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Attorneys for Plaintiff

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

ELIZABETH ARCHER, on behalf of the State of California and other aggrieved persons,

Plaintiff,

v.

TRIAD EDUCATION, INC., a California corporation; SMITH CHASON COLLEGE, INC., a corporation; SMITH CHASON SCHOOL OF NURSING, an unknown entity; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 37-2024-00011838-CU-OE-CTL

Assigned for all purposes to:
Hon. Wendy M. Behan
Dept. C-66

DECLARATION OF ARRASH T. FATTAHI IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO APPROVE PAGA SETTLEMENT

APPROVAL HEARING:
Date: November 14, 2025
Time: 10:15 a.m.
Dept.: C-66

DECLARATION OF ARRASH T. FATTAHI

I, Arrash T. Fattahi, declare as follows:

1. I am admitted, in good standing, to practice as an attorney in the State of California, and the United States District Courts for the Central, Southern, Eastern, and Northern Districts of California. I am a Junior Partner at Wilshire Law Firm, PLC, counsel of record for Plaintiff Elizabeth Archer ("Plaintiff"). I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration and could and would competently testify to them under oath if called as a witness.

2. This declaration is submitted in support of Plaintiff's Motion to Approve PAGA Settlement.

Background

3. Defendant Smith Chason College, Inc., dba Smith Chason College School of Nursing ("Defendant," and collectively with Plaintiff, the "Parties"). Plaintiff worked for Defendant in San Marcos, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately February 2022 to approximately February 2023.

4. Plaintiff's Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") claim stems from Defendant's failure to pay for all hours worked (minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), failure to provide meal periods, failure to authorize and permit rest periods, failure to pay all earned wages twice per month, failure to maintain accurate records of hours worked and meal periods, failure to timely pay final wages, failure to furnish accurate wage statements, and failure to indemnify for necessary expenditures.

5. On September 20, 2023, Plaintiff provided notice to the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and Defendant of the violations described above, as required by Labor Code § 2699.3(a)(1). A true and correct copy of Plaintiff's PAGA notice is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**. Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3(a)(2)(A), the LWDA had 65 calendar days to notify Plaintiff and Defendant whether it intended to investigate the alleged violations. However, the LWDA did not do so.

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Discovery and Investigation

6. After Plaintiff filed her complaint, the Parties engaged in extensive settlement discussions. To facilitate settlement, Defendant provided Plaintiff with timekeeping and payroll data for a sampling of the aggrieved employees, and the applicable policies in effect during the relevant time period. Thereafter, the Parties engaged in extensive discussions about the factual and legal strengths (and weaknesses) of the claims and defenses.

7. On March 18, 2024, the Parties and their counsel participated in private mediation with Honorable Gail A. Glick, Esq. The settlement negotiations were at arm's length and, although conducted in a professional manner, were adversarial. The Parties went into the mediation willing to explore the potential for a settlement of the dispute, but each side was also prepared to litigate their or its position through trial and appeal if a settlement had not been reached.

8. Ultimately, after an all-day mediation, the Parties agreed to settle the PAGA claim for $195,000.00, which includes all persons employed by Defendant in California and classified as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee who worked for Defendant at any time from September 20, 2022 to March 31, 2024. There are approximately 305 aggrieved employees covered by the settlement. Plaintiff submitted the Settlement to the LWDA on October 23, 2025, pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(l)(2). A true and correct copy of the Settlement executed by the Parties, along with the confirmation that the Settlement was submitted to the LWDA is attached to this declaration as **Exhibit 2**. Additionally, attached as **Exhibit 3** is the Settlement Notice that will be sent to the aggrieved employees with payment after the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Approving the PAGA Settlement.

9. Before the Settlement, Plaintiff's counsel conducted an investigation into the claims alleged by Plaintiff, conducted legal research, and engaged in informal discovery. Based upon the information obtained through discovery, Plaintiff's counsel was able to act intelligently and effectively in negotiating the proposed Settlement.

