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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

ALEXIS BARTRAM and LOURDES
CONTRERAS, individuals, on behalf of
themselves and on behalf of all persons similarly
situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

LAKESHORE LEARNING MATERIALS,
LLC, a California limited liability company; and
DOES 1-50, Inclusive,

Defendant.

Case No.: 23STCV21174

**DECLARATION OF JEAN-CLAUDE
LAPUYADE, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR FINAL
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA
SETTLEMENT**

Date: July 3, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Judge: Hon. Laura A. Seigle

Dept.: 17

1 I, Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq., declare as follows:

2 1. I am over eighteen years of age and if called as a witness, I could and would competently
3 testify to the following facts from my own personal knowledge. I am an attorney-at-law and the owner
4 of the law firm of JCL LAW FIRM, APC (hereinafter "Class Counsel"). I am counsel of record for
5 Plaintiffs ALEXIS BARTRAM and LOURDES CONTRERAS (hereafter "Plaintiffs" or "Class
6 Representatives") in this wage and hour class action filed against Defendant LAKESHORE
7 LEARNING MATERIALS, LLC ("Defendant").

8 2. This declaration is being submitted in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of
9 Class Action Settlement.

10 3. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "1"** is a true and correct copy of the fully executed Class
11 Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (hereinafter "Settlement Agreement"). Attached thereto as
12 **Exhibit A** is a true and correct copy of the Notice of Class Action and PAGA Settlement ("Class
13 Notice").

14 4. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "2"** is a true and correct copy of the March 5, 2025,
15 Preliminary Approval Order.

16 5. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "3"** is a true and correct copy of the January 22, 2025, proof
17 of filing the proposed Settlement with the LWDA.

18 6. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "4"** is true and correct copy of the June 10, 2025, proof of
19 filing this motion seeking final approval of this Settlement with the LWDA.

20 7. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "5"** is a true and correct copy of the JCL Law Firm, APC's
21 "Firm Resume" detailing the credentials and a summary of cases on which Counsel has been appointed
22 Class Counsel.

23 I. **INTRODUCTION**

24 8. An objective evaluation of the proposed settlement of Two Million Six Hundred
25 Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$2,600,000.00) ("Gross Settlement Amount") confirms that the relief
26 negotiated on behalf of the Participating Class Members is fair, reasonable, and valuable. The
27 Settlement is a product of informed, adversarial, and non-collusive negotiations, between experienced
28 counsel, and presided over by Monique Ngo-Bonnici, Esq., a mediator of wage and hour class and

1 PAGA actions. After deducting any Court-approved PAGA Payment, Class Representative Award,
2 Class Counsel Award, and the Administration Expenses Payment, the Net Settlement Amount shall be
3 distributed to Participating Class Members based on the number of Workweeks they worked while
4 employed by Defendant during the Class Period.

5 9. This Settlement provides substantial recovery for Defendant's alleged wage and hour
6 violations. Plaintiffs estimate that the Settlement, if approved, would result in a Net Settlement Amount
7 of approximately \$1,535,833.33. This will result in an average Individual Class Payment of **\$408.27**, a
8 high payment of **\$1,627.01**, and low payment of **\$5.85**.

9 10. The relief offered by the Settlement is immediate and is particularly impressive when
10 viewed against the difficulties encountered by plaintiffs pursuing similar wage and hour cases (*see*
11 *infra*). Indeed, by settling now rather than proceeding to trial, the Class will not have to wait (possibly
12 years) for relief, nor will they have to bear the risks associated with prolonged and uncertain litigation.

13 11. As discussed below, the proposed Settlement satisfies all criteria for final settlement
14 approval under California law and falls well within the range of reasonableness. Accordingly, the Class
15 Representatives and Class Counsel respectfully request this Court grant final approval of the Agreement
16 and entry of the proposed Final Approval Order and Judgment.

17 II. OVERVIEW OF THE LITIGATION

18 12. Defendant is a developer and retailer of educational materials in the state of California,
19 including Los Angeles County, where Plaintiffs worked. Plaintiff Alexis Bartram was employed by
20 Defendant from May 2022 to June 2023, as a non-exempt employee. Plaintiff Lourdes Contreras has
21 been employed by Defendant as a non-exempt employee since approximately September 6, 2022. This
22 action asserts claims on behalf of Defendant's current and former non-exempt employees employed in
23 California. At all times during their employment, Plaintiffs were paid an hourly wage and were entitled
24 to legally compliant meal and rest periods. Throughout their employment, Plaintiffs were subject to
25 Defendant's written policies and procedures.

26 13. Generally, Plaintiffs claim that Defendant failed to pay for all time worked, failed to
27 furnish accurate itemized wage statements, failed to provide compliant meal and rest periods, failed to
28 pay overtime and sick pay at the correct regular rate of pay, failed to reimburse for mandatory business

1 expenses, and failed to pay all wages when due. Defendant forcefully denies liability for each of
2 Plaintiff's claims. Further, Defendant asserts that it fully complied with all applicable employment
3 laws and raised several other significant defenses to Plaintiff's claims, including but not limited to,
4 compliant meal and rest period policies, compliant wage statements, and timely payment all wages due
5 upon separation of employment.

6 14. On June 28, 2023, Plaintiff Alexis Bartram served Defendant and the Labor and
7 Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") with a Notice of Violations ("PAGA Notice"). Plaintiff's
8 PAGA Notice set forth the facts and theories supporting Defendant's alleged violations of various
9 provisions of the California Labor Code and applicable Industrial Welfare Commissions ("IWC") Wage
10 Order and of her intent to pursue claims under California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act,
11 Cal. Lab. Code Sections 2698 et seq ("PAGA").

12 15. On September 1, 2023, Plaintiff Alexis Bartram filed a Class Action Complaint against
13 Defendant in the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 23STCV21174 ("Bartram Action").
14 The Action alleged seven causes of action against Defendant for: (1) Unfair Competition in violation
15 of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et. seq.*; (2) Failure to Pay Minimum Wages in violation of Cal.
16 Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1197, 1197.1; (3) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages in violation of Cal. Lab. Code §§
17 510, *et seq.*; (4) Failure to Provide Required Meal Periods in violation of Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 &
18 512 and the Applicable IWC Wage Order; (5) Failure to Provide Required Rest Periods in violation of
19 Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512 and the Applicable IWC Wage Order; (6) Failure to Provide Accurate
20 Itemized Wage Statements in violation of Cal. Lab Code §226; and (7) Failure to Pay Wages When
21 Due in violation of Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201, 202, and 203.

22 16. On September 11, 2023, Plaintiff Lourdes Contreras served Defendant and the Labor and
23 Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") with a Notice of Violations ("PAGA Notice"). Plaintiff's
24 PAGA Notice set forth the facts and theories supporting Defendant's alleged violations of various
25 provisions of the California Labor Code and applicable Industrial Welfare Commissions ("IWC") Wage
26 Order and of her intent to pursue claims under California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act,
27 Cal. Lab. Code Sections 2698 *et seq.* ("PAGA").

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1 17. On October 16, 2023, Plaintiff Lourdes Contreras filed a Class Action Complaint against
2 Defendant in the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 23STCV25226 (“Contreras Action”).
3 The Action alleged eight causes of action against Defendant for: (1) Minimum Wage Violations (Labor
4 Code §§ 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197); (2) Overtime Wage Violations (Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 1194,
5 1198); (3) Meal Period Violations (Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 558); (4) Rest Period Violations (Labor
6 Code §§ 226.7, 516, 558); (5) Wage Statement Penalties (Labor Code § 226); (6) Waiting Time
7 Penalties (Labor Code §§ 201-203; (7) Failure to Reimburse Necessary Business Expenses (Labor Code
8 § 2802); and (8) Unfair Competition (Bus & Prof Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*).

9 18. On November 15, 2023, Plaintiff Lourdes Contreras filed a First Amended Complaint
10 alleging an additional cause of action for violations of the Private Attorney General Act (“PAGA”).

11 19. On December 27, 2023, Plaintiff Alexis Bartram filed a First Amended Complaint
12 alleging an additional cause of action for violations of the Private Attorney General Act (“PAGA”).

13 20. After engaging in written discovery, the Parties agreed to mediate this action. To prepare
14 for mediation, the Parties agreed to informally exchange documents and data points subject to the
15 mediation privilege, including but not limited to, the Class Members’ time data and certain payroll data
16 points. As discussed *infra*, Plaintiff’s counsel retained the forensic consultants at Berger Consulting
17 Group (“BCG”) to analyze Defendants’ time and payroll data.

18 21. On June 6, 2024, the Parties participated in a full day mediation with Jeffrey Fuchsman,
19 Esq., a mediator of wage and hour class and PAGA actions. The mediation concluded without a
20 settlement.

21 22. Following the unsuccessful mediation, Plaintiff propounded formal discovery. On June
22 14, 2024, Plaintiff propounded Special Interrogatories (Set One) and Request for Production (Set One)
23 on Defendant.

24 23. Before responding to discovery, the Parties agreed to attend a second mediation. On
25 October 10, 2024, the Parties participated in mediation presided over by Monique Ngo-Bonnici, Esq.,
26 an experienced mediator of wage and hour class and PAGA actions. The mediation concluded without
27 a settlement. However, Mediator Ngo-Bonnici made a mediator’s proposal, which was subsequently
28 accepted by both Parties and memorialized in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding.

1 Subsequently, the Parties drafted and negotiated a long-form settlement agreement, which is the subject
2 of the instant motion. The Parties now seek approval of the entire Agreement.

3 24. On January 10, 2025, Plaintiff Alexis Bartram and Plaintiff Lourdes Contreras filed a
4 Stipulation for Leave to File Second Amended Complaint to add Plaintiff Lourdes Contreras as an
5 additional named Plaintiff in the Bartram Action. Upon receipt of the conformed Second Amended
6 Complaint, Plaintiff Lourdes Contreras will dismiss the Contreras Action. On January 27, 2025,
7 Plaintiff Lourdes Contreras dismissed the Contreras Action without prejudice.

8 25. The Court preliminarily approved an initial Gross Settlement Amount of Two Million Six
9 Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$2,600,000.00) based on a total of an estimated 245,000
10 Workweeks worked by the Class during the Class Period. The Gross Settlement Amount shall be used
11 to satisfy: (1) the Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members; (2) the Class
12 Representative Payments; (3) the PAGA Payment; (4) the Administration Expenses Payment; and (5)
13 the Class Counsel Award.

14 26. As explained in further detail below, the Settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable to
15 the class and should be granted final approval. This is evidenced by the high approval of the Settlement
16 by the Class, the absence of any objections to the Settlement and the average Individual Class Payment
17 of **\$408.47**.

18 **III. THE SETTLEMENT IS FAIR, REASONABLE AND ADEQUATE**

19 **A. Adequate Investigation**

20 27. Months before filing the Action, Class Counsel began its pre-filing investigation into the
21 Plaintiffs' complaints. Class Counsel's investigation started with several lengthy interviews with
22 Plaintiffs. As part of the interview process, the Plaintiffs produced documents related to their
23 employment, including portions of their hiring documents, payroll records, and Defendant's employee
24 handbook. At the conclusion of the interviews, Class Counsel determined that Plaintiffs' complaints
25 justified further inquiry.

26 28. Class Counsel subsequently requested Plaintiffs' employee files from Defendant. In
27 response, Defendant produced dozens of documents, including but not limited to, copies of Defendant's
28 written policies and Plaintiffs' hiring documents and Defendant's Employee Handbook. Class Counsel

1 reviewed and analyzed the documents and determined the documents appeared to substantiate
2 Plaintiffs' claim that Defendant's failed to, among other things, provide compliant meal and rest
3 periods, to provide accurate wage statements, and to compensate overtime wages at the correct regular
4 rate of pay.

5 29. To prepare for mediation, Defendant produced a 18% sample time and payroll records
6 for the Class Members, aggregate workweek and pay period data for the Class Members, aggregate
7 meal premiums paid to the Class Members, average hourly rate for the Class Members, and copies of
8 applicable handbooks, policies, and agreements. In total, Class Counsel reviewed hundreds of pages of
9 documents and over 8 million cells of unique time and payroll data.

10 30. Class Counsel then retained the statisticians and economists at BCG to evaluate the Class
11 Members' payroll and time data. BCG provides data analysis and damage modeling consulting
12 services, specializing in wage and hour class actions. BCG's team of financial and data analysts are
13 credentialed and experienced experts in their fields and have provided their expertise on thousands of
14 cases.

