibirá dinero del acuerdo Colectivo. Conservará el derecho a interponer sus propias reclamaciones legales contra los Demandados. Sin embargo, incluso si usted se excluye del acuerdo Colectivo, seguirá recibiendo una parte del acuerdo de PAGA y estará sujeto a él si trabajó durante el Período de PAGA.
OBJETAR	Escriba al Tribunal explicando por qué se opone al Acuerdo. Si el Acuerdo recibe la Aprobación Definitiva, recibirá dinero y renunciará al derecho a demandar a los Demandados por las reclamaciones que se hayan liberado en el Acuerdo.
IMPUGNE EL NÚMERO DE SEMANAS LABORALES Y/O PERÍODOS DE PAGO	Impugne el número de Semanas laborales o de Períodos de Pago que figuran en este Aviso y proporcione pruebas que lo respalden. Si impugna su número, siempre será parte del Acuerdo y renunciará al derecho a demandar a los Demandados por las reclamaciones liberadas en el Acuerdo.

INFORMACIÓN BÁSICA

1. ¿POR QUÉ RECIBO ESTE AVISO?

Los registros de los Demandados indican que trabajó para los Demandados como empleado pagado por hora, no exento, en algún momento entre el 4 de agosto de 2019 y el 25 de enero de 2025, y, por lo tanto, es miembro de la Clase para los fines de este Acuerdo.

Recibió este Aviso porque tiene derecho a ser informado sobre una propuesta de Acuerdo en la Demanda y sobre todas sus opciones antes de que el Tribunal decida si aprueba o no dicho Acuerdo. Este Acuerdo resolverá todas las reclamaciones de los Miembros de la Clase que se describen a continuación durante el Período de Clase. También resolverá las reclamaciones por sanciones civiles presentadas en virtud de la Ley de Acción Privada del Fiscal General del Código Laboral de California de 2004 (“PAGA”). Si es Miembro de la Clase, también es un “Empleado Afectado” si trabajó para los Demandados durante el “Período de PAGA”, que abarca desde el 25 de julio de 2022 hasta el 25 de enero de 2025.

Si el Tribunal otorga la Aprobación Definitiva al Acuerdo, un Administrador designado por el Tribunal efectuará los pagos previstos en el Acuerdo a los Miembros de Clase. Se recomienda mantener siempre actualizada su dirección con el Administrador (la información de contacto se encuentra en la Sección 12, más abajo).

Este paquete de Aviso explica las alegaciones y los antecedentes relacionados con la demanda, el Acuerdo, sus derechos legales, qué beneficios están disponibles, quiénes son elegibles para ellos y cómo recibirlos.

El Tribunal Superior del Condado de Orange está a cargo de la Demanda, y el caso se titula “*Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.*”, Casos Nos. 30-2023-01364775-CU-OE-CXC (caso principal) y 30-2024-01376508-CU-OE-CXC. La persona que presentó la demanda, Esabella Serpa, es la demandante, y las empresas demandadas, Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes y Pride Bakeries II, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, son los Demandados.

2. ¿DE QUÉ TRATA LA DEMANDA?

La Demandante en la demanda alega violaciones salariales y de horas por parte de los Demandados por: (1) Falta de pago de salarios mínimos y de jornada regular; (2) Falta de pago de horas extras; (3) Falta de provisión de periodos de comida; (4) Falta de autorización y permiso de periodos de descanso; (5) Falta de pago oportuno de los salarios finales al momento de la terminación; (6) Falta de provisión de boletas de de salarios detallados y precisos; (7) Falta de indemnización a los empleados por gastos; (8) Falta de presentación de registros de empleo solicitados; y (9) Prácticas comerciales desleales. Además, la Demandante busca recuperar sanciones civiles de conformidad con PAGA (“Sanciones PAGA”) basadas en las presuntas violaciones del Código Laboral de California enumeradas anteriormente. Los Demandados niegan las alegaciones de la Demandante y no han cometido ninguna irregularidad.

3. ¿POR QUÉ SE TRATA DE UNA DEMANDA COLECTIVA?

En una demanda colectiva laboral, una o más personas llamadas “Representantes de la Clase” (en este caso, la Demandante) presentan una demanda en nombre de todos los trabajadores que, según sostienen, tienen reclamaciones similares. Todos estos trabajadores pertenecen a una Clase o son Miembros de una Clase. Presentar una sola demanda en lugar de muchas pequeñas demandas ahorra dinero, tiempo y recursos judiciales. El tribunal resuelve las cuestiones para todos los Miembros de Clase, excepto para aquellos que se excluyan a sí mismos.

4. ¿POR QUÉ HAY UN ACUERDO?