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Assessment of Amount in Controversy and Risks of Continued Litigation

10. Plaintiff and my firm remain confident of the merits of Plaintiff's claims. Plaintiff's allegation that Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees all of their owed wages is based on Defendant's failure to pay employees for work performed "off-the-clock." With respect to the meal period allegation, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant lacked compliant policies providing meal periods during the PAGA Period. Although Plaintiff contends that this allegation is meritorious, there is risk with this underlying claim, particularly because Defendant issued some meal period premiums to its employees and implemented meal period waivers throughout the covered period. With respect to the rest period allegation, Plaintiff contends that employees, including herself, were not provided with California-compliant rest periods. Again, despite Plaintiff's contention that this allegation is credible, proving rest period allegations is particularly difficult because rest periods do not have to be recorded and Defendant can argue that the aggrieved employees chose to voluntarily forego their rest periods. With respect to the unreimbursed business expenses allegation, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant required her and the other aggrieved employees to purchase work-related equipment (e.g., office supplies) and use their personal cell phone for work purposes, without reimbursement from Defendant. Defendant disputes this claim. With regard to Plaintiff's wage statement claim, Defendant argues that the wage statements issued to employees meet the requirements of Labor Code § 226(a).

11. Plaintiff believed there was a legitimate risk of the Court significantly reducing penalties given the technical nature of the alleged violations. Without this settlement, the Parties face preparation for trial, as well as extensive formal discovery efforts and depositions. As a result, the Parties would incur considerably more attorneys' fees and costs through trial. This settlement avoids those risks and the accompanying expense. Thus, this factor favors settlement approval.

12. My expert determined that there were 5,141 pay periods during the relevant time period which presented issues with regard to unpaid wages, meal period violations, rest period violations, and unreimbursed business expenses. Applying the $100 "initial violation" penalty for each of these pay periods, Defendant's potential PAGA exposure is $514,100.00 (based on 5,141 pay periods). However, Defendant's contention that the underlying allegations lacked merit led to

Plaintiff discounting this maximum exposure by approximately 35% to account for Defendant's contention that the underlying allegations lacked merit, Defendant's largely compliant policies, Defendant's issuance of meal period premiums to the aggrieved employees, Defendant's implementation of meal period waivers throughout the liability period, the risk of not prevailing on the merits, and the Court's discretion in reducing penalties, for a total of $334,165.00.

13. My expert determined that there were 5,141 pay periods at issue with regard to the wage statement violations claim. Because Plaintiff's wage statement theory of liability is predicated on Defendant's issuance of facially deficient wage statements – each of the wage statements issued would carry a potential PAGA penalty. Accordingly, Defendant's maximum exposure for its wage statement violations is $498,850.00 ([305 "initial" violations x $50 per violation] + [4,836 "subsequent" violations x $100 per violation]). However, based on Defendant's counterarguments (as explained more thoroughly above) and because the Court maintains discretion to reduce these penalties, Plaintiff discounted that figure by 95% for a risk of not prevailing on the merits and to account for the Court's discretion to reduce the penalties (given the highly technical nature of the alleged violations).

14. Using these estimated figures, Plaintiff predicted that the realistic total potential recovery for the aggrieved employees and the LWDA would be approximately $359,107.50. The proposed Settlement of $195,000.00 therefore represents approximately 54% of Plaintiff's reasonably forecasted total recovery. In this case, continued litigation would delay payment to the LWDA and the aggrieved employees as they await trial and, most likely, appellate proceedings. Furthermore, while Plaintiff is confident in the merits of the case, a legitimate controversy exists as to each of the predicate Labor Code violations. The possibility that the Court finds no liability at the PAGA bench trial is also a risk. In sum, when the risks of litigation, the burdens of proof necessary to establish liability, and the probability of appeal of a favorable judgment are balanced against the merits of Plaintiff's claims, it is clear that the settlement amount is fair. Further, because of the proposed Settlement, the aggrieved employees will receive timely, guaranteed relief and will avoid the risk of an unfavorable judgment. Plaintiff also recognizes that proving the amount of wages due to each employee would be an expensive, time-consuming, and uncertain

proposition.