15 31. BCG analyzed Defendant's time and payroll data to assist in the development of various
16 damage models. Among other things, BCG determined the approximate amount of unpaid wages,
17 amount of unpaid overtime wages, number of workweeks, pay periods, average length of shifts and
18 average number of hours worked per week. BCG also estimated the number of missed, late, or truncated
19 meal and rest periods, the amount of unpaid overtime, and the amount of missed meal and rest period
20 premiums paid during the Class Period.

21 32. Overall, Class Counsel thoroughly investigated the claims at issue, including: (1)
22 determining Plaintiffs' suitability as a putative class representative through interviews, background
23 investigations, and analysis of his employment files; (2) evaluating all of Plaintiffs' potential claims;
24 (3) researching similar wage and hour class actions as to the claims brought, the nature of the positions,
25 and the type of employer; (4) analyzing the Settlement Class' time and payroll records; (5) analyzing
26 Defendant's labor policies and practices; (6) researching settlements in similar cases as well as
27 outstanding issues which could affect settlement approval; (7) evaluating Plaintiffs' claims and
28 estimating Defendant's liability for purposes of settlement; (8) drafting the mediation brief; and (9)

1 participating in the mediation. This investigation allowed Class Counsel to fully assess the nature and
2 magnitude of the claims being settled, as well as the impediments to recovery, such as to make an
3 independent assessment of the reasonableness of the terms to which the Parties have agreed.

4 33. Class Counsel only agreed to enter the Settlement following this thorough investigation
5 and evaluation of Plaintiffs' claims. Based on its investigation of the facts, applicable law, and
6 marketplace for similar settlements, and considering the risk of significant delay and uncertainty
7 associated with litigation, and the various defenses asserted by Defendant, Class Counsel firmly believe
8 this Agreement to be in the best interests of the Class Members. Because the Settlement's terms are
9 fair, reasonable, and adequate, the Court should preliminarily approve the Settlement.

10 **B. Class Counsel is Experienced in Similar Litigation**

11 34. Plaintiffs are represented by competent and experienced counsel to pursue their claims. I
12 established the JCL Law Firm, APC ("Firm"), in 2010. The Firm is a boutique plaintiff firm representing
13 aggrieved employees and consumers throughout California in wage and hour class actions and complex
14 multi-party product liability matters. The Firm currently consists of myself, Jean-Claude Lapuyade,
15 Esq. (Partner/Owner), Sydney Castillo-Johnson, Esq. (Associate Attorney), John L. Nitti, Esq.
16 (Associate Attorney), Perssia P. Razma (Associate Attorney), Tesla Stone (Senior Paralegal and Office
17 Manager), Jennifer Heming (Paralegal), Allysa Castillo (Legal Assistant), Andrew Ward (Law Clerk),
18 and Libia Ramirez (Secretary).

19 35. I am qualified to represent the Plaintiffs, the Class Members, the State of California, and
20 the Aggrieved Employees. I have extensive experience with wage and hour class and representative
21 actions litigation like this matter, and employment matters in general. Additionally, I have extensive
22 complex mass tort litigation experience and complex construction product liability experience. I can,
23 will and have adequately represented the interests of the Plaintiffs, the Class Members, the State of
24 California, and the Aggrieved Employees throughout this action.

25 36. I have represented consumers and employees in California class actions, and complex
26 multi-party product liability actions exclusively for more than 17 years. I have been in practice as a
27 plaintiffs' civil litigation attorney since April 2007.

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1 37. I am qualified to represent the Plaintiffs, the State of California, and the Aggrieved
2 Employees. I have extensive experience with wage and hour class and representative actions litigation
3 like this matter, and employment matters in general. My credentials are reflected in the JCL Law Firm,
4 APC, Firm Resume, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit “5.”** Some of the
5 major cases the Firm has undertaken are also set forth in **Exhibit “5.”**

6 38. Since 2010, I have successfully tried two (2) cases to conclusion, each resulting in a
7 favorable verdict for the firm’s clients.

8 39. Finally, I have published appellate experience in *William Blanchette et al., v. The*
9 *Superior Court of Imperial County, (GHA Enterprises)*, 8 Cal.App.5th 521, *Duran v. EmployBridge*
10 *Holding Co. LLC* (2023) 92 Cal.App.5th 59.

11 40. Consequently, I have been named to the prestigious Thomson Reuters, Super Lawyers,
12 Rising Star in 2015, 2016, 2017 and, again, in 2018. According to Thomson Reuters, the Super Lawyers,
13 Rising Star list recognizes the top 2.5% of eligible attorneys. (see
14 https://www.superlawyers.com/about/selection_process.html.)

15 **D. Strength of Plaintiff’s Case**

16 41. Here, the Settlement is clearly within the “ballpark” of reasonableness because the
17 Settlement provides a sizeable recovery to the Settlement Class Member and need not necessarily obtain
18 100 percent of the damages sought to be fair, reasonable, and ultimately, meaningful. *Wershba*, 91
19 Cal.App.4th at 250. While the Gross Settlement Amount of Two Million, Six Hundred Thousand
20 Dollars and Zero Cents (\$2,600,000.00) represents a discount on Defendant’s potential exposure if
21 Plaintiffs established liability on all claims and was awarded the full amount of the estimated damages
22 at trial, this compromise is reasonable because (1) the formidable defenses raised by Defendant
23 presented a risk that could award significantly less in damages than Plaintiffs’ estimate and (2) any
24 theoretical post-trial recovery may require many more years of litigation, resulting in added fees and
25 costs without any guarantee of recovery for the Class.

26 42. As detailed at the time of preliminary approval, the Gross Settlement Amount is fair and
27 reasonable considering the nature and magnitude of the claims being settled and the various potential
28 impediments to recovery. Class Counsel developed varied economic damages models measuring

1 Defendant's liability exposure while accounting for the uncertainties of continued litigation. The
2 various models were informed by Class Counsel's investigation, including the analysis of a significant
3 sample of time and payroll data. Detailed in greater depth during the preliminary approval process,
4 Class Counsel projected a range of Defendant's liability exposure for the claims asserted on behalf of
5 the Class. The Gross Settlement Amount represents between 15.01% and 57.32% of Defendant's *class-*
6 *wide* liability exposure as estimated by Class Counsel at the time of mediation.

7 43. The calculation methodology used to compensate the Participating Class Members for
8 the alleged damages was negotiated at the time of the Settlement. More importantly, the methodology
9 is fair, objective, and impartial. The calculation methodology is based on the number of Workweeks
10 each Participating Class Member worked for Defendant during the Class Period. The number of
11 Workweeks for the Participating Class Member is established through Defendant's data and
12 documented compensation records. The Administrator is responsible for calculating the Individual
13 Class Payments by dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of workweeks worked by
14 all Participating Class members, and multiplying the result by the number of Workweeks worked by
15 each individual Participating Class Member to calculate each Participating Class Member's estimated
16 Individual Class Payment. Agreement, ¶ 3.2.4. This process establishes an objectively fair and
17 reasonable procedure to compensate the Class.

18 44. Clearly the goal of this litigation to obtain redress for the class has been met by this
19 Settlement. Given the amount of the Settlement, the risks of litigation and the arm's length negotiations
20 between experienced counsel, the settlement is fair and reasonable, and is therefore entitled to final
21 approval.

22 **E. Risks of Continued Litigation**

23 45. Although Class Counsel believes strongly in Plaintiffs' claims, it would be misguided to
24 ignore the asserted defenses. If successful on any one of its defenses, Defendant could defend the action
25 or, at least, drastically undercut Plaintiffs' claims.

26 46. With respect to the most immediate challenge, i.e., class certification, the risks attendant
27 to the certification of similar wage and hour claims are demonstrated by *Ali v. U.S.A. Cab Ltd.* (2009)
28 176 Cal.App.4th 1333, 1341. There, the Court of Appeal affirmed the Trial Court's denial of class

1 certification because employees' declarations attesting to having taken meal and rest breaks
2 demonstrated that individualized inquiries were required to show harm. *See also Campbell v. Best Buy*
3 *Stores, L.P.*, (C.D. Cal. 2013) 2013 WL 5302217 at *11-13 (following *Brinker* and denying certification
4 of proposed off-the-clock and rest and meal break classes due to lack of uniform policy); *Brown v. Fed*
5 *Express Corp.* (C.D. Cal. 2008) 249 F.R.D. 580, 587-88 (denying certification of driver meal and rest
6 period claims based on the predominance of individual issues).

7 47. Further, even if a class is certified, liability remains uncertain. The risks attendant to the
8 issue of Defendant's liability in similar wage and hour actions are demonstrated by *Duran v. U.S. Bank*
9 *National Association* (2014) 59 Cal.4th 1, 31. There, the Court reversed a trial verdict in favor plaintiffs
10 in a wage and hour class action. *See also Tien v. Tenet Healthcare Corp.* (2012) 209 Cal.App.4th 1077,
11 1088 ("[T]he reason, if any, that employees might not take their breaks were predominantly
12 individualized questions of fact not susceptible to class treatment.").

13 48. Finally, even if a class is certified and Defendant is found liable for the class claims
14 alleged, post-certification risks remain, including a reversal of a favorable judgment for Plaintiff and
15 decertification of the class. These post-certification risks are demonstrated by *Magadia v. Wal-Mart*
16 *Associates, Inc.* (9th Cir. 2021) 999 F.3d 668. There, the Ninth Circuit vacated reversed and remanded
17 a \$110 million judgement against an employer for, *inter alia*, inaccurately paying overtime, and directed
18 the trial court to enter judgement in favor of the employer. *See also O'Conner v. Uber Technologies,*
19 *Inc.* (9th Cir. 2018) 904 F.3d 1087 (decertification of wage and hour misclassification action).

20 49. Collectively, the examples cited above illustrate the uncertain nature of class litigation.
21 Consequently, the uncertainty of obtaining certification through a contested motion is a significant risk
22 factor favoring settlement.

23 50. Although Plaintiffs are confident about the strength of their claims, Plaintiffs nevertheless
24 recognizes that Defendant has factual and legal defenses that, if successful, would potentially defeat or
25 impair the value of the lawsuit. Legally, the fast-changing landscape of wage and hour litigation can
26 drastically affect the value of Plaintiffs' claims and, in fact, already has.

27 51. As demonstrated by the decisions in *Magadia, supra*, 999 F.3d 668, *O'Conner v. Uber*
28 *Technologies* (N.D. Cal. 2018) 82 F.Supp.3d 1133 and *Duran v. U.S. Bank National Assn.* (2014) 59

1 Cal.4th 1, the complexities and duration of further litigation cannot be overstated. There is little doubt
2 that if Defendant faced a large adverse judgement, Defendant undoubtedly has the resources to post a
3 bond and appeal. A post-judgment appeal by Defendant would have required many more years to
4 resolve, assuming the judgment was affirmed. If the judgment was not affirmed in total, then the case
5 could have dragged on for years after the appeal. The benefits of a guaranteed recovery today outweigh
6 an uncertain result three or more years in the future.

7 52. Class Representatives and Class Counsel recognize the expense and length of a trial
8 against Defendant through possible appeals which could take another three years. In arriving at their
9 informed belief that the present settlement is fair and adequate, Class Counsel accounted for the
10 uncertain outcome and risk inherent in complex actions such as this one. Class Counsel is also mindful
11 of and recognizes the inherent problems of proof under, and alleged defenses to, the claims asserted in
12 the litigation. Moreover, post-trial motions and appeals would have been inevitable. Costs would have
13 increased, and recovery would have been delayed if not denied, thereby reducing the benefits of an
14 ultimate victory. Class Representatives and Class Counsel believe that the Settlement confers
15 substantial monetary and non-monetary benefits upon the Class. Based upon their evaluation, Class
16 Representatives and Class Counsel have determined that the Settlement set forth in the Agreement is in
17 the best interest of the Class, is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and should be granted final approval.

18 **IV. THE PENALTIES UNDER THE PRIVATE ATTORNEY GENERAL ACT OF 2004 ARE**
19 **REASONABLE**

20 53. Here, Plaintiffs and Defendant negotiated a good faith PAGA Payment in the amount of
21 \$100,000.00 which is 3.85% of the Gross Settlement Amount. As illustrated above, this amount falls
22 well within the range of approved PAGA settlements. Seventy-Five percent (75%) of the PAGA
23 Payment (\$75,000.00) will be paid to the LWDA ("LWDA Payment") with the remaining twenty-five
24 percent (25%) of the PAGA Payment (\$25,000.00) to be distributed to the Aggrieved Employees
25 ("Individual PAGA Payments"), which is within the range of PAGA Payment approved by courts and
26 should be approved.

27
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54. Class Counsel gave the LWDA notice of this Settlement and proposed allocation by filing a copy of the Settlement, the Motion for Preliminary Approval, and this motion seeking final approval with the LWDA.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 10th day of June 2025, at San Diego, California.