El Tribunal no se ha pronunciado a favor de la Demandante ni de los Demandados respecto del fondo de las reclamaciones alegadas. Ni tampoco ha habido juicio. En cambio, reconociendo el riesgo al que ambas Partes se enfrentan si el caso sigue adelante, han acordado una conciliación negociada. De esta forma, todas las Partes evitan el coste de preparar y celebrar un juicio, el riesgo de perder el derecho a un juicio y los trabajadores afectados por las presuntas infracciones reciben una indemnización. El Acuerdo representa una solución de compromiso y de resolución de reclamaciones altamente controvertidas. La Demandante, así como sus abogados (denominados “Abogados de la Clase”), considera que el Acuerdo es justo y razonable y que redundará en el mejor interés de todos los Miembros de la Clase.

¿QUIÉNES ESTÁN INCLUIDOS EN EL ACUERDO?

5. ¿QUIÉNES ESTÁN INCLUIDOS EN EL ACUERDO?

Si ha recibido este Aviso, es un Miembro de la Clase a efectos de conciliación. La Clase incluye a todas las personas que trabajaron para cualquiera de los Demandados en California, como empleados pagados por hora o no exentos, en cualquier momento entre el 4 de agosto de 2019 y el 25 de enero de 2025.

6. ¿EXISTEN EXCEPCIONES A LA INCLUSIÓN?

No es un Miembro de la Clase si ya ha resuelto las reclamaciones presentadas en esta demanda, ya sea mediante un acuerdo o un procedimiento legal separado (es decir, otra demanda).

BENEFICIOS DEL ACUERDO: LO QUE OBTIENE

7. ¿QUÉ ESTABLECE EL ACUERDO?

Los Demandados han acordado pagar un Monto Bruto del Acuerdo (“MBA”) de \$585,000.00 (quinientos ochenta y cinco mil dólares con cero centavos) para conciliar la demanda. Del MBA, los Abogados de la Clase solicitarán al Tribunal honorarios de hasta un **treinta por ciento (30%)** de dicho monto, actualmente **\$175,500.00** y hasta \$21,000.00 en costos; un Pago por Servicios de Representante de Clase de \$5,000.00 a la Demandante (por el trabajo y los esfuerzos en el procesamiento de este caso); un pago de Sanciones PAGA de \$30,000.00 para resolver las reclamaciones de PAGA; y costos de Administración del Acuerdo a Apex Class Action LLC, que no excedan los \$16,990.00. El monto exacto de los honorarios de los Abogados de la Clase y de los Gastos de Litigio, el Pago por los Servicios del Representante de la Clase y los Costos Administrativos los determinará el Tribunal en la audiencia de Aprobación Definitiva. La parte restante del monto del Acuerdo, el “Monto Neto del Acuerdo” o “MNA”, se estima actualmente en aproximadamente **\$XXXXXXX**. Este monto se distribuirá y abonará como Pagos Individuales de Clase a los Miembros de la Clase del Acuerdo que no soliciten ser excluidos (“no participar”).

Pago de Sanciones PAGA: Como parte de la porción de PAGA del Acuerdo, las partes solicitarán al Tribunal que apruebe un pago de \$30,000.00 en concepto de Sanciones de PAGA para la resolución de reclamaciones por sanciones civiles bajo PAGA. Tal como exige la Ley PAGA, el 75% del pago de las Sanciones de PAGA, o \$22,500.00, se pagará a la Agencia de Trabajo y Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral de California. El 25% restante del pago, es decir, \$7,500.00, se distribuirá entre los Empleados Afectados como Pagos Individuales de PAGA.

8. ¿DE CUÁNTO SERÁ MI PAGO?

En la primera página de este Aviso encontrará una estimación de su Pago Individual de Clase. Si también es un Empleado Afectado, una estimación de su Pago Individual de PAGA aparecerá en la misma página.

Pago Individual de Clase: Su Pago Individual de Clase se basa en la cantidad de Semanas Laborales que trabajó, según consta en los registros de los Demandados, en comparación con la cantidad total de Semanas Laborales trabajadas por todos los Miembros de la Clase durante el Período de Clase (del 4 de agosto de 2019 al 25 de enero de 2025). El noventa por ciento (90%) del Pago Individual de Clase de cada Miembro de la Clase se considerará un pago para liquidar las supuestas reclamaciones por sanciones e intereses, y el Administrador del Acuerdo lo informará mediante un formulario 1099. El diez por ciento (10%) de este mismo pago se considerará para liquidar las supuestas reclamaciones por salarios impagos. El 10% asignado a salarios no pagados se reducirá mediante las retenciones y deducciones de impuestos aplicables a la nómina, y se informará en el formulario W-2.