15. If the Court approves the terms of the Settlement, each aggrieved employee's payment will average approximately $82.30 and approximately $75,305.21[1] will go to the LWDA. In reality, some employees will likely receive more, and others may receive less depending on the length of their employment with Defendant.

PAGA Representative Service Payment

16. The Settlement provides for a Service Payment to Plaintiff in an amount not to exceed $10,000.00. (Settlement, ¶ 3.2.3.) The requested service award is intended to recognize: (1) the substantial time and effort that Plaintiff has expended on behalf of the State and aggrieved employees; (2) the risks faced by Plaintiff as a result of bringing this action; (3) the fact that Plaintiff put the interests of the State of California and other aggrieved employees ahead of his own; and (4) the substantial benefit conferred upon the State and the aggrieved employees as a result of Plaintiff's actions.

17. Plaintiff has spent numerous hours performing tasks for this case, including, but not limited to, the following: consulting with counsel over the telephone; searching for and producing relevant documents; reviewing documents produced by Defendant and settlement documents; keeping informed of the developments in the case; and participating in decisions concerning the case, including mediation and settlement. As a result of her efforts, the LWDA and about 305 aggrieved employees will receive compensation for civil penalties for underpaid wages and other wage and hour violations.

18. Plaintiff put herself at significant risk in pursuing this action on behalf of the State, as serving as a Plaintiff in a representative action could affect her prospects for future employment. Plaintiff also placed herself at substantial risk because, if Defendant were to prevail in this action, Plaintiff could be liable for Defendant's costs and attorneys' fees.

19. In short, this action would not have been possible without the aid of Plaintiff, who

[1] The Net Settlement Amount is: $195,000.00 minus $65,000.00 for attorneys' fees, minus $14,843.05 for litigation expenses, minus $4,750.00 in administration costs, and minus $10,000.00 for the service payment to Plaintiff. This leaves $100,406.95, 75% of which will be paid to the LWDA ($75,305.21), and 25% of which will be paid to the aggrieved employees ($25,101.74).

put her own time and effort into this litigation, sacrificed the value of her individual claims by entering into a general release of all known and unknown claims, and placed herself at risk for the sake of the State and the aggrieved employees.

Attorneys' Fees And Costs

20. The Settlement provides for a payment of attorneys' fees in the amount of $65,000.00 and up to $25,000.00 in costs to Plaintiff's counsel. As of the filing date, Plaintiff's counsel's total lodestar is $88,275.00, which is based upon 136.6 hours of attorney time at customary hourly rates. In addition, Plaintiff's counsel incurred $14,843.05 in litigation costs. Plaintiff's counsel was required to expend the funds prosecuting this case to a successful resolution on, among other things, court filing fees, document service, mediator cost, postage, and copying. Because these costs are reasonable, Plaintiff's counsel respectfully requests that the Court approve the payment. Under these circumstances, Plaintiff's counsel has surpassed the requested fee award, resulting in a negative multiplier. Thus, Plaintiff's request for $65,000.00 in attorneys' fees and $14,843.05 in costs is reasonable under the lodestar method.

21. The efforts expended by Plaintiff's counsel to achieve this excellent result include, but are not limited to, the following: interviews with Plaintiff and review of documents provided by Plaintiff and Defendant; preparing and revising the complaint; filing of the PAGA complaint; investigating and researching the claims; analyzing the timekeeping and payroll records produced by Defendant in advance of mediation; preparing a mediation brief; participating in mediation; drafting, negotiating, and revising the Settlement Agreement; communicating with the proposed Settlement Administrator; and drafting this Motion and supporting papers.

22. The regular and customary practice at Wilshire Law Firm, PLC is for all attorneys to maintain contemporaneous time records setting forth the amount of time spent (rounded to the nearest 0.1 hour) on each task in each case, with explanatory descriptions of each task performed. My colleagues and I followed this practice throughout this litigation. To calculate my firm's lodestar for this case, I reviewed the time records and exercised discretion in eliminating excessive entries. Using these time records, my office derived the following summary chart of timekeeping activities of the attorneys working on this case:

Attorney	Hours	Rate	Lodestar
Arrash T. Fattahi	77.5	$750.00	$58,125.00
Lisa B. Iturriaga	12	$550.00	$6,600.00
Arman A. Salehi	47.1	$500.00	$23,550.00
Total:			$88,275.00

23. There are additional hours devoted by me (and by my colleagues) to this litigation that are not reflected in Plaintiff's counsel's request for attorneys' fees.