JCL LAW FIRM, APC

By:
Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq.
Attorney of PLAINTIFF

EXHIBIT 1

CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between Plaintiffs Alexis Bartram and Lourdes Contreras (“Plaintiffs”) and Defendant Lakeshore Learning Materials, LLC (“Defendant”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiffs and Defendant collectively as “Parties,” or individually as “Party.”

1. DEFINITIONS.

- 1.1. “Actions” means the Plaintiff Alexis Bartram’s lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned *Alexis Bartram v. Lakeshore Learning Materials, LLC*, Case Number 23STCV21174 (*Bartram Action*), currently pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles and Plaintiff Lourdes Contreras’s lawsuit titled *Lourdes Contreras v. Lakeshore Learning Materials, LLC*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV25226 (“*Contreras Action*”).
- 1.2. “Administrator” means Apex Class Action LLC, located at 20371 Irvine Avenue, Newport Beach, CA 92660; Tel: (800) 355-0700, the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.
- 1.3. “Administration Expenses Payment” means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s “not to exceed” bid submitted to the Court in connection with Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.4. “Aggrieved Employee” means all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant within the State of California during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5. “Class Counsel Award” means ” the amounts allocated to Class Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses incurred to prosecute the Action, including their pre-filing investigation, their filing of the Actions, all related litigation activities, all settlement work, all post-settlement compliance procedures in an amount of up to thirty-five (35%) percent of the Gross Settlement Amount. The attorneys’ fees portion of the Class Counsel Award shall be divided between Class Counsel as follows: 1/3 to JCL Law Firm, APC, 1/3 to Zakay Law Group, APLC, and 1/3 to Justice for Workers, P.C. By signing this Agreements Plaintiffs expressly consent to this fee division.
- 1.6. “Class Counsel” means Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq. of JCL Law Firm, APC, Shani

Zakay, Esq., of Zakay Law Group, APLC, and William Sung, Esq. of Justice for Workers, P.C.

- 1.7. “Class” shall mean all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant within the State of California during the Class Period.
- 1.8. “Class Data” means Class Member identifying information in Defendant’s possession that Defendant will provide to the Administrator. To the extent available, the Class Data shall include the Class Member’s full name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, telephone number, and number of Class Period Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods.
- 1.9. “Class Member” or “Settlement Class Member” means a member of the Class, as either a Participating Class Member or Non-Participating Class Member (including a Non- Participating Class Member who qualifies as an Aggrieved Employee).
- 1.10. “Class Member Address Search” means the Administrator’s investigation and search for current Class Member mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address database, skip traces, and direct contact by the Administrator with Class Members.
- 1.11. “Class Notice” means the Court-approved Notice of Class Action Settlement in a form substantively similar to **Exhibit A**, to be mailed to Class Members informing them of the settlement, including their rights to request exclusion or to object to the Settlement, the right to dispute their estimated workweeks/payment, of their estimated payment to be received without the need to return a claim form, and the date set for the Final Approval Hearing.
- 1.12. “Class Period” means the period between September 1, 2019 to January 19, 2025.
- 1.13. “Class Representatives” means the named Plaintiffs the Action seeking Court approval to serve as Class Representatives.
- 1.14. “Class Representative Payments” means the payments to the Class Representatives for initiating the Action and providing services in support of the Action.
- 1.15. “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.
- 1.16. “Defendant” means Defendant Lakeshore Learning Materials, LLC
- 1.17. “Defense Counsel” means Jackson Lewis P.C.
- 1.18. “Effective Date” means the date by when both of the following have occurred:
 - (a) the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement; and (b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (a) if no Participating Class Member objects to the

Settlement, the day the Court enters Judgment; (b) if one or more Participating Class Members objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment; or if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur.

- 1.19. “Final Approval” means the Court’s order granting final approval of the Settlement.
- 1.20. “Final Approval Hearing” means the Court’s hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.21. “Final Judgment” means the Judgment Entered by the Court upon Granting Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.22. “Funding Date” means the date on which Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount to the Administrator. Defendant will transmit the entire Gross Settlement Amount to the Administrator within sixty-five (65) days after the Effective Date.
- 1.23. “Gross Settlement Amount” means Two Million, Six Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$2,600,000.00) which is the total amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph 8 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA Payment, Class Counsel Award, Class Representative Payments, and the Administrator’s Expenses.
- 1.24. “Individual Class Payment” means the Participating Class Member’s pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the Class Period. Any Class Member who submits a timely and valid request for exclusion pursuant to the procedures set forth herein, is not eligible to receive an Individual Class Payment.
- 1.25. “Individual PAGA Payment” means the Aggrieved Employee’s pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Payment calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the PAGA Period.
- 1.26. “Judgment” means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.
- 1.27. “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.28. “LWDA Payment” means the 75% of the PAGA Payment paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.29. “Net Settlement Amount” means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: the PAGA Payment, Class Representative Payments, Class Counsel Award, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members as Individual

Class Payments.

- 1.30. “Non-Participating Class Member” means any Class Member who opts out of the Settlement by sending the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.
- 1.31. “PAGA Pay Period” means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Period.
- 1.32. “PAGA Period” means the period between October 22, 2022 to January 19, 2025.
- 1.33. “PAGA” means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).
- 1.34. “PAGA Notices” means Plaintiff Bartram’s June 28, 2023, and Plaintiff Contreras’s September 11, 2023, letters to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a).
- 1.35. “PAGA Payment” means One Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$100,000.00) which is the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees (\$25,000.00) and the 75% to LWDA (\$75,000.00) in settlement of PAGA claims.
- 1.36. “Participating Class Member” means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.
- 1.37. “Plaintiffs” mean Alexis Bartram and Lourdes Contreras, the named Plaintiffs in the Action.
- 1.38. “Preliminary Approval” means the Court’s Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.39. "Preliminary Approval Order" means the proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement.
- 1.40. “Released Class Claims” means all class claims alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts alleged, in the operative complaint in the Action which occurred during the Class Period, including but not limited to violations of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 516, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1197.1 1197.14, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, 2804 California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.* arising from the Labor Code violations released herein, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers’ compensation, and class claims outside of the Class Period.
- 1.41. “Released PAGA Claims” means all PAGA claims alleged in the Operative Complaint and Plaintiffs’ PAGA notices to the LWDA which occurred during the PAGA Period, including but not limited to PAGA penalties for alleged violations of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3,

226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 516, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, 2804, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, and PAGA claims outside of the PAGA Period.

- 1.42. "Released Parties" means Defendant and all of its respective current and former partners, parents, subsidiaries, predecessors and successors, joint employers, and their affiliated entities, and each of their respective owners, officers, directors, managing agents, exempt-employees, partners, shareholders, and agents, and any other successors, heirs, assigns, or legal representatives, any attorneys, insurers, and claims representatives.
- 1.43. "Request for Exclusion" means a Class Member's submission of a written request to be excluded from the Class Settlement signed by the Class Member.
- 1.44. "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 remailed 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 Defendant for at least one day, during the Class Period.

2. RECITALS.

- 2.1. On June 28, 2023, Plaintiff Bartram filed a Notice of Violations with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and served the same on Defendant.
- 2.2. On September 1, 2023, Plaintiff Bartram filed a Class Action Complaint against Defendant alleging seven (7) causes of action against Defendant for (1) Unfair Competition in violation of Bus. & Prof. Code sections 17200 et seq; (2) Failure to pay minimum wages in violation of California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197 and 1197.1; (3) Failure to pay overtime wages in violation of California Labor Code sections 510 et seq; (4) Failure to provide required meal periods in violation of California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and the applicable IWC wage order; (5) Failure to provide required rest periods in violation of California Labor Code

sections 226.7 and 512 and the applicable IWC wage order; (6) Failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements in violation of California Labor Code section 226; and (7) Failure to provide wages when due in violation of California Labor Code sections 201, 202 and 203.

- 2.3. On September 11, 2023, Plaintiff Contreras served the LWDA and Defendant with a PAGA Notice.
- 2.4. On October 16, 2023, Plaintiff Contreras filed a Class Action Complaint in the Los Angeles County Superior Court alleging eight (8) causes of action for: (1) Minimum Wage Violations (Labor Code §§ 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197); (2) Overtime Wage Violations (Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 1194, 1198); (3) Meal Period Violations (Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 558); (4) Rest Period Violations (Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, 558); (5) Wage Statement Penalties (Labor Code § 226); (6) Waiting Time Penalties (Labor Code §§ 201-203); (7) Failure To Reimburse Necessary Business Expenses (Labor Code § 2802); and (8) Unfair Competition (Bus & Prof Code §§ 17200, et seq.
- 2.5. On November 15, 2023, Plaintiff Contreras filed a First Amended Complaint alleging an additional cause of action for violations of PAGA.
- 2.6. On December 27, 2023, Plaintiff Bartram filed a First Amended Complaint alleging an additional cause of action for violations of the Private Attorney General Act (“PAGA”).
- 2.7. Upon the execution of this Agreement, the Parties will promptly stipulate to the filing of a Second Amended Complaint in the *Bartram* Action adding Plaintiff Contreras as a named Plaintiff. Upon receipt of the confirmed Second Amended Complaint, Plaintiff Contreras will dismiss the *Contreras* Action
- 2.8. Defendant denies the allegations in the Action, denies any failure to comply with the laws identified in in the Action and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged.
- 2.9. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a), Plaintiffs gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.
- 2.10. Prior to mediation, Plaintiffs obtained, through informal discovery, all of Defendant’s relevant wage and hour policies, as well as timekeeping records, and payroll records for the Class Members. Plaintiffs’ investigation was sufficient to satisfy the criteria for court approval set forth in *Dunk v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1801 and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116, 129-130 (“*Dunk/Kullar*”).
- 2.11. The Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by the Settlement.

3. MONETARY TERMS.

- 3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 8 below, Defendant promises to pay Two Million, Six Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$2,600,000.00) and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount and to separately pay any and all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount (or any payroll taxes) prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 4.3 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant.
- 3.2. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Final Approval:
- 3.2.1. To Plaintiffs: Class Representative Payments to the Class Representatives of not more than \$10,000.00 to each Class Representative. Defendant will not oppose Plaintiffs' request for a Class Representative Payments that does not exceed this amount. As part of the motion for Class Counsel Award, Plaintiffs will seek Court approval for any Class Representative Payments no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Representative Payments less than the amount requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will pay the Class Representative Payments using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiffs assume full responsibility and liability for employee taxes owed on the Class Representative Payments.
- 3.2.2. To Class Counsel: Attorneys' fees of not more than thirty-five (35%) percent of the Gross Settlement Amount, which is currently estimated to be Nine Hundred, Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$910,000.00) and reimbursement of litigation costs of up to Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$50,000.00). Defendant will not oppose requests for these payments provided that do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiffs and/or Class Counsel will file a motion for Class Counsel Award no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a payment for Class Counsel Award less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to Class Counsel or any other Class Counsel arising from any claim to any portion any Class Counsel Award. The Administrator will pay the Class Counsel Award using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. Class Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the Class Counsel Award and holds Defendant harmless, and indemnifies Defendant, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these payments.

- 3.2.3. To the Administrator: The Administration Expenses Payment not to exceed Twenty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$27,500.00) except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. Defendant will not oppose requests for these payments provided that do not exceed this amount. To the extent the Administration Expenses Payment is less or the Court approves a payment of less than \$27,500.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.
- 3.2.4. To Each Participating Class Member: An Individual Class Payment calculated by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Participating Class Member's Workweeks worked during the Class Period.
- 3.2.4.1. Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. Twenty percent (20%) of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portions are subject to tax withholding and will be reported on an IRS W-2 Form. Eighty percent (80%) of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of claims for interest and penalties (the "Non-Wage Portion"). The Non-Wage Portions are not subject to wage withholdings and will be reported on IRS 1099 Forms. Participating Class Members assume full responsibility and liability for any employee taxes owed 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 Payment in the amount of \$100,000.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% (\$75,000.00) allocated to the LWDA Payment and 25% (\$25,000.00) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.
- 3.2.5.1. The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Payment (\$25,000.00) by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

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3.2.5.2.If the Court approves PAGA Payment of less than the amount requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

4. SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.

- 4.1. Class Workweeks and Aggrieved Employee PAGA Pay Periods. Based on a review of its records, as of the date of mediation, October 10, 2024, Defendant estimates that there are 3,510 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 245,000 Workweeks, and 2,586 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total of 125,204 PAGA Pay Periods.
- 4.2. Class Data. Not later than one (1) week prior to Plaintiffs' deadline to file their motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendant 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. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify Class Counsel if it discovers that the Class Data omitted class member identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Class Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendant must send the Class Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Class Data.
- 4.3. Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount, and also fund the amounts necessary to fully pay Defendant's share of payroll taxes by transmitting the funds to the Administrator within sixty-five (65) days after the Effective Date .
- 4.4. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within fourteen (14) days after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, Class Counsel Award, and the Class Representative Payments. Disbursement of the Class Counsel Award and the Class Representative Payments shall not precede disbursement of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments.
 - 4.4.1. The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual Class Payments and/or Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Class Members via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (180 days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided. The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. The Administrator will send checks for Individual Settlement Payments to all Participating Class Members (including those

for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator will send checks for Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees including Non-Participating Class Members who qualify as Aggrieved Employees (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator may send Participating Class Members a single check combining the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment. Before mailing any checks, the Settlement Administrator must update the recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.