Pago individual de PAGA: Si trabajó para los Demandados entre el 25 de julio de 2022 y el 25 de enero de 2025 (“Período de PAGA”), también es un “Empleado Afectado” y recibirá un Pago individual de PAGA además de su Pago Individual de Clase. Los Pagos Individuales de PAGA se basan en la cantidad de Períodos de Pago de PAGA trabajados por cada Empleado Afectado en comparación con la cantidad total de Períodos de Pago de PAGA trabajados por todos los Empleados Afectados durante el Período de PAGA. El cien por ciento (100%) de cada Pago Individual de PAGA de los Empleados Afectados se considerará como sanciones y no se reducirá por las retenciones y deducciones de impuestos sobre la nómina. Este pago lo reportará el Administrador del Acuerdo en un formulario 1099. En la primera página de este Aviso encontrará una estimación del monto previsto de su Pago Individual de PAGA.

Para los Miembros de la Clase que también sean Empleados Afectados, su Pago Individual de Clase se combinará con su Pago Individual de PAGA y recibirá un solo cheque por los pagos combinados. Si un Miembro de la Clase decide no participar en el Acuerdo, seguirá recibiendo un Pago Individual de PAGA, ya que, según la ley de California, los Empleados Afectados no pueden optar por no participar en la parte de PAGA del Acuerdo.

CÓMO RECIBIR UN PAGO

9. ¿QUÉ SUCEDE SI MIS SEMANAS LABORALES O PERÍODOS DE PAGO INDICADOS EN ESTE AVISO SON INCORRECTOS?

Si cree que el número de Semanas laborales o Períodos de Pago de PAGA que trabajó que se indica en este aviso es incorrecto, corríjalo y proporcione cualquier evidencia que lo respalde al Administrador del acuerdo, cuya información de contacto se encuentra en la Sección 12 a continuación, a más tardar **[60 días después del envío por correo]**. Las Partes deberán presentar ante el Tribunal todas las impugnaciones planteadas por los Miembros de la Clase, las pruebas alegadas y la resolución de dichas impugnaciones. Si bien el Administrador puede tomar la decisión inicial sobre las impugnaciones, el Tribunal puede revisar cualquier decisión del Administrador al respecto.

10. ¿CÓMO Y CUÁNDO RECIBIRÉ MI PAGO?

No necesita hacer nada para recibir un pago.

El Tribunal celebrará una Audiencia de Aprobación Definitiva el **24 de septiembre de 2026** para decidir si se aprueba el Acuerdo. Si el juez aprueba el Acuerdo y alguien se opone, puede haber apelaciones. Siempre existe incertidumbre sobre cuándo podrán resolverse estas objeciones y apelaciones, y su resolución puede demorarse. Si no hay objeción, la Fecha de Vigencia del Acuerdo será la fecha de emisión de la orden judicial que otorgue la aprobación definitiva.

Tras la Fecha de Vigencia, los Pagos Individuales de clase y los de PAGA se enviarán a los Miembros de Clase Participante y a los Empleados Afectados aproximadamente 30 días después de que la aprobación del acuerdo por parte del Tribunal sea definitiva, siempre que no haya apelaciones.

Los cheques del Acuerdo deben cobrarse inmediatamente después haber sido recibidos. Los fondos de los cheques que permanezcan sin cobrar después de 180 días desde la fecha de emisión se enviarán al Fondo de Propiedad No Reclamada del Contralor de California a nombre del Miembro de la Clase, de modo que no quede ningún “residuo impago” sujeto a los requisitos de la Sección 384, subd. (b) del Código de Procedimiento Civil de California. Si pierde o extravía su cheque, debe comunicarse de inmediato con el Administrador del Acuerdo para solicitar su reemplazo.

Para obtener información actualizada sobre el estado de los pagos, contacte al Administrador del Acuerdo (véase la sección 12).

11. ¿A QUÉ ESTOY RENUNCIANDO PARA RECIBIR UN PAGO?

Si el Tribunal aprueba este Acuerdo y, salvo que se excluya, pasará a ser un Miembro de Clase Participante, lo que significa que no podrá demandar, continuar demandando ni formar parte de ninguna otra demanda contra los Demandados en relación con las reclamaciones legales resueltas en este Acuerdo. En concreto, usted renunciará a o “liberará” las Reclamaciones Exoneradas de Clase que se describen a continuación contra los Demandados y todas sus subsidiarias, propietarios, accionistas y empleados directivos (“Partes Exoneradas”). Las liberaciones entrarán en vigor una vez que los Demandados financien íntegramente el Monto Bruto del Acuerdo y todos los impuestos sobre la nómina del empleador adeudados por la Parte Salarial de los Pagos Individuales de Clase.