24. We can provide complete, detailed billing records in the event the Court requests them but would request the opportunity to redact attorney-client privileged information and any other privileged information.

25. Additional time will be required by Plaintiff's counsel to monitor the settlement and respond to inquiries and oversee administration of the settlement and distribution of the fund. I estimate that my office will commit no less than ten hours to those tasks and have included those hours above.

26. As of the drafting of this Motion, my office has incurred $14,543.05 in expenses litigating this action. These expenses were reasonably necessary to the litigation and were actually incurred by my office. They should be reimbursed in full, up to the maximum amount allowed in the Settlement Agreement. Attached as **Exhibit 4** to this declaration is a breakdown of costs incurred by my office. Additionally, we anticipate incurring $300.00 in anticipated future costs for filing fees, messenger costs, and copying costs following the Court's Order re: Plaintiff's Motion to Approve PAGA Settlement, and request reimbursement of such as well.

Plaintiff's Counsel's Experience

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

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

29. I graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, *summa cum laude*. I received my Juris Doctor from The George Washington University Law School. During law school, I was a member of the student editorial board for the Federal Circuit Bar Journal.

30. My practice is focused on advocating for the rights of consumers and employees in class action litigation. I am currently the managing attorney in charge of litigating several class action cases in state and federal courts in California.

31. As the attorney responsible for day-to-day management of this matter at the Wilshire Law Firm, PLC, I have over four years of experience litigating wage and hour class actions. Over the past four plus years, I have managed and assisted with the litigation and settlement of several wage and hour class actions. In those class actions, I performed similar tasks as those performed in the course of prosecuting this action.

32. I was selected as a "Southern California Rising Star" in 2025.

33. My current contingent billing rate of $750.00 per hour is consistent with the legal market, accepted hourly rates, and my expertise and knowledge as it pertains to wage and hour matters. Below is a non-exhaustive list of the cases where I have been appointed as class counsel in my own right (as opposed to being part of a firmwide appointment of counsel):

a. *Kingsbury v. Caravan Foods II, Inc.*, Alameda County, Case No. RG21096357; Motion for Final Approval granted on January 31, 2023.

b. *Frias-Estrada v. Trek Retail Corporation*, Contra Costa County, Case No. MSC20-01916; Motion for Final Approval granted on March 3, 2023.

c. *Reyes v. Everytable, PBC, et al.*, Los Angeles County, Case No. 21STCV35987; Motion for Final Approval granted on May 3, 2023.

d. *Ortiz v. Tara Materials, Inc.*, San Diego County, Case No. 37-2021-0001473-CU-OE-CTL; Motion for Final Approval granted on May 30, 2023.

e. *Cruz-Sanchez v. Eagle Lath & Plaster, Inc.*, Sacramento County, Case No. 34-2021-00293739-CU-OE-GDS; Motion for Final Approval granted on May 30, 2023.

f. *Garduno v. New Generation Framing, Inc., et al.*, Stanislaus County, Case No. CV-21-000544; Motion for Final Approval granted on August 11, 2023.

g. *Hernandez, et al. v. Burford Farming Company, Inc.*, Fresno County, Case No. 21CECG03817; Motion for Final Approval granted on August 21, 2023.

h. *Barajas v. Final Phase Construction, Inc.*, San Bernardino County, Case No. CIVSB2118622; Motion for Final Approval granted on September 13, 2023.

i. *Jaimes, et al. v. Infiniti Health LLC*, Los Angeles County, Case No. 22STCV07261; Motion for Final Approval granted on October 17, 2023.

j. *Nunez v. Gabriel Container*, Los Angeles County, Case No. 21STCV09787; Motion for Final Approval granted on November 2, 2023.