- 4.4.2. The Administrator must conduct a Class Member Address Search for all other Class Members whose checks are 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 cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to the State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Class Member who did not claim the funds.
- 4.4.4. The payment of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendant to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to Class Members (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses) beyond those specified in this Agreement.

5. RELEASES OF CLAIMS. Effective on the Funding Date, Plaintiff Contreras, Participating Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

- 5.1 Plaintiff Contreras's Release. Plaintiff Contreras and her respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all claims, transactions, or occurrences that occurred during the Class Period, including, but not limited to: (a) all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained, in the Operative Complaint, (b) all PAGA claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged based on facts contained in the Operative Complaint, Plaintiff Contreras's PAGA Notice ("Plaintiff Contreras's Release") and (c) any and all claims, whether known or unknown, which exist or may exist on her behalf as of the date of this Agreement, including but not limited to any and all tort claims, contract claims, wage claims, wrongful termination claims, disability claims, benefit claims, public policy claims,

retaliation claims, statutory claims, personal injury claims, emotional distress claims, invasion of privacy claims, defamation claims, fraud claims, quantum meruit claims, and any and all claims arising under any federal, state or other governmental statute, law, regulation or ordinance, including, but not limited to claims for violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the California Labor Code (except those provisions asserted in the Action), the Wage Orders of California's Industrial Welfare Commission, other state wage and hour laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, the California Family Rights Act, the Family Medical Leave Act, California's Whistleblower Protection Act, California Business & Professions Code Section 17200 *et seq.*, and any and all claims arising under any federal, state or other governmental statute, law, regulation or ordinance.. Plaintiff Contreras'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. Plaintiff Contreras acknowledges that Plaintiff Contreras may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff Contreras now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff Contreras's Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff Contreras's discovery of them.

5.1.1 Plaintiff Contreras's Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542. For purposes of Plaintiff Contreras's Release, Plaintiff Contreras 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 Release by Participating Class Members: All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from all class claims alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts alleged, in the operative complaint in the Action which occurred during the Class Period, including but not limited to violations of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 516, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1198.5, 2802, 2804, California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.* arising from the Labor Code violations released herein, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, and class claims outside of the Class Period .

5.3 Release by Aggrieved Employees: As of the Funding Date, all Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective

former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties from all PAGA claims alleged in the Operative Complaint and Plaintiffs' PAGA notices to the LWDA which occurred during the PAGA Period, including but not limited to PAGA penalties for alleged violations of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 516, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, 2804, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, and PAGA claims outside of the PAGA Period.

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

6.1 Defendant's Declaration in Support of Preliminary Approval. One (1) week prior to the filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval, Defendant will prepare and deliver to Class Counsel a signed Declaration from Defendant and Defense Counsel disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with the Administrator. In their Declarations, Defense Counsel and Defendant 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 Plaintiffs' Responsibilities. Plaintiffs will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all documents necessary for obtaining Preliminary Approval, including: (i) a draft of the notice, and memorandum in support, of the Motion for Preliminary Approval that includes an analysis of the Settlement under *Dunk/Kullar* and a request for approval of the PAGA Settlement under Labor Code Section 2699, subd. (f)(2)); (ii) a draft proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement; and (iii) a draft proposed Class Notice; (iv) a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its "not to exceed" bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve; competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Class Data; amounts of insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members; and the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiffs, Class Counsel or Defense Counsel; (v) a signed declaration from Plaintiffs confirming willingness and competency to serve and disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members; (v) a signed declaration from each Class Counsel firm attesting to its competency to represent the Class Members; its timely transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (initial notice of violations (Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a)), Operative Complaint (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(2)); (vi) a redlined version of the parties' Agreement showing all modifications made to the Model Agreement ready for filing with the Court; and (vii) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members and the Administrator. In their Declarations, Plaintiffs and Class Counsel Declaration shall aver that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be

extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.

- 6.3 Responsibilities of Counsel. Class Counsel is responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than sixty (60) days after the full execution of this Agreement; obtaining a prompt hearing date for the Motion for Preliminary Approval; and for appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the Motion for Preliminary Approval. Class Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Preliminary Approval to the Administrator.
- 6.4 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, Apex Class Action LLC agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for Administration Expenses Payment. 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.
- 7.4 Notice to Class Members.
- 7.4.1 No later than three (3) business days after receipt of the Class Data, the Administrator shall notify Class Counsel that the list has been received and state the number of Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, Workweeks, and PAGA Pay Periods in the Class Data.
- 7.4.2 Using best efforts to perform as soon as possible, and in no event later than fourteen (14) days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator will send to all Class Members identified in the Class Data, via first-class United

States Postal Service (“USPS”) mail, the Class Notice, with Spanish translation substantially in the form attached to this Agreement as Exhibit A. The first page of the Class Notice shall prominently estimate the dollar amounts of any Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment payable to the Class Member, and the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if applicable) used to calculate these amounts. Before mailing Class Notices, the Administrator shall update Class Member addresses using the National Change of Address database.

- 7.4.3 Not later than three (3) business days after the Administrator’s receipt of any Class Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the Class Notice using any forwarding address provided by the USPS. If the USPS does not provide a forwarding address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class Member Address Search, and re-mail the Class Notice to the most current address obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further attempts to locate or send Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by the USPS a second time.
- 7.4.4 The deadlines for Class Members’ written objections, Challenges to Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional fourteen (14) days beyond the forty-five (45) 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.
- 7.4.5 If the Administrator, Defendant or Class Counsel is contacted by or otherwise discovers any persons who believe they should have been included in 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, which ever are later.

7.5 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs).

- 7.5.1 Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) the Class Settlement must send the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail, a signed written Request for Exclusion not later than 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' Releases under Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of this Agreement, regardless of whether the Participating Class Member actually receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.
- 7.5.4 Every Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion is a Non-Participating Class Member and shall not receive an Individual Class Payment or have the right to object to the class action components of the Settlement. Because future PAGA claims are subject to claim preclusion upon entry of the Judgment, Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release the claims identified in Paragraph 5.3 of this Agreement, and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment and thus may not submit a request for exclusion from the PAGA portion of the settlement.
- 7.5.5 Any funds allocated to Class Members who opted out will be added to the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to the Participating Class Members.

- 7.6 Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks. Each Class Member shall have 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) to challenge the number of Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if any) 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 Administrator's determination of each Class Member's allocation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. 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.

7.7 Objections to Settlement.

7.7.1 Only Participating Class Members may object to the class action components of the Settlement and/or this Agreement, including contesting the fairness of the Settlement, and/or amounts requested for the Class Counsel Award and/or Class Representative Payments.

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 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 Participating Class Members may not object to the PAGA portion of the Settlement.

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

7.8 Administrator Duties. The Administrator has a duty to perform or observe all tasks to be performed or observed by the Administrator contained in this Agreement or otherwise.

7.8.1 Website, Email Address and Toll-Free Number. The Administrator will establish and maintain and use an internet website to post information of interest to Class Members including the date, time and location for the Final Approval Hearing and copies of the Settlement Agreement, Motion for Preliminary Approval, the Preliminary Approval, the Class Notice, the Motion for Final Approval, the Motion for Class Counsel Award and Class Representative Payments, the Final Approval 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 PAGA 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 PAGA 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 PAGA 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 Plaintiffs are 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 the full names of Class Members who opted out of the settlement, the high, low, and average Individual Class Payments, and the high, low, and average Individual PAGA Payments. 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 its records, Defendant estimates that, as of the date of the mediation on October 10, 2024, (1) there are 3,510 Class Members and 245,000 Total Workweeks during the Class Period. Should the actual number of workweeks during the Class Release Period increase beyond 10%, Defendant shall have the option of (a) increasing the Gross Settlement Amount by the percentage increase in the number of workweeks worked by the class members above 10% (e.g. if the number of workweeks increases by 11%, the Gross Settlement Amount will increase by 1%) or (b) rolling back the end date of the Class Release Period and PAGA Release Period to the date on which 269,501 workweeks are met.
9. **DEFENDANT'S RIGHT TO WITHDRAW.** If the number of valid Requests for Exclusion identified in the Exclusion List exceeds 5% of the total of all Class Members, Defendant may, but is not obligated, elect to withdraw from the Settlement. The Parties agree that, if Defendant 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, Defendant will remain responsible for paying all Administration Expenses Payment incurred to that point. Defendant must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its election to withdraw not later than seven (7) days within learning this information; late elections will have no effect.
10. **MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.** Not later than sixteen (16) court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiffs 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), a Proposed Final Approval Order and a proposed Judgment (collectively "Motion for Final Approval"). Plaintiffs shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel not later than seven (7) days prior to filing the Motion for Final Approval. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve any disagreements concerning the Motion for Final Approval.
- 10.1 Response to Objections. Each Party retains the right to respond to any objection raised by a Participating Class Member, including the right to file responsive documents in Court no later than five (5) 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 Payments, Class Counsel Award and/or Administration Expenses Payment shall not constitute a material modification to the Agreement within the meaning of this paragraph.
- 10.3 Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court. The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-

Judgment matters as are permitted by law.

- 10.4 Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the Class Counsel Award reflected set forth in this Settlement, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Participating Class Members who did not object to the Settlement as provided in this Agreement, waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs, and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If an objector appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.
- 10.5 Appellate Court Orders to Vacate, Reverse, or Materially Modify Judgment. If the reviewing Court vacates, reverses, or modifies the Judgment in a manner that requires a material modification of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), this Agreement shall be null and void. The Parties shall nevertheless expeditiously work together in good faith to address the appellate court's concerns and to obtain Final Approval and entry of Judgment, sharing, on a 50-50 basis, any additional Administration Expenses Payment reasonably incurred after remittitur. An appellate decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of the Class Representative Payments 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. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

- 11.1 No Admission of Liability, Class Certification or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by Defendant that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that Defendant has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiffs that Defendant's defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree that class certification and representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason the Court does grant Preliminary Approval, Final Approval or enter Judgment, Defendant reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reasons, and Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiffs reserve the right to move for class certification on any grounds available and to contest Defendant's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement and Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation (except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement).

- 11.2 Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval. Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree that, until the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement is filed, they and each of them will not disclose, disseminate and/or publicize, or cause or permit another person to disclose, disseminate or publicize, any of the terms of the Agreement directly or indirectly, specifically or generally, to any person, corporation, association, government agency, or other entity except: (1) to the Parties' attorneys, accountants, or spouses, all of whom will be instructed to keep this Agreement confidential; (2) counsel in a related matter; (3) to the extent necessary to report income to appropriate taxing authorities; (4) in response to a court order or subpoena; or (5) in response to an inquiry or subpoena issued by a state or federal government agency.

Each Party agrees to immediately notify each other Party of any judicial or agency order, inquiry, or subpoena seeking such information. Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree not to, directly or indirectly, initiate any conversation or other communication, before the filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval, any with third party regarding this Agreement or the matters giving rise to this Agreement except to respond only that "the matter was resolved," or words to that effect. This paragraph does not restrict Class Counsel's communications with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

- 11.3 No Solicitation. The Parties separately agree that they and their respective counsel and employees will not solicit any Class Member to opt out of or object to the Settlement, or appeal from the Judgment. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to restrict Class Counsel's ability to communicate with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.
- 11.4 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.
- 11.5 Attorney Authorization. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiffs and Defendant, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.
- 11.6 Cooperation. The Parties will work together expeditiously to obtain preliminary and final approval of this settlement.
- 11.7 No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.