Reclamaciones Exoneradas de Clase: Estas son todas las reclamaciones, derechos, demandas, responsabilidades y causas de acción, alegadas o que razonablemente podrían haberse alegado con base en los hechos alegados en la Demanda operativa, incluyendo, entre otros: (1) falta de pago de salarios mínimos y de tiempo normal (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, 1197 y 1197.1); (2) incumplimiento en el pago de salarios por horas extras (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 510, 1194 y 1198); (3) incumplimiento de proporcionar períodos de comida (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 226.7 y 512); (4) incumplimiento de autorizar y permitir períodos de descanso (de

¿PREGUNTAS? LLAME A LA LÍNEA GRATUITA **1-800-355-0700**

conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 226.7); (5) incumplimiento del pago oportuno de los salarios finales al momento de la terminación (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 201-203); (6) incumplimiento en la prestación de estados de cuenta de salarios detallados y precisos (de conformidad con el Cód. Código Laboral, §§ 226); (7) incumplimiento de indemnizar a los empleados por gastos (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 2802); (8) incumplimiento en la presentación de los registros de empleo solicitados (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 226, 432 y 1198.5); y (9) prácticas comerciales desleales (de conformidad con el Cód. de Negocios y Profesiones, §§ 17200 y sig.). La enumeración de estas reclamaciones específicas no ampliará ni restringirá el alcance de *la cosa juzgada* con base en las reclamaciones presentadas en la Demanda o que podrían haberse presentado en ella, ni en los hechos y circunstancias alegados en la Demanda. Las Reclamaciones Exoneradas de Clase son aquellas que se acumularon durante el Período de Clase.

Reclamaciones Exoneradas de PAGA: Si usted es un Empleado Afectado (es decir, si trabajó para los Demandados durante el Período de PAGA), también liberará todas las reclamaciones por sanciones civiles de PAGA que se alegan o que razonablemente podrían haberse alegado con base en los hechos alegados en la Demanda operativa y en el Aviso de PAGA de la Demandante, incluyendo, entre otros: (1) falta de pago de salarios mínimos y de tiempo normal (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 204, 210, 510, 1194, 1194.2, 1197 y 1197.1); (2) incumplimiento en el pago de salarios por horas extras (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 510, 1194 y 1198); (3) incumplimiento de proporcionar períodos de comida (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 210, 226.7 y 512); (4) incumplimiento de autorizar y permitir períodos de descanso (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 210 y 226.7); (5) incumplimiento del pago oportuno de los salarios finales al momento de la terminación (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 201 – 203 y 213(d)); (6) incumplimiento en la prestación de estados de cuenta de salarios detallados y precisos (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 226 y 226.3); (7) incumplimiento de indemnizar a los empleados por gastos (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, § 2802); (8) incumplimiento en la presentación de los registros de empleo solicitados (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 226, 432 y 1198.5); (9) incumplimiento del pago de todos los salarios ganados dos veces al mes y retención ilegal de salarios acumulados (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 204, 210 y 216); (10) incumplimiento de mantener registros precisos de las horas trabajadas y de los períodos de comida (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 1174 y 1174.5); (11) violaciones de los requisitos de mantenimiento de registros (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, §§ 226.6, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1198 y 1199); (12) clasificación errónea intencional (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, § 226.8); (13) represalias (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, § 1102.5); y (14) sanciones civiles por violaciones de salarios y horas (de conformidad con el Cód. Laboral, § 558). Las Reclamaciones Exoneradas de PAGA son aquellas que se acumularon durante el Período de PAGA.

EXCLUIRSE DEL ACUERDO

12. ¿CÓMO EXCLUIRSE DEL ACUERDO?

Para excluirse del Acuerdo, debe enviar al Administrador del Acuerdo una solicitud de exclusión por escrito y firmada a más tardar el **[60 días después de que se envíe el Aviso Colectivo]** por correo postal, correo electrónico o fax utilizando la siguiente información de contacto:

Apex Class Action LLC
Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.
PO Box 54668, Irvine, CA 92619
support@apexclassaction.com
Fax: (949) 989-4428

Puede utilizar el formulario adjunto de Solicitud de Exclusión. Si envía una solicitud de exclusión por correo postal, esta debe presentar al menos la fecha límite en el sello postal. Asegúrese de incluir su nombre, dirección, correo electrónico o número de teléfono y cualquier otra información que considere útil, para que el Administrador del acuerdo pueda identificarle.