k. *Lupercio v. Western CNC, Inc.*, San Diego County, Case No. 37-2021-00010314-CU-OE-CTL; Motion for Final Approval granted on January 26, 2024.

l. *Jackson, et al. v. Apple Valley Communications, Inc.*, *et al.*, San Bernardino County, Case No. CIVSB2124721; Motion for Final Approval granted on February 1, 2024.

m. *Cuadras, et al. v. Guinn Corporation*, Kern County, Case No. BCV-21-101520; Motion for Final Approval granted on February 22, 2024.

n. *Williams v. Total Longterm Care, Inc., et al.*, San Bernardino County, Case No. CIVSB2213347; Motion for Final Approval granted on April 2, 2024.

o. *Meza v. Argus Management Company, LLC*, *et al.*, Los Angeles County, Case No. 21STCV31612; Motion for Final Approval granted on May 20, 2024.

p. *Wade v. Mallory Safety and Supply LLC*, Siskiyou County, Case No. 23CV00951; Motion for Final Approval granted on July 11, 2024.

q. *Snell v. Shasta Community Health Center*, Shasta County, Case No. CVCV22-199416; Motion for Final Approval granted on November 12, 2024.

r. *Arce v. Sammy's Woodfired Pizza*, San Diego County, Case No. 37-2023-00037670-CU-OE-CTL; Motion for Final Approval granted on January 10, 2025.

s. *Ochoa, et al. v. La Tavola, LLC*, Napa County, Case No. 22CV000862; Motion for Final Approval granted on January 23, 2025.

t. *Brown, et al. v. Fidelity Security Services, Inc.*, Los Angeles County, Case No. 21STCV31617; Motion for Final Approval granted on January 28, 2025.

u. *Torres v. Lupton Excavation*, *Inc.*, Sacramento County, Case No. 34-2022-00317401-CU-OE-GDS; Motion for Final Approval granted on April 18, 2025.

v. *Peterson v. PJ Printers*, Orange County, Case No. 30-2022-01247546-CU-OE-CTL; Motion for Final Approval granted on April 25, 2025.

w. *Harris v. D&D Gear Incorporated dba Absolute Technologies, Inc.*, Orange County, Case No. 30-2021-01222330-CU-OE-CTL; Motion for Final Approval granted on April 25, 2025.

34. Lisa B. Iturriaga is a Settlement Attorney at Wilshire Law Firm, PLC. She was admitted to practice law in the State of California in 2021. Lisa graduated from University of South Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Finance and a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing. She received her Juris Doctor from Chapman University Dale E. Fowler School of Law. Since graduating, her practice has been in insurance defense (previously) and employment law (currently). Since 2023, she has exclusively worked on Plaintiff-side wage and hour cases. Her current hourly rate is $550.00.

35. Arman A. Salehi is a second-year Associate Attorney at Wilshire Law Firm, PLC. He was admitted to practice law in the State of California in 2023. Arman graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco (formerly known as U.C. Hastings). Since November 2023, his practice has mainly been focused on wage and hour class action litigation. His current hourly rate is $500.00.

36. The reasonableness of my firm's hourly rates is also supported by several surveys of legal rates, including the following:

a. The 2022 Real Rate Report survey compiled by Wolters Kluwer, which presents the real market rates of Los Angeles area attorneys who practice litigation. For that category, the third quartile 2022 rate was $1,045 per hour for partners and $855 for associates. Likewise, page 32 of the Report describes the rates charged by 183 Los Angeles partners with "21 or more years of experience" and "[f]ewer than 21 years." For those categories, the third quartile Los Angeles partner rate in 2022 were $1,133 per hour for 21 or more years and $1,075 for attorneys with fewer than 21 years. A true and correct copy of portions of the 2022 Real Rate Report is attached hereto as **Exhibit 5**.

b. In an article entitled "Big Law Rates Topping $2,000 Leave Value 'In Eye of Beholder,'" written by Roy Strom and published by Bloomberg Law on June 9, 2022, the author describes how Big Law firms have crossed the $2,000-per hour rate. The article also notes that law firm rates have been increasing by just under 3% per year. A true and correct copy of this article is attached hereto as **Exhibit 6**.