- 11.8 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Defendant nor Defense Counsel are providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.
- 11.9 Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.
- 11.10 Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 11.11 Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the state of California, without regard to conflict of law principles.
- 11.12 Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.
- 11.13 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.
- 11.14 Use and Return of Class Data. Information provided to Class Counsel pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §1152, and all copies and summaries of the Class Data provided to Class Counsel by Defendant in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of court. Not later than 90 days after the date when the Court discharges the Administrator's obligation to provide a Declaration confirming the final pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiffs shall destroy all paper and electronic versions of Class Data received from Defendant unless, prior to the Court's discharge of the Administrator's obligation, Defendant makes a written request to Class Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of Class Data.
- 11.15 Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.
- 11.16 Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to "days" in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.
- 11.17 Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly

given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiffs:

JCL LAW FIRM, APC
5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600
San Diego, CA 92121
T: 619-599-8292
jlapuyade@jcl-lawfirm.com

ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC
5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600
San Diego, CA 92121
T: 619-892-7095
Shani@zakaylaw.com

JUSTICE FOR WORKERS, P.C.
3600 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1815
Los Angeles, CA 90010
T: (323) 922-2000
william@justiceforworkers.com

To Defendant:

JACKSON LEWIS P.C.
725 South Figueroa Street Suite 2500
Los Angeles, CA 90017
T: (213) 689-0404
Adam.Siegel@jacksonlewis.com

- 11.18 Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e., DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.
- 11.19 Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

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IT IS SO AGREED TO AS TO FORM AND CONTENT BY PLAINTIFFS:

Dated: 12/16, 2024

Signature: 
Alexis Bartram (Dec 16, 2024 17:54 EST)
Email: alexisbartram@gmail.com

Plaintiff Alexis Bartram

Dated: December 27, 2024


Plaintiff Lourdes Contreras

Dated: December 16, 2024


Shani O. Zakay, Esq.
Zakay Law Group, APLC
Attorney for Plaintiffs

Dated: December 16, 2024


Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq.
JCL Law Firm, APC
Attorney for Plaintiffs

Dated: December 17, 2024


William C. Sung, Esq.
Justice For Workers P.C
Attorney for Plaintiffs

IT IS SO AGREED TO AS TO FORM AND CONTENT BY DEFENDANT:

Dated: _____, 2024

Jennifer Centazzo
Lakeshore Learning Materials, LLC

Jennifer Centazzo
Printed Name

COO
Title

Dated: January 7, 2025


Adam Siegel, Esq.
Jackson Lewis P.C.
Attorney for Defendant

Exhibit A

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

Alexis Bartram v. Lakeshore Learning Materials, LLC Case No. 23STCV21174

***The Superior Court for the State of California authorized this Notice. Read it carefully!
It's not junk mail, spam, advertisement, or solicitation by a lawyer. You are not being sued.***

You may be eligible to receive money from an employee class action lawsuit (“Action”) against Lakeshore Learning Materials, LLC (“Defendant”) for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by former employees, Alexis Bartram and Lourdes Contreras (“Plaintiffs”) and seeks payment of (1) back wages and other relief for a class of all non-exempt employees who are or previously were employed by Defendant and performed work in California (“Class Members”) during the Class Period (September 1, 2019 to January 19, 2025); and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorney General Act (“PAGA”) for all non-exempt employees who are or previously were employed by Defendant and performed work in California during the PAGA Period (October 22, 2022 to January 19, 2025) (“Aggrieved Employees”). Lakeshore denies any wrongdoing and contends the Plaintiffs, Class Members and Aggrieved Employees were properly compensated at all times.

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

Based on Defendant’s records, and the Parties’ current assumptions, **your Individual Class Payment is estimated to be \$ XX (less withholding) and your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$ XX**. The actual amount you may receive may be different and will depend on a number of factors. (If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment, then according to Defendant’s records you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you did not work during the PAGA Period.)

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

The Court has already preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement and approved this Notice. The Court has not yet decided whether to grant final approval. Your legal rights are affected whether you act or not act. Read this Notice carefully. You will be deemed to have carefully read and understood it. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will decide whether to finally approve the Settlement and how much of the Settlement will be paid to Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs’ attorneys (“Class Counsel”). The Court will also decide whether to enter a judgment that requires Defendant to make payments under the Settlement and requires Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against Defendant.

If you worked for Defendant during the Class Period and/or the PAGA Period, you have two basic options under the Settlement:

- (1) **Do Nothing.** You do not have to do anything to participate in the proposed Settlement and be eligible for an Individual Class Payment and/or an Individual PAGA Payment. As a Participating Class Member, though, you will give up your right to assert Class Period wage claims and PAGA Period penalty claims against Defendant.
- (2) **Opt-Out of the Class Settlement.** You can exclude yourself from the Class Settlement (opt-out) by submitting the written Request for Exclusion or otherwise notifying the Administrator in writing. If you opt-out of the Settlement, you will not receive an Individual Class Payment. You will, however, preserve your right to personally pursue Class Period wage claims against Defendant, and, if you are an Aggrieved Employee, remain eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

Defendant will not retaliate against you for any actions you take with respect to the proposed Settlement.

SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT

You Don't Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement	If you do nothing, you will be a Participating Class Member, eligible for an Individual Class Payment and an Individual PAGA Payment (if any). In exchange, you will give up your right to assert the wage claims against Defendant that are covered by this Settlement (Released Claims).
You Can Opt-out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement The Opt-out Deadline is _____	If you don't want to fully participate in the proposed Settlement, you can opt-out of the Class Settlement by sending the Administrator a written Request for Exclusion. Once excluded, you will be a Non-Participating Class Member and no longer eligible for an Individual Class Payment. Non-Participating Class Members cannot object to any portion of the proposed Settlement. See Section 6 of this Notice. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. Defendant must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees and the Aggrieved Employees must give up their rights to pursue Released PAGA Claims (defined below).

Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement Written Objections Must be Submitted by	All Class Members who do not opt-out (“Participating Class Members”) can object to any aspect of the proposed Settlement. The Court’s decision whether to finally approve the Settlement will include a determination of how much will be paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiffs who pursued the Action on behalf of the Class. You are not personally responsible for any payments to Class Counsel.
You Can Participate in the Final Approval Hearing	The Court’s Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on [REDACTED]. You do not have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone or by using the Court’s virtual appearance platform. Participating Class Members can verbally object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing. See Section 8 of this Notice.
You Can Challenge the Calculation of Your Workweeks/Pay Periods Written Challenges Must be Submitted by	The amount of your Individual Class Payment and PAGA Payment (if any) depend on how many Workweeks you worked at least one day during the Class Period and how many PAGA Pay Periods you worked at least one day during the PAGA Period, respectively. The number Class Period Workweeks and number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked according to Defendant’s records is stated on the first page of this Notice. If you disagree with either of these numbers, you must challenge it by [REDACTED]. See Section 4 of this Notice.

1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?

Plaintiffs are former employees of Defendant. The Action alleges Defendant violated California labor laws by failing to pay wages, including minimum, straight and overtime wages; failing to provide legally compliant meal and rest periods; failing to pay wages due upon termination; failing to reimburse for mandatory business expenses; and failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements. Based on the same claims, Plaintiffs have also asserted a claim for civil penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq.) (“PAGA”). Plaintiffs are represented by attorneys in the Action:

Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq. of JCL Law Firm, APC, Shani Zakay, Esq., of the Zakay Law Group, APLC, and William Sung, Esq. of Justice for Workers P.C. (“Class Counsel”).

Defendant strongly deny violating any laws or failing to pay any wages and contends it complied with all applicable laws.

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

So far, the Court has made no determination whether Defendant or Plaintiffs are correct on the merits. In the meantime, Plaintiffs and Defendant hired a neutral mediator in an effort to resolve the Action by negotiating to end the case by agreement (settle the case) rather than continuing the expensive and time-consuming process of litigation. The negotiations were successful. By signing a lengthy written settlement agreement (“Agreement”) and agreeing to jointly ask the Court to enter a judgment ending the Action and enforcing the Agreement, Plaintiffs and Defendant have negotiated a proposed Settlement that is subject to the Court’s Final Approval. Both sides agree the proposed Settlement is a compromise of disputed claims. By agreeing to settle, Defendant does not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims.

Plaintiffs and Class Counsel strongly believe the Settlement is a good deal for you because they believe that: (1) Defendant has agreed to pay a fair, reasonable and adequate amount considering the strength of the claims and the risks and uncertainties of continued litigation; and (2) Settlement is in the best interests of the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. The Court preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, authorized this Notice, and scheduled a hearing to determine Final Approval.

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

1. Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant Will Pay \$2,600,000.00 as the Gross Settlement Amount (“Gross Settlement Amount”). Defendant has agreed to deposit the Gross Settlement Amount into an account controlled by the Administrator of the Settlement. The Administrator will use the Gross Settlement Amount to pay the Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, Class Representative Payments, Class Counsel Award, the Administration Expenses Payment, and penalties to be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA Payment”). Assuming the Court grants Final

Approval, Defendant will fund the Gross Settlement Amount within sixty-five (65) days after the Effective Date. The Judgment will be final on the date the Court enters Judgment, or a later date if Participating Class Members object to the proposed Settlement or the Judgment is appealed.

2. Court Approved Deductions from Gross Settlement Amount. At the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiffs and/or Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve the following deductions from the Gross Settlement Amount, the amounts of which will be decided by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing:
 - A. Up to \$910,000.00 (35% of the Gross Settlement Amount) to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and up to \$50,000 for their litigation expenses. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.
 - B. Up to \$10,000.00 to each Class Representative as Class Representative Payments for filing the Action, working with Class Counsel and representing the Class. Class Representative Payments will be the only monies Plaintiff Contreras will receive other than her respective Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment. Plaintiff Bartram entered into a separate individual agreement under which she is to receive a separate settlement payment in addition to her Class Representative Payment.
 - C. Up to \$27,500.00 to the Administrator for services administering the Settlement.
 - D. Up to \$100,000.00 for PAGA Payment, allocated 75% to the LWDA Payment and 25% in Individual PAGA Payments to the Aggrieved Employees based on their PAGA Pay Periods.

Participating Class Members have the right to object to any of these deductions. The Court will consider all objections.

3. Net Settlement Distributed to Class Members. After making the above deductions in amounts approved by the Court, the Administrator will distribute the rest of the Gross Settlement Amount (the "Net Settlement") by making Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members based on their Class Period Workweeks.
4. Taxes Owed on Payments to Class Members. Plaintiffs and Defendant are asking the Court to approve an allocation of 20% of each Individual Class Payment to taxable wages ("Wage Portion") and 80% to interests and penalties ("Non-Wage Portion."). The Wage Portion is subject to withholdings and will be reported on IRS W-2 Forms. Defendant will separately pay employer payroll taxes it owes on the Wage Portion. The Individual PAGA Payments are counted as penalties rather than wages for tax purposes. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments and the Non-Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

Although Plaintiffs and Defendant have agreed to these allocations, neither side is giving you any advice on whether your Payments are taxable or how much you might owe in taxes. You are responsible for paying all taxes (including penalties and interest on back taxes) on any Payments received from the proposed Settlement. You should consult a tax advisor if you have any questions about the tax consequences of the proposed Settlement.

5. Need to Promptly Cash Payment Checks. The front of every check issued for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments will show the date when the check expires (the void date). If you do not cash it by the void date, your check will be automatically cancelled, and the monies will be deposited with the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in your name.

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

6. Requests for Exclusion from the Class Settlement (Opt-Outs). You will be treated as a Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Class Settlement, unless you notify the Administrator in writing, not later than **MONTH XX, 202X**, that you wish to opt-out. The easiest way to notify the Administrator is to send a written and signed Request for Exclusion by **MONTH XX, 202X**, Response Deadline. The Request for Exclusion should be a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative setting forth a Class Member's name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement electing to be excluded from the Settlement. Excluded Class Members (i.e., Non-Participating Class Members) will not receive Individual Class Payments but will preserve their rights to personally pursue wage and hour claims against Defendant.

You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Class Members who exclude themselves from the Class Settlement (Non-Participating Class Members) remain eligible for Individual PAGA Payments and are required to give up their right to assert PAGA claims against Defendant based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action.

7. The Proposed Settlement Will be Void if the Court Denies Final Approval. It is possible the Court will decline to grant Final Approval of the Settlement or decline enter a Judgment. It is also possible the Court will enter a Judgment that is reversed on appeal. Plaintiffs and Defendant have agreed that, in either case, the Settlement will be void: Defendant will not pay any money and Class Members will not release any claims against Defendant.
8. Administrator. The Court has appointed a neutral company, Apex Class Action LLC (the Administrator") to send this Notice, calculate and make payments, and process Class Members' Requests for Exclusion. The Administrator will also decide Class Member Challenges over Workweeks, mail and re-mail settlement checks and tax forms, and perform other tasks necessary to administer the Settlement. The Administrator's contact information is contained in Section 9 of this Notice.