Si usted solicita ser excluido del Acuerdo, no estará legalmente obligado por nada de lo que ocurra en la Demanda, salvo en lo relativo a la resolución de la reclamación de PAGA. Si solicita ser excluido del Acuerdo, no podrá oponerse al mismo y no recibirá un Pago Individual de Clase, pero sí recibirá un Pago Individual de PAGA si trabajó para los Demandados durante el Período de PAGA (del 25 de julio de 2022 al 25 de enero de 2025). Si solicita ser excluido, podrá demandar (o continuar demandando) a los Demandados en el futuro.

13. SI NO ME EXCLUYO, ¿PUEDO DEMANDAR A LOS DEMANDADOS POR LO MISMO MÁS ADELANTE?

No. A menos que se excluya, renuncia a cualquier derecho a demandar a los Demandados por las reclamaciones que este Acuerdo resuelve. Si tiene una demanda pendiente, hable con su abogado inmediatamente. Debe excluirse de esta Clase para poder continuar con su propio litigio. Recuerde que la fecha límite para la exclusión es, a más tardar, **[60 días después de que se envíe el Aviso Colectivo]**.

14. SI ME EXCLUYO, ¿PUEDO RECIBIR DINERO DE ESTE ACUERDO?

No, no recibirá un Pago Individual de Clase si se excluye. Seguirá recibiendo un Pago Individual de PAGA si trabajó para los Demandados durante el Período de PAGA (del 25 de julio de 2022 al 25 de enero de 2025). Sin embargo, si se excluye oportunamente del Acuerdo, conservará el derecho a iniciar sus propias acciones legales contra los Demandados si así lo desea.

LOS ABOGADOS QUE LO REPRESENTAN EN ESTA DEMANDA

15. ¿TENGO ABOGADO EN ESTE CASO?

El Tribunal ha determinado preliminarmente que la firma de Wilshire Law Firm está cualificada para representarle a usted y a los demás Miembros de Clase en la demanda. Estos abogados se denominan Abogados de Clase y su información de contacto se presenta a continuación. Si desea estar representado por su propio abogado, puede contratar uno por su cuenta.

Juan G. Yslas
john.yslas@wilshirelawfirm.com
Jeffrey C. Bills
jeffrey.bills@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
660 S. Figueroa St., Sky Lobby
Los Angeles, California 90017
Teléfono: (213) 381-9988
Fax: (213) 381-9989

16. ¿CÓMO SE LES PAGARÁ A LOS ABOGADOS?

Los Abogados de Clase solicitarán al Tribunal que apruebe hasta **30%** del MBA (actualmente **\$175,500.00**) para cubrir sus honorarios por la investigación de los hechos, el litigio del caso y la negociación del Acuerdo. Los Abogados de la Clase también solicitarán la aprobación del Tribunal para cubrir hasta \$21,000.00 en gastos de litigio incurridos en este asunto. El Tribunal puede otorgar a los Abogados de Clase una cantidad inferior a la que solicitan. También solicitarán al Tribunal que apruebe el pago a la Demandante Esabella Serpa por un monto de \$5,000.00, además del Pago Individual de Clase y el de PAGA por la iniciativa, el riesgo, el tiempo y la energía que ha dedicado al servicio de la Clase como Representante de la misma. El Tribunal podrá otorgar una cantidad inferior a la solicitada.

OBJECIÓN AL ACUERDO

Usted puede y tiene derecho a comunicar al Tribunal que no está de acuerdo con el Acuerdo o con alguna de sus partes.

17. ¿CÓMO LE COMUNICO AL TRIBUNAL MI OPOSICIÓN AL ACUERDO?

Si no considera que el Acuerdo sea justo, puede presentar objeciones a parte o a la totalidad del mismo. Puede oponerse al Acuerdo personalmente en la Audiencia de Aprobación Definitiva o presentar una objeción por escrito. Las objeciones por escrito deben enviarse al Administrador del Acuerdo a más tardar el **[60 días después de que se envíe el Aviso Colectivo]**, por correo postal, correo electrónico o fax, utilizando la siguiente información de contacto:

Apex Class Action LLC
Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.
PO Box 54668, Irvine, CA 92619
support@apexclassaction.com
Fax: (949) 989-4428

Puede utilizar el Formulario de Objeción adjunto. Si envía una objeción por escrito por correo postal, esta debe presentar al menos la fecha límite en el sello postal. La objeción por escrito debe indicar su nombre y dirección y describir todas las razones legales y fácticas por las que se opone a los términos del Acuerdo. También deberá incluir o adjuntar cualquier documento en el que se base su objeción. Si el Tribunal desestima la objeción en dicha audiencia, el Acuerdo de Conciliación será aprobado y usted recibirá su pago. Si no presenta una objeción por escrito, aún puede comparecer en la Audiencia de Aprobación Definitiva para expresarla u observar el desarrollo del procedimiento.

18. ¿CUÁL ES LA DIFERENCIA ENTRE OBJETAR Y SOLICITAR EXCLUSIÓN?

Presentar una objeción consiste simplemente en comunicarle al Tribunal que no se está de acuerdo con algún aspecto del Acuerdo. Solo puede objetar si permanece en la Clase.

Solicitar la exclusión equivale a indicarle al Tribunal que usted no desea formar parte de la Clase. Si se excluye, no tiene motivos para oponerse, ya que el caso ya no le afecta y no recibirá ningún dinero de este Acuerdo. Si se presentan tanto una objeción como una solicitud de exclusión del acuerdo, prevalecerá la solicitud de exclusión y no recibirá ningún dinero de esta conciliación.

LA AUDIENCIA DE APROBACIÓN DEL TRIBUNAL

El Tribunal celebrará una Audiencia de Aprobación Definitiva para decidir si aprueba o no el Acuerdo. Puede asistir y solicitar la palabra para hablar, pero no está obligado a hacerlo.

19. ¿CUÁNDO Y DÓNDE DECIDIRÁ EL TRIBUNAL SI APRUEBA O NO EL ACUERDO?

El Tribunal celebrará una Audiencia de Aprobación Definitiva el **24 de septiembre de 2026** a las **2:00 p.m.** en el Departamento CX-105 del Tribunal Superior del Condado de Orange (Centro del Complejo Civil) ubicado en 751 West Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, California 92701, para determinar si el Acuerdo debe ser aprobado finalmente como justo, razonable y adecuado. Si existen objeciones, el Tribunal las considerará en ese momento. También se solicitará al Tribunal que apruebe las solicitudes de Pago por Servicios del Representante de Clase y los Honorarios de los Abogados de Clase, así como los Gastos de Litigio.

20. ¿TENGO QUE ASISTIR A LA AUDIENCIA?

No. Los Abogados de Clase responderán a las preguntas que el Tribunal pueda realizar. Sin embargo, es bienvenido a asistir. Si presenta una objeción, no es necesario que acuda al Tribunal para hablar de ella. Siempre y cuando haya enviado su objeción por escrito al administrador del acuerdo dentro del plazo establecido, el Tribunal la tendrá en cuenta. También puede contratar a su propio abogado para que lo asista, pero no es necesario.

SI NO HACE NADA

21. ¿Y SI NO HAGO ABSOLUTAMENTE NADA?

Si no hace nada, recibirá un pago del Acuerdo y quedará sujeto a sus términos, lo que significa que no podrá iniciar, continuar ni formar parte de ninguna otra demanda contra los Demandados en relación con los asuntos legales en esta Demanda.

Si trabajó para los Demandados durante el Período de PAGA (del 25 de julio de 2022 al 25 de enero de 2025), está sujeto a los términos de la liberación de PAGA, incluso si no cobra el cheque correspondiente a su Pago Individual de PAGA.

MÁS INFORMACIÓN

22. ¿CÓMO OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN?

Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre el Acuerdo, puede contactar a los Abogados de Clase mediante la información de contacto que figura en la Sección 15. O también puede contactar al Administrador del Acuerdo, designado por el Tribunal, Apex Class Action LLC, llamando al número gratuito **1-800-355-0700** o si no escribirle a la siguiente dirección:

Apex Class Action LLC
Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.

PO Box 54668, Irvine, CA 92619

support@apexclassaction.com

El Administrador del acuerdo publicará todos los documentos clave en su sitio web, incluidos la demanda operativa, la(s) carta(s) de aviso de PAGA dirigida(s) a la LWDA, el acuerdo de conciliación y cualquier enmienda al mismo, el aviso colectivo y cualquier formulario incluido, las órdenes que otorgan la aprobación preliminar y final, y la sentencia. La sentencia permanecerá publicada durante al menos 180 días.

POR FAVOR, NO LLAME AL TRIBUNAL NI AL ABOGADO DE LOS DEMANDADOS PARA SOLICITAR INFORMACIÓN SOBRE ESTE ACUERDO O SOBRE EL PROCESO DE LA RECLAMACIÓN. SIN EMBARGO, PUEDE LLAMAR A LOS ABOGADOS DE CLASE O AL ADMINISTRADOR DEL ACUERDO, MENCIONADOS ARRIBA.

FORMULARIO DE SOLICITUD DE EXCLUSIÓN

Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.

Tribunal Superior del Condado de Orange, Casos Número 30-2023-01364775-CU-OE-CXC (caso principal), 30-2024-01376508-CU-OE-CXC

SI DESEA SER INCLUIDO EN ESTE ACUERDO DE DEMANDA COLECTIVA Y RECIBIR UN PAGO INDIVIDUAL COMO PARTE DEL ACUERDO COLECTIVO, NO COMPLETE ESTE FORMULARIO.