9. Participating Class Members' Release. After the Judgment is final and Defendant has fully funded the Gross Settlement Amount, and separately paid all employer payroll taxes, Participating Class Members will be legally barred from asserting any of the claims released under the Settlement. This means that unless you opted out by validly excluding yourself from the Class Settlement, you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendant or related entities for wages based on the Class Period facts and PAGA Payment based on PAGA Period facts, as alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

The Participating Class Members will be bound by the following release: all Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from all class claims alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts alleged, in the operative complaint in the Action which occurred during the Class Period, including but not limited to violations of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 516, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, 2804, California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.* arising from the Labor Code violations released herein, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, and class claims outside of the Class Period ("Released Class Claims").

10. Aggrieved Employees' PAGA Release. After the Court's judgment is final, and Defendant, has paid the Gross Settlement Amount (and separately paid the employer-side payroll taxes), all Aggrieved Employees will be barred from asserting PAGA claims against Defendant, whether or not they exclude themselves from the Settlement. This means that all Aggrieved Employees, including those who are Participating Class Members and those who opt-out of the Class Settlement, cannot sue, continue to sue, or participate in any other PAGA claim against Defendant or its related entities based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement. The Aggrieved Employees' Releases for Participating and Non-Participating Class Members are as follows:

All Participating and Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties, from all PAGA claims alleged in the Operative Complaint and Plaintiffs' PAGA notices to the LWDA which occurred during the PAGA Period, including but not limited to PAGA penalties for alleged violations of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204 *et seq.*, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 516, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, 2804, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social

security, workers' compensation, and PAGA claims outside of the PAGA Period

4. HOW WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR CALCULATE MY PAYMENT?

1. Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual Class Payments by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members, and (b) multiplying the result by the number of Workweeks worked by each individual Participating Class Member.
2. Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing \$25,000.00 by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees and (b) multiplying the result by the number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by each individual Aggrieved Employee.
3. Workweek/PAGA Pay Period Challenges. The number of Class Workweeks you worked during the Class Period and the number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked during the PAGA Period, as recorded in Defendant's records, are stated in the first page of this Notice. You have until **MONTH XX, 202X** to challenge the number of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods credited to you. You can submit your challenge by signing and sending a letter to the Administrator via mail, email, or fax. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

You need to support your challenge by sending copies of pay stubs or other records. The Administrator will accept Defendant's calculation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods based on Defendant's records as accurate unless you send copies of records containing contrary information. You should send copies rather than originals because the documents will not be returned to you. The Administrator will resolve Workweek and/or PAGA Pay Period challenges based on your submission and on input from Class Counsel (who will advocate on behalf of Participating Class Members) and Defendant's Counsel. The Administrator's decision is final. You cannot appeal or otherwise challenge its final decision.

5. HOW WILL I GET PAID?

1. Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single check to every Participating Class Member (i.e., every Class Member who does not opt-out) including those who also qualify as Aggrieved Employees. The single check will combine the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment.
2. Non-Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single Individual PAGA Payment check to every Aggrieved Employee who opts out of the Class Settlement (i.e., every Non-Participating Class Member).

Your check will be sent to the same address as in this Notice. If you change your address, be sure to notify the Administrator as soon as possible. Section 9 of this Notice has the

Administrator's contact information.

6. HOW DO I OPT-OUT OF THE CLASS SETTLEMENT?

Submit a written and signed letter with your name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement that you do not want to participate in the Settlement. The Administrator will exclude you based on any writing communicating your request be excluded. Be sure to personally sign your request, identify the Action as *Alexis Bartram v. Lakeshore Learning Materials, LLC Case No. 23STCV21174*, and include your identifying information (full name, address, telephone number, approximate dates of employment, and social security number for verification purposes). You must make the request yourself. If someone else makes the request for you, it will not be valid. **The Administrator must receive your request to be excluded by MONTH XX, 202X, or it will be invalid.** Section 9 of the Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

7. HOW DO I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT?

Only Participating Class Members have the right to object to the Settlement. Before deciding whether to object, you may wish to see what Plaintiffs and Defendant are asking the Court to approve. At least twenty-eight (28) days before the **MONTH XX, 202X** Final Approval Hearing, Class Counsel and/or Plaintiffs will file in Court (1) a Motion for Final Approval that includes, among other things, the reasons why the proposed Settlement is fair, and (2) a Motion for Class Counsel Award and Class Representative Payments stating (i) the amount Class Counsel is requesting for Class Counsel Award; and (ii) the amount Plaintiffs are requesting as Class Representative Payments. Upon reasonable request, Class Counsel (whose contact information is in Section 9 of this Notice) will send you copies of these documents at no cost to you. You can also view them on the Administrator's Website www._____.com or the Court's website <https://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/>.

A Participating Class Member who disagrees with any aspect of the Agreement, the Motion for Final Approval and/or Motion for Class Counsel Award, and Class Representative Payments may wish to object. **The deadline for sending written objections to the Administrator is MONTH XX, 202X.** Be sure to tell the Administrator what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. Make sure you identify the Action *Alexis Bartram v. Lakeshore Learning Materials, LLC Case No. 23STCV21174* and include your name, current address, telephone number, and approximate dates of employment for Defendant and sign the objection. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

Alternatively, a Participating Class Member can object (or personally retain a lawyer to object at your own cost) by attending the Final Approval Hearing. You (or your attorney) should be ready to tell the Court what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. See Section 8 of this Notice (immediately below) for specifics regarding the Final Approval Hearing.

8. CAN I ATTEND THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING?

You can, but don't have to, attend the Final Approval Hearing on **MONTH XX, 202X** at **XX:XX am/pm** in Department 17 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. At the Hearing, the judge will decide whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and how much of the Gross Settlement Amount will be paid to Class Counsel, Plaintiffs, and the Administrator. The Court will invite comment from objectors, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel before making a decision. You can attend (or hire a lawyer to attend) either personally or virtually via LACourtConnect (<https://www.lacourt.org/lacc/>). Check the Court's website for the most current information.

It is possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the Administrator's website www._____.com beforehand or contact Class Counsel to verify the date and time of the Final Approval Hearing.

9. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The Agreement sets forth everything Defendant and Plaintiffs have promised to do under the proposed Settlement. The easiest way to read the Agreement, the Judgment or any other Settlement documents is to go to Apex Class Action LLC's website at www._____.com. You can also telephone or send an email to Class Counsel or the Administrator using the contact information listed below, or consult the Superior Court website by going to (<https://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/index.aspx?casetype=civil>) and entering the Case Number for the Action, Case No. 23STCV21174. You can also make an appointment to personally review court documents in the Clerk's Office at the Los Angeles Superior Court.

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

JCL LAW FIRM, APC
5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600
San Diego, CA 92121
T: 619-599-8292
jlapyade@jcl-lawfirm.com

ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC
5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600
San Diego, CA 92121
T: 619-892-7095
Shani@zakaylaw.com

JUSTICE FOR WORKERS, P.C.
3600 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1815
Los Angeles, CA 90010

T: (323) 922-2000
william@justiceforworkers.com

Administrator:

Apex Class Action LLC
20371 Irvine Avenue, Newport Beach, CA 92660;
Tel: (800) 355-0700

10. WHAT IF I LOSE MY SETTLEMENT CHECK?

If you lose or misplace your settlement check before cashing it, the Administrator will replace it as long as you request a replacement before the void date on the face of the original check. If your check is already void, you should consult the Unclaimed Property Fund for instructions on how to retrieve the funds.

11. WHAT IF I CHANGE MY ADDRESS?

To receive your check, you should immediately notify the Administrator if you move or otherwise change your mailing address.

EXHIBIT 2

JCL LAW FIRM, APC

Jean-Claude Lapuyade (State Bar #248676)
Sydney Castillo-Johnson (State Bar #343881)
John L. Nitti (State Bar #330752)
5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600
San Diego, CA 92121
Telephone: (619) 599-8292
jlapuyade@jcl-lawfirm.com
scastillo@jcl-lawfirm.com
jnitti@jcl-lawfirm.com

ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC

Shani O. Zakay (State Bar #277924)
Nicole Noursamadi (State Bar #357246)
5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600
San Diego, CA 92121
Telephone: (619) 255-9047
shani@zakaylaw.com
nicole@zakaylaw.com

Attorneys for PLAINTIFFS

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

ALEXIS BARTRAM and LOURDES
CONTRERAS, individuals, on behalf of
themselves and on behalf of all persons
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

LAKESHORE LEARNING MATERIALS,
LLC, a California limited liability company;
and DOES 1-50, Inclusive,

Defendant.

Case No: 23STCV21174

**~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Date: March 5, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Judge: Hon. Lauren A. Seigle

Dept.: 17

FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

03/05/2025

David W. Styrba, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

By: N. Navarro Deputy

1 This matter having come before the Honorable Judge Lauren A. Seigle of the Superior Court of
2 the State of California, in and for the County of Los Angeles, at 9:00 a.m. on March 5, 2025, with Jean-
3 Claude Lapuyade, Esq., of the JCL Law Firm, APC, Shani O. Zakay, Esq. of the Zakay Law Group,
4 APLC, and William Sung, Esq. of Justice for Workers, P.C. as counsel for Plaintiffs Alexis Bartram
5 and Lourdes Contreras (“Plaintiffs”), and Adam Y. Siegel, Esq. of Jackson Lewis P.C., appearing for
6 Defendant Lakeshore Learning Materials, LLC (hereinafter “Defendant”). The Court, having carefully
7 considered the briefs, argument of counsel and all the matters presented to the Court, and good cause
8 appearing, hereby GRANTS Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement.

9 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

10 1. The Court preliminarily approves the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement
11 (“Settlement Agreement” or “Agreement”), a true and correct copy of which is attached to the
12 Declaration of Jean-Claude Lapuyade as **Exhibit “1”**. This is based on the Court’s determination that
13 the Settlement Agreement is within the range of possible final approval, pursuant to the provisions of
14 Section 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure and California Rules of Court, rule 3.769.

15 2. This Order incorporates by reference the definitions in the Agreement, and all terms
16 defined therein shall have the same meaning in this Order as set forth in the Agreement.

17 3. Subject to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the Gross Settlement Amount that
18 Defendant shall pay is Two Million, Six Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$2,600,000.00).
19 It appears to the Court on a preliminary basis that the settlement amount and terms are fair, adequate,
20 and reasonable as to all Class Members when balanced against the probable outcome of further
21 litigation relating to certification, liability, and damages issues. It further appears that investigation and
22 research have been conducted such that counsel for the Parties are able to reasonably evaluate their
23 respective positions. It further appears to the Court that settlement at this time will avoid substantial
24 additional costs by all Parties, as well as avoid the delay and risks that would be presented by the further
25 prosecution of the litigation. It further appears that the Settlement has been reached as the result of
26 intensive, serious, and non-collusive arms-length negotiations.

27 4. The Court preliminarily finds that the Settlement appears to be within the range of
28 reasonableness of a settlement that could ultimately be given final approval by this Court. The Court

1 has reviewed the monetary recovery that is being granted as part of the Settlement and preliminarily
2 finds that the monetary settlement awards made available to the Class Members are fair, adequate, and
3 reasonable when balanced against the probable outcome of further litigation relating to certification,
4 liability, and damages issues.

5 5. Plaintiffs seek the Class Counsel Award in the amount of up to thirty-five percent (35%)
6 of the Gross Settlement Amount, currently estimated at Nine Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero
7 Cents (\$910,000.00) plus litigation costs in an amount not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero
8 Cents (\$50,000.00), and proposed Class Representative Payments to the Class Representatives, Alexis
9 Bartram and Lourdes Contreras, in an amount of not more than Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents
10 (\$10,000.00) to each Class Representative. While these awards appear to be within the range of
11 reasonableness, the Court will not approve the Class Counsel Award, or Class Representative Payment
12 until the Final Approval Hearing.

13 6. The Court recognizes that Plaintiffs and Defendant stipulate and agree to certification of
14 a class for settlement purposes only. This stipulation will not be deemed admissible in this, or any other
15 proceeding should this Settlement not become final. For settlement purposes only, the Court
16 conditionally certifies the following Class:

17 All current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees who worked
18 for Defendant within the State of California during the Class Period of
19 September 1, 2019 to January 19, 2025. (“Class Period”).