Si no desea ser incluido en este acuerdo de demanda colectiva y no desea recibir un pago individual del acuerdo colectivo, complete, feche y firme este formulario y envíelo de vuelta al Administrador del Acuerdo, el cual debe ser enviado oportunamente por fax, correo electrónico o correo postal con sello postal a más tardar el [60 días después de que se envíe el Aviso Colectivo]. Puede enviar este formulario al Administrador del Acuerdo a la siguiente dirección:

Apex Class Action LLC

Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.

PO Box 54668, Irvine, CA 92619

support@apexclassaction.com

Fax: (949) 989-4428

Si envía este formulario de Solicitud de Exclusión, no podrá recibir un pago individual en virtud de la parte de la demanda colectiva del Acuerdo y no estará sujeto a la liberación establecida en el Acuerdo si el Tribunal otorga la aprobación definitiva del mismo. Usted quedará excluido de la parte de la demanda colectiva del Acuerdo y no será Miembro de Clase.

Si tiene derecho a recibir una parte del Pago de PAGA, recibirá su pago individual de liquidación de PAGA incluso si decide excluirse de la parte de la demanda colectiva del Acuerdo. Los empleados que tienen derecho a recibir una parte del Pago de PAGA son aquellos que cumplen con la siguiente definición: todas las personas que trabajaron para cualquier Demandado en California como empleado pagado por hora o no exento en cualquier momento durante el Período de PAGA (del 25 de julio de 2022 al 25 de enero de 2025).

Al completar, firmar y devolver este formulario, usted confirma su conformidad con la siguiente declaración:

He recibido aviso del Acuerdo propuesto en esta demanda colectiva consolidada y deseo quedar excluido del acuerdo colectivo. Entiendo que al solicitar mi exclusión del acuerdo colectivo, no recibiré dinero alguno del mismo, pero conservaré cualquier derecho individual que pueda tener, si lo hubiere, para presentar una demanda contra los Demandados con respecto a las reclamaciones colectivas planteadas en la demanda antes mencionada.

Su nombre: _____

Dirección: _____

Ciudad, estado, código postal: _____

Número de teléfono, incluyendo el código de área: _____

Últimos cuatro dígitos del número de Seguro Social: XXX-XX-_____

Fecha: _____

Firma: _____

FORMULARIO DE OBJECCIÓN

Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.

Tribunal Superior del Condado de Orange, Casos Número 30-2023-01364775-CU-OE-CXC (caso principal), 30-2024-01376508-CU-OE-CXC

Si desea oponerse al Acuerdo Colectivo, complete, feche y firme este formulario y envíelo al Administrador del Acuerdo. Para que la objeción por escrito se considere oportuna, debe enviarse por fax, correo electrónico o correo postal al Administrador a más tardar el [60 días después de que se envíe el Aviso Colectivo]. Puede enviar este formulario al Administrador del Acuerdo a la siguiente dirección:

Apex Class Action LLC

Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.

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Fax: (949) 989-4428

Si lo desea, puede oponerse al Acuerdo propuesto. El Tribunal tendrá en cuenta su objeción antes de decidir si otorgará la aprobación definitiva al Acuerdo de Demanda Colectiva. Al objetar, usted solicita que el Tribunal *no* otorgue la aprobación definitiva del Acuerdo. Si le preocupa que los términos del acuerdo sean injustos, puede presentar una objeción para que el Tribunal la revise. El Tribunal puede estar de acuerdo o no con su objeción. Objetar al Acuerdo no le excluirá del mismo; si el Tribunal concede la aprobación definitiva al Acuerdo, recibirá el pago individual correspondiente al acuerdo colectivo y se le aplicará la liberación de las reclamaciones.

Si desea oponerse al Acuerdo, puede completar este formulario de objeción e indicar los motivos de su objeción, o redactarla en cualquier otro formato escrito que prefiera. Alternativamente, puede comparecer ante la Audiencia de Aprobación Definitiva y presentar su objeción ante el Tribunal, independientemente de si la presenta por escrito. Envíe el formulario de Objeción completo u otra declaración escrita, junto con los informes legales u otros documentos que la respalden, si la hubiera, enviándolo al Administrador del Acuerdo a más tardar el [60 días después de que se envíe el Aviso Colectivo].

Su nombre: _____

Dirección: _____

Ciudad, estado, código postal: _____

Número de teléfono, incluyendo el código de área: _____

Últimos cuatro dígitos del número de Seguro Social: XXX-XX-_____

Fecha: _____

Firma: _____

FORMULARIO DE IMPUGNACIÓN SOBRE LA SEMANA LABORAL/PERÍODO DE PAGO

Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.