20 7. The Court concludes that, for settlement purposes only, the Class meets the requirements
21 for certification under section 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure in that: (a) the Class is
22 ascertainable and so numerous that joinder of all members of the Class Members is impracticable; (b)
23 common questions of law and fact predominate, and there is a well-defined community of interest
24 amongst the Class Members with respect to the subject matter of the litigation; (c) the claims of the
25 Class Representative are typical of the claims of the Class Members; (d) the Class Representative will
26 fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class Members; (e) a class action is superior to other
27 available methods for the efficient adjudication of this controversy; and (f) Class Counsel are qualified
28 to act as counsel for the Class Representative in his individual capacity and as the representative of the

1 Class Members.

2 8. The Court provisionally appoints Plaintiffs Alexis Bartram and Lourdes Contreras as the
3 representatives of the Class.

4 9. The Court provisionally appoints Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq., of JCL Law Firm, APC,
5 Shani O. Zakay, Esq. of Zakay Law Group, APLC, and William Sung, Esq. of Justice for Workers,
6 P.C. as Class Counsel for the Class Members.

7 10. The Court hereby approves, as to form and content, the Proposed Notice of Class Action
8 Settlement and Hearing Date for Final Court Approval (“Class Notice”) attached to the Agreement as
9 **Exhibit “A”**. The Court finds that the Class Notice appears to fully and accurately inform the Class
10 Members and Aggrieved Employees of all material elements of the proposed Settlement, including the
11 right of any Class Member to be excluded from the Class by submitting a written request for exclusion,
12 and of each Class Member’s right and opportunity to object to the Settlement. The Court further finds
13 that the distribution of the Class Notices substantially in the manner and form set forth in the Agreement
14 and this Order meets the requirements of due process, is the most reasonable notice under the
15 circumstances, and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto. The Court
16 orders the mailing of the Class Notices by first class mail, pursuant to the terms set forth in the
17 Agreement.

18 11. The Court hereby appoints APEX Class Action LLC, as the Administrator. Within one
19 (1) week prior to Plaintiffs’ deadline to file their motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement,
20 Defendant shall provide the Administrator with the Class Data, including information regarding Class
21 Members that Defendant will in good faith compile from its records, including each Class Member’s
22 full name, last-known address, Social Security number, telephone number, and number of Class Period
23 Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods. No later than fourteen (14) calendar days after receiving the Class
24 Data from Defendant, the Administrator shall mail copies of the Class Notice to all Class Members via
25 first class U.S. Mail.

26 12. The Court hereby preliminarily approves the proposed procedure for exclusion from the
27 Settlement. Any Class Member may individually choose to opt out of and be excluded from the
28 Settlement as provided in the Class Notice by following the instructions for requesting exclusion from

1 the Settlement as set forth in the Class Notice. All requests for exclusion must be postmarked or
2 received by the Response Deadline which is forty-five (45) calendar days after the Administrator mails
3 the Class Notices to Class Members or, in the case of re-mailed Class Notice, not more than fourteen
4 (14) days from the original Response Deadline. Any such person who chooses to opt out of and be
5 excluded from the Settlement will not be entitled to an Individual Class Payment under the Settlement
6 and will not be bound by the Settlement, or have any right to object, appeal or comment thereon. Class
7 Members who have not requested exclusion shall be bound by all determinations of the Court, the
8 Agreement, and Judgment.

9 13. Any Class Member who has not opted out may appear at the final approval hearing and
10 may object or express the Class Member's views regarding the Settlement and may present evidence
11 and file briefs or other papers that may be proper and relevant to the issues to be heard and determined
12 by the Court as provided in the Class Notice. Class Members will have forty-five (45) calendar days
13 from the date the Administrator mails the Class Notice to postmark their written objections to the
14 Administrator.

15 14. A hearing on Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of Class Action and PAGA
16 Settlement and Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Counsel Award and Service Award shall be held before this
17 Court on July 3, 2025 at 9:00 ~~AM~~/~~PM~~ in
18 Department 17 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court to determine all necessary matters
19 concerning the Settlement, including: whether the proposed settlement of the Action on the terms and
20 conditions provided for in the Agreement is fair, adequate and reasonable and should be finally
21 approved by the Court; whether an Order Granting Final Approval should be entered herein; whether
22 the plan of allocation contained in the Agreement should be approved as fair, adequate and reasonable
23 to the Class; and to finally approve the Class Counsel Award, Class Representative Payment, and the
24 Settlement Administration Costs. All papers in support of the Motion for Final Approval and the
25 Motion for Class Counsel Award and Class Representative Payment shall be filed with the Court and
26 served on all counsel within twenty-eight (28) days following the expiration of the Response Deadline.

27 15. In the event the Settlement does not become effective in accordance with the terms of the
28 Agreement, or the Settlement is not finally approved, or is terminated, canceled, or fails to become

1 effective for any reason, this Settlement Agreement shall be rendered null and void and shall be vacated,
2 and the Parties shall revert to their respective positions as of before entering into the Agreement. In
3 such an event, the Court's orders regarding the Settlement, including this Preliminary Approval Order,
4 shall not be used or referred to in litigation for any purpose. Nothing in this paragraph is intended to
5 alter the terms of the Settlement Agreement with respect to the effect of the Settlement Agreement if it
6 is not approved.

7 16. The Court reserves the right to adjourn or continue the date of the final approval hearing
8 and all dates provided for in the Agreement without further notice to Class Members and retains
9 jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the proposed Settlement.

10
11
12 Dated: 03/05/2025



Laura Seigle

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
Laura A. Seigle / Judge

EXHIBIT 3

Esbeidy Campos

From: DIR PAGA Unit <no-reply@formassembly.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 12:48 PM
To: Esbeidy Campos
Subject: Thank you for your Proposed Settlement Submission

01/22/2025 12:46:39 PM

Thank you for your submission to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

Item submitted: Proposed Settlement

If you have questions or concerns regarding this submission or your case, please send an email to pagainfo@dir.ca.gov.

DIR PAGA Unit on behalf of
Labor and Workforce Development Agency

Website:

https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Flabor.ca.gov%2FPrivate_Atorneys_General_Act.htm&data=05%7C02%7Cecampos%40jcl-lawfirm.com%7Cbb2eddabef8f493e682208dd3b25fd59%7C1f72d94e1dff4b9e9f45bdb37d49a25e%7C0%7C0%7C638731756549235956%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMlIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GIEBFq7YjwA1YIcZL06vSz7Y4BhsZt6fPXlgFJv16mA%3D&reserved=0

EXHIBIT 4

EXHIBIT 5

JCL LAW FIRM, APC
5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600
San Diego, CA 92121
Tel: (619) 599-8292
Fax: (619) 599-8291

FIRM RESUME

Areas of Practice: Employee Class Actions, Wage and Hour Class Actions, Civil Litigation, and Unlawful Housing Practices.

ATTORNEY BIOGRAPHIES

Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq.
California Bar Number 248676
Founding Partner

Biography:

Mr. Lapuyade is a San Diego based labor and employment attorney representing aggrieved California employees and the victims of unlawful housing practices throughout the State of California. Mr. Lapuyade's litigation practice focuses on representing California employees in wage and hour class actions for unpaid wages, missed meal and rest breaks, and misclassification, wrongful termination cases and tenants in unlawful housing class actions. Mr. Lapuyade prides himself on providing his clients with aggressive, attentive and result driven representation through the litigation process, trial and arbitration. Since 2007, Mr. Lapuyade successfully recovered in excess of \$200 million in monetary awards for his clients.

Mr. Lapuyade served as co-editor of the Insurance Column for Consumer Attorneys of San Diego from 2011 to 2014. As editor, Mr. Lapuyade was responsible for publishing monthly articles in the Trial Bar News periodical analyzing complex insurance coverage issues. Mr. Lapuyade is a four-time recipient of the Super Lawyers Rising Star by Thomson Reuters. To be eligible for inclusion in Rising Stars, a candidate must be either 40 years old or younger or in practice for 10 years or less. While up to 5 percent of the lawyers in a state are named to Super Lawyers, no more than 2.5 percent are named to Rising Stars.

Bar Admissions:

- California
- U.S. District Court Southern District of California
- U.S. District Court Central District of California
- U.S. District Court Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court Northern District of California

Professional Associations:

- California Employment Lawyers Association, 2007 to Present
- Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, 2007 to 2020
- American Bar Association, Section of Litigation, Member, 2007 to 2020
- American Bar Association, Labor & Employment Section, Member, 2007 to 2020
- American Bar Association, Tort, Trial & Insurance Section, Member, 2007 to 2020
- California Bar Association, Labor & Employment Section, Member, 2007 to Present
- California Bar Association, Litigation Section, Member, 2007 to Present

Education:

- **California Western School of Law**
 - J.D. - 2006
 - Honors: Deans Merit Scholarship, California Western School of Law 2005 - 2006
- **University of Arizona**
 - B.A. - 2001
 - Major: History

Honors:

- Super Lawyers Rising Star, Thomson Reuters, 2015 - 2018
- Distinguished Advocate Award for Outstanding Oral Advocacy, 2005 - 2006

Perssia Razma, Esq.

California Bar Number 351398

Associate Attorney

Biography:

Ms. Razma is a San Diego based labor and employment attorney representing California employees throughout the state of California. Ms. Razma's litigation practice focuses on representing current and former employees in wage and hour class actions for unpaid wages, missed meal and rest breaks, misclassification, and wrongful termination.

Perssia was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2020 at San Diego State University in Psychology. In 2023, Perssia earned her Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego School of Law.

Education:

- **University of San Diego School of Law**
 - J.D. - 2023
- **San Diego State University**
 - B.A. – 2020
 - Major: Psychology

Sydney Castillo-Johnson, Esq.

California Bar Number 343881

Associate Attorney

Biography:

Ms. Castillo-Johnson is a San Diego based labor and employment attorney representing California employees throughout the state of California. Ms. Castillo-Johnson's litigation practice focuses on representing current and former employees in wage and hour class actions for unpaid wages, missed meal and rest breaks, misclassification, and wrongful termination.

Ms. Castillo-Johnson volunteered her time at California Western School of Law first as a student intern and later as a student manager with the Community Law Project which offers legal services to the low-income community of San Diego.

Education:

- **California Western School of Law**
 - J.D.- 2022
 - Honors:
 - Dean's Honor List: Spring 2021, Fall 2021
 - Public Service Honor Society Fall 2021
 - 3L Academic Merit Scholarship
 - Dean's Diversity, Service, and Leadership Scholarship
 - Activities: Community Law Project Student Manager
- **Azusa Pacific University**
 - B.A. – 2018
 - Major: Criminal Justice

JCL Law Firm, APC - REPORTED CASES

- *Blanchette et al., v. Superior Court (GHA Homes)*, 8 Cal.App.5th 521 (2017).
- *Duran v. Employbridge Holding Co.*, 92 Cal.App.5th 59 (2023).

EXAMPLES OF THE JCL LAW FIRM'S REPRESENTATIVE CLASS ACTION & REPRESENTATIVE CASES

- *Ware v. Shake Shack Enterprises, LLC*, Alameda Superior Court Case No. 21CV002063 (October 19, 2023) Hon. Brad Seligman approved a \$1,330,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for violations of California wage and hour laws. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Trinh v. Precision Metal Products, Inc., et al.*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2022-00000965-CU-OE-CTL (October 16, 2023) Hon. Matthew C. Braner approved a \$450,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, unpaid off the clock work. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Anderson v. Barton Myers Associates, Inc., et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV43314 (October 12, 2023) Hon. Elihu M. Berl approved a \$900,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for meal and rest period violations. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *DeSanctis v. Douglas Products and Packaging Company, LLC*, Contra Costa Superior Court Case No. C21-01874 (October 11, 2023) Hon. Charles S. Treat approved a \$372,500.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, failure to pay for all hours worked. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Jackson v. White Fir, LLC, et al.*, Sacramento Superior Court Case No. 34-2021-00301656 (October 6, 2023) Hon. Lauri A. Damrell approved a \$750,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for violations of California wage and hour laws. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Kneisly v. SR Machining, Inc., et al.*, Riverside Superior Court Case No. CVRI2201491 (October 5, 2023) Hon. Harold W. Hopp approved a \$220,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for meal and rest period violations. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Mendez v. Bondz, Inc., et al.*, San Joaquin Superior Court Case No. STK-CV-UOE-2020-0007486 (September 14, 2023) Hon. George J. Abdallah, Jr. approved a \$180,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, failure to comply with piece-rate laws. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Baray v. Curation Foods, Inc., et al.*, Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. 21CV02834 (August 29, 2023) Hon. James F. Rigali approved a \$495,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for meal and rest period violations. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Rodriguez, et al. v. Ferma Greenbox, Inc., et al.*, Alameda Superior Court Case No. RG21101104 (August 23, 2023) Hon. Evelio Grillo approved a \$200,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, unpaid off-the-clock work. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *O'Quinn v. Laugh Factory, Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV28155 (August 1, 2023) Hon. Carolyn B. Kuhl approved a \$144,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, unlawful tip pooling. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Toler v. Total Testing Solutions, LLC*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV38452 (July 27, 2023) Hon. Elihu M. Berle approved a \$160,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for meal and rest period violations. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Rodriguez v. EAH, Inc.*, Santa Cruz Superior Court Case No. 21CV00884 (July 25, 2023) Hon. Marjorie Carter approved a \$1,450,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, failure to compensate overtime and redeemed sick pay at the regular rate of pay. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Neutall v. Urban Alchemy*, San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CGC-20-588622 (July 13, 2023) Hon. Richard B. Ulmer approved a \$980,000.00 class action settlement for violations of California wage and hour laws. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel.
- *Rodriguez v. RM Parks Place, Inc.*, San Joaquin Superior Court Case No. STK-CV-UOE-2021-6050 (June 7, 2023) Hon. Erin Guy Castillo approved a \$175,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, wage statement violations. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.

- *Chrestensen v. Northeastern Rural Health Clinics Lassen*, Superior Court Case No. 63703 (April 13, 2023) Hon. Leonard J. La Casse approved a \$270,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, unpaid overtime wages. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Hernandez, et al. v. Parenting Network, Inc.*, Tulare Superior Court Case No. VCU287027 (March 14, 2023) Hon. Bret Hilman approved a \$225,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, unpaid off-the-clock work. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Sarmiento v. Caduceus Healthcare Inc.*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2021-00002597 (March 10, 2023) Hon. Richard S. Whitney approved a \$315,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, unpaid off-the-clock work. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Garces, et al. v. DriverDo, LLC*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV32773 (January 24, 2023) Hon. Carolyn B. Kuhl approved a \$700,000 class action and PAGA settlement for meal and rest period violations. The JCL Law Firm, APC, represented the plaintiff, the State of California, and the Aggrieved Employees.
- *De Jesus v. Guardian Angel Home Care, Inc.*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2020-00021049-CU-OE-CTL (July 29, 2022) Hon. Ronald F. Frazier approved a \$300,000 class action and PAGA settlement for meal and rest period violations. The JCL Law Firm, APC, represented the plaintiff, the State of California, and the Aggrieved Employees.
- *Kaur v. Aces 2020 I, LLC, et al.*, Contra Costa Superior Court Case No. MSC20-02482 (December 22, 2022) Hon. Edward G. Weil approved a \$585,000 class action and PAGA settlement for meal and rest period violations. The JCL Law Firm, APC, represented the plaintiff, the State of California, and the Aggrieved Employees.
- *Molina v. Hawaiian Airlines, Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV28079 (November 23, 2022) Hon. Maren Nelson approved a \$250,000 class action settlement for meal and rest period violations. The JCL Law Firm, APC, represented the Plaintiff.
- *Lang Jr. v. Pathways Community Services LLC*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2019-00049969-CU-OE-CTL (September 9, 2022) Hon. James A. Mangione approved a \$160,000 class action and PAGA settlement for meal and rest period violations. The JCL Law Firm, APC, represented the plaintiff, the State of California, and the Aggrieved Employees.
- *Martinello v. Century Wilshire, Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV32613 (March 1, 2022) Hon. Carolyn Kuhl approved a \$550 billing rate and appointed Jean Claude Lapuyade, Esq. of the JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel.
- *Wilson v. Spreen Inc. (dba Spreen Honda)*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVSB2119857 (April 6, 2022) Hon. David Cohn approved a \$300,000 PAGA action settlement for meal and rest period violations. The JCL Law Firm, APC, represented the plaintiff, the State of California, and the Aggrieved Employees.
- *Ledesma v. TVJ Sons I, Inc.; Porter and Howard, Inc.* Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. 20CV03573 (November 10, 2021) Hon. Jed Beebe approved a \$350,000 PAGA action settlement for meal and rest period violations. The JCL Law Firm, APC represented the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees.
- *Jacobs v. Rush Media Company, LLC; XLT Management Services, Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV32350 (May 2, 2022) Hon. Daniel J. Buckley appointed the JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and approved a \$330,000 class action settlement for, *inter alia*, independent contractor misclassification.
- *Chavez v. HTL Conrad Domestic, LLC; HTL Conrad Domestic Employer, LLC*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2020-00016193-CU-OE-CTL (June 9, 2022) Hon. John S. Meyer approved a \$850,000 PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, failure to compensate overtime at the regular rate of pay. The JCL Law Firm, APC acted as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees.
- *Renteria v. Love's Country Stores of California*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS20164481 (June 14, 2022) Hon. David Cohn approved a \$2.2 million dollar class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, unpaid overtime and sick pay. The JCL Law Firm, APC acted as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Lopez v. Adidas America, Inc.*, Ventura Superior Court Case No. 56-2021-005498444-CU-OE-VTA (April 4, 2022) Hon. Mark Borrell approved a \$1.5 million dollar class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, inaccurate overtime calculations, and appointed the JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel.
- *Felix v. TVI, Inc., d.b.a. Savers*, Santa Clara Superior Court Case No. 21CV376407 (February 18, 2022) Hon. Sunil R. Kulkarni approved a \$1.8 million dollar class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, unpaid off-the-clock work. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Munoz v. AMTCR*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIV-DS2001914 (August 24, 2021) Hon. David Cohn approved a \$1.8 million dollar class and PAGA settlement for, *inter alia*, inaccurate itemized wage statements. The JCL Law Firm, APC acted as class counsel for the settlement class and as representative PAGA counsel the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees.)

- *Nunes v. Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.*, San Joaquin Superior Court Case No. STK-CV-UOE-2020-0011011 (October 20, 2021 – Hon. Roger Ross approved a \$1.5 million dollar class and PAGA settlement for, *inter alia*, miscalculated meal period premiums and appointed Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq. as Class Counsel.)
- *Pillsbury v. T&T Restaurants CA, Inc.*, Del Norte Superior Court Case No. CVUJ-20-1214 (December 14, 2021 – Hon. Darren McElfresh approved \$550 billing rate and appointed Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq. as Class Counsel in a wage and hour class action settlement.)
- *Latin v. OneMain General Service Corporation*, Stanislaus County Superior Court Case No. CV-20-002498 (October 22, 2021) Hon. Stacy Speiller approved a PAGA action settlement for \$700,000 wage statement violations. The JCL Law Firm, APC acted as counsel for the plaintiff, the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees.
- *Elias Kaser v. Aviation Consultants, Inc.*, Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01191204-CU-OE-CXC (September 22, 2021 – Hon. Peter J. Wilson approved \$550 billing rate in a representative California Labor Code Private Attorney General Act settlement).
- *Rodriguez v. RSI Home Products, Inc.*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS2023354 (July 30, 2021 – Hon. David Cohn approved a \$1.45 million class and PAGA settlement for, *inter alia*, failure to comply with piece-rate laws, and appointed the JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel)
- *Jer Vang v. Bridge Property Management*, Alameda County Superior Court, Case No RG19047434 (January 8, 2021 – Hon. Winifred Smith approved a class and PAGA settlement for, *inter alia*, unpaid off the clock work. The JCL Law Firm, APC acted as class counsel for the settlement class and as representative PAGA counsel the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees.)
- *Johnson v. Volt Management Corp., Inc. et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV16466 (December 11, 2020 – Hon. Amy Hogue approved a PAGA Settlement negotiated on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees by the JCL Law Firm, APC.)
- *Salazar v. Frontier Auto Sales Inc., dba Frontier Toyota*, Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV20382 (November 24, 2020 – Hon. John P. Doyle appointed the JCL Law Firm, APC as class counsel and approved a class and PAGA settlement for, *inter alia*, missed meal and rest periods.)
- *Villalobos v. Alterra Group, LLC et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV19448 (November 11, 2020 – Hon. Richard Fruin approved a PAGA Settlement for, *inter alia*, unreimbursed business expenses. The JCL Law Firm, APC acted as counsel for the plaintiff, the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees.)
- *Stevens et al., v. Bank of England*, San Diego County Superior Court Case No. 37-2019-00018662-CU-OE-CTL (October 16, 2020 – Hon. John Meyer appointed JCL Law Firm as Class Counsel and granted final approval of wage and hour class action for, *inter alia*, off-the-clock work.)
- *Frazier v. ASA Carlton, Inc.*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2019-00036147 (October 9, 2020 Hon. Kenneth Medel appointed the JCL Law Firm as Class Counsel and granted final approval of wage and hour class action for off-the-clock work.)
- *Krake et al., v. Central Valley Diner, Inc.*, Placer County Superior Court Case No. SCV0041645 (September 4, 2020 – Hon. Michael Jones appointed JCL Law Firm as class counsel and granted final approval of wage and hour class action for meal period violations.)
- *Conner v. Ascendant Marketing, LLC et al.*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2019-00026864-CU-OE-CTL (July 24, 2020 Hon. Joel Wohlfeil granted approval of PAGA Settlement for, among other things, off-the-clock work. JCL Law Firm, APC acted as lead counsel.)
- *Guerrero v. Estancia Operations, LLC.*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2019-00028963 (August 25, 2020 – Hon. Katherine Bacal approved PAGA Settlement for, *inter alia*, missed meal and rest periods. JCL Law Firm, APC, acted as lead counsel.)
- *Moreno v. Dash Lube, et al.*, United States District Court, Southern District of California, Case No. 18cv1922 DMS (AHG) (December 13, 2019 – Granted class certification of Labor Code Section 226 claim and appointed JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel.)
- *Perkins et al., v. Tahiti Enterprises, Inc., et al.*, Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2016-00863095 (October 22, 2019 – Hon. Peter Wilson appointed JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel and granted final approval for an unlawful housing class action settlement arising out of Civil Code Section 1940.1.)
- *Hill v. Stemak Holdings, Ltd.*, San Diego Superior Court Case No., 37-2018-00000747 (January 28, 2020 – Hon. Kenneth Medel appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as class counsel and granted final approval of wage and hour class action for unpaid overtime.)
- *Shachno et al., v. KT Hotels, LLC, et al.* San Diego Superior Court Case No Case No. 37-2018-00043601 (May 31, 2019 – Hon. Gregory Pollack appointed JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel and granted preliminary approval for the wage and hour class action settlement involving nearly 900 current and former employees. Final approval scheduled for October 4, 2019)
- *Almanza v. The Express Group, Inc.*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS1722542 (April 19, 2019 – Hon. David Cohn appointed the JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel and granted final approval for a wage and hour class action settlement for *inter alia*, missed meal and rest periods and independent contractor misclassification.)

- *Moschetto v. Pillow Global, Inc.* San Diego Superior Court, Case No. 37-2017-00024031-CU-OE-CTL (April 5, 2019 – Hon. John S. Meyer appointed JCL LAW Firm, APC, as Class Counsel and granted final approval for a wage and hour wage class action settlement involving misclassified house cleaners.)
- *Burke v. Friendship Hotel, LLC*, San Diego County Superior Court Case No. 37-2017-00022517-CU-OE-CTL (March 10, 2019 – final approval granted on for an unlawful housing class action arising under Civil Code Section 1940.2)
- *Terrado et al., v. Accredited Debt Relief, LLC*, San Diego County Superior Court Case No. 37-2018-00014181-CU-OE-CTL (February 8, 2019 – Hon. Gregory W. Pollock appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and granted final approval for a wage and hour class action settlement for meal and rest period violations);
- *Macaspac v. San Antonio Regional Hospital*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS1512625, (July 27, 2018 – Hon. Thomas S. Garza appointed JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel and granted final approval for a wage and hour class action settlement involving claims for on duty meal and rest periods.);
- *Summerlin et al. v. Maplebear, Inc. dba Instacart*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC603030 (2018 - certified and settled wage and hour class action.)
- *Ortega v. Prime Healthcare*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2014-00011240-CU-OE-CTL (2018 – Approved PAGA only settlement for on duty meal and rest periods)
- *Engstrom v. Bender-Rosenthal, Inc.* San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2016-00012373-CU-OE-CTL (2017 - Certified and settled class action for employee misclassification);
- *Crawford v. Outlook Amusements, Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC617160 (2017 - Certified and settled wage and hour class action.);
- *Hernandez v. Sunglass Hut Trading, LLC*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS1505181 (2016 - Certified and settled wage and hour class action);
- *Burns v. Shalom, LLC*, San Diego Superior Court, Case No., 37-2013-00058356-CU-BT-CTL (2015 - certified and settled class action for unlawful housing practices arising out of Civil Code Section 1940.1);