Tribunal Superior del Condado de Orange, Casos Número 30-2023-01364775-CU-OE-CXC (caso principal), 30-2024-01376508-CU-OE-CXC

INSTRUCCIONES

Si trabajó para los Demandados Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes y/o Pride Bakeries II, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes en California como empleado pagado por horas o no exento en cualquier momento desde el 4 de agosto de 2019 hasta el 25 de enero de 2025 ("Período de Clase"), entonces usted es un Miembro de Clase.

Si trabajó para los Demandados Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes y/o Pride Bakeries II, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes en California como empleado pagado por horas o no exento en cualquier momento desde el 25 de julio de 2022 hasta el 25 de enero de 2025 ("Período de PAGA"), entonces usted es un Empleado Afectado.

El monto estimado de su pago del acuerdo se basa en las semanas laborales que trabajó para cualquiera de los Demandados durante el Período de Clase y/o en los periodos de pago que trabajó para cualquiera de los Demandados durante el Período de PAGA.

Una "semana laboral" se define como cualquier semana en la que usted trabajó para cualquiera de los Demandados al menos un (1) día durante el Período de Clase. Un "período de pago" se define como cualquier período de pago durante el cual usted trabajó para cualquiera de los Demandados durante al menos un (1) día. El número de semanas laborales y/o periodos de pago aplicables a su reclamación se detalla en la Sección I a continuación. Si cree que el número de semanas laborales y/o periodos de pago indicados es incorrecto, puede impugnar el número enviando este Formulario de Impugnación de Semana laboral/Período de pago completo junto con cualquier documento de respaldo a más tardar el **[60 días después del envío inicial]**. Si considera que el número de semanas laborales y/o los periodos de pago indicados a continuación son correctos, no tiene que hacer nada.

I. SUS SEMANAS LABORALES Y/O PERÍODOS DE PAGO REMUNERABLES

Su número total de semanas laborales es: **<<NÚMERO DE SEMANAS LABORALES>>**

El número total de periodos de pago es: **<<NÚMERO DE PERIODOS DE PAGO>>**

II. SU PAGO ESTIMADO DEL ACUERDO

Según el número de semanas laborales y/o periodos de pago indicados anteriormente, su pago estimado del acuerdo sin deducción de impuestos es **<<INSERTAR>>**.

III. IMPUGNACIÓN A LAS SEMANAS LABORALES Y/O PERÍODOS DE PAGO

Si desea impugnar los datos de semanas laborales y/o periodos de pago enumerados, debe enviar por correo postal, **por fax o por correo electrónico** su impugnación y proporcionar toda la información y/o documentación de respaldo, si la hubiera, al Administrador del Acuerdo a más tardar el **[60 días después del envío inicial]**.

Marque la casilla a continuación ÚNICAMENTE si desea impugnar los datos enumerados en la Sección I:

☐ Deseo impugnar el número de **semanas laborales** que figura en la Sección I. Creo que el número correcto de mis semanas laborales es _____. Entiendo que, al presentar esta impugnación, autorizo al Administrador del Acuerdo a revisar los registros de los Demandados y a determinar la validez de esta misma, con base en dichos registros, así como en los registros e información que yo presente al Administrador del Acuerdo.

☐ Deseo impugnar el número de **periodos de pago** que figuran en la Sección I. Creo que la cantidad correcta de mis periodos de pago es _____. Entiendo que, al presentar esta impugnación, autorizo al Administrador del Acuerdo a revisar los registros de los Demandados y a determinar la validez de esta misma, con base en dichos registros, así como en los registros e información que yo presente al Administrador del Acuerdo.

Declaro bajo pena de perjurio, conforme a las leyes del Estado de California y de los Estados Unidos de América, que la información que he proporcionado en este Formulario de Impugnación de Semana Laboral/Período de Pago es verdadera y correcta.

Fecha: _____

Firma: _____

Nombre impreso o escrito: _____

ENVIAR A:

Apex Class Action LLC

Esabella Serpa v. Pride Bakeries, LLC dba Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, et al.

PO Box 54668, Irvine, CA 92619

support@apexclassaction.com

Fax: (949) 989-4428

SI ESTÁ IMPUGNANDO LA CANTIDAD DE SUS SEMANAS LABORALES Y/O PERÍODOS DE PAGO, DEBE FIRMAR, SELLAR POR CORREO POSTAL Y DEVOLVER ESTE FORMULARIO AL ADMINISTRADOR DEL ACUERDO A MÁS TARDAR EL **[60 días después del envío inicial].**