37. Plaintiff's counsel elected to bear the contingency risk of this litigation for the benefit of the aggrieved employees, as well as for the State of California (who elected not to take the case after receiving the PAGA notice).

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

39. In the high-risk, high-cost practice of class action and PAGA litigation, Wilshire Law Firm, PLC has endured financial losses in several of its cases. I believe that the particular risk of taking on this high-cost, high-risk case supports an upward adjustment of the lodestar calculation.

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

41. I am informed and believe that the efforts of my office have resulted in substantial benefits to the aggrieved employees and the State of California. Through the efforts of my office and Plaintiff in this case, a fair and reasonable resolution has been reached. I am informed and believe that, without the efforts of my office, the Labor Code and Wage Order violations alleged in the complaint would have gone completely unremedied. The attorneys' fees award provided for in the settlement is therefore reasonable given the result achieved.

42. The Parties propose using Phoenix Settlement Administrators ("Phoenix") to administer the Settlement. The Settlement Administrator Costs in the amount of $4,750.00 are reasonable, given the tasks to be performed by the Settlement Administrator, including, but not limited to, the following duties: mailing and re-mailing (if necessary) checks to approximately 305 aggrieved employees and the LWDA; establishing a gross settlement fund; preparing and submitting to aggrieved employees and government entities all appropriate tax filings and forms; distributing the PAGA Representative Service Payment and attorneys' fees and costs; keeping the Parties timely apprised of the performance of all obligations under the Settlement; and voiding uncashed or undeliverable checks to issue those funds to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund. Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court approve the requested costs. A true and correct copy of Phoenix's estimate for administration costs is attached to this declaration as **Exhibit 7**.

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

Executed on October 29, 2025, at Los Angeles, California.

Arrash T. Fattahi

EXHIBIT 1

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Daniel Kramer, Esq.
Arsiné Grigoryan, Esq.
Arrash T. Fattahi, Esq.
Zachary D. Greenberg, Esq.
Aram Boyadjian, Esq.

September 20, 2023

LWDA
Attn. PAGA Administrator
1515 Clay Street, Ste. 801
Oakland, CA 94612
(***Via Online Submission***)

Triad Education, Inc.
3580 Wilshire Blvd., 4th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90010
(***Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested***)
#9489 0090 0027 6498 8578 87

Andrew High
Agent for Service of Process for:
Triad Education, Inc.
3580 Wilshire Blvd., 4th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90010
(***Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested***)
#9489 0090 0027 6498 8585 70

Smith Chason College, Inc.
3110 N Central Ave., Suite L-100
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(***Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested***)
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Myra Chason
Agent for Service of Process for:
Smith Chason College, Inc.
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Los Angeles, CA 90010
(***Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested***)
#9489 0090 0027 6498 8578 94

Smith Chason School of Nursing
3580 Wilshire Blvd., 4th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90010
(***Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested***)
#9489 0090 0027 6498 8585 87

Re: ***Elizabeth Archer v. Triad Education, Inc., et al.***
Notice of Labor Code Violations and PAGA Penalties

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that my office has been retained by Elizabeth Archer ("Plaintiff") to pursue a Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") representative action (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2699, *et seq.*) against her former employers, Triad Education, Inc., Smith Chason College, Inc., and Smith Chason School of Nursing (collectively "Defendants"). The purpose of this letter is to comply with PAGA and set forth the facts and theories of California Labor Code violations which we allege Defendants engaged in with respect to Plaintiff and all of Defendants' Aggrieved Employees.

Plaintiff wishes to pursue this action on behalf of herself as an aggrieved employee, on behalf of the State of California, as well as on behalf of all other persons who worked for Defendants in California as a non-exempt or hourly-paid employee at any time within the applicable statutory period (hereafter, the "Aggrieved Employees").

Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees suffered the Labor Code violations described below.

<u>Plaintiff's Employment with Defendants</u>

Defendants own/owned and operate/operated an industry, business, and establishment within the State of California, including San Diego County. As such, and based upon all the facts and circumstances incident to Defendants' business in California, Defendants are subject to the California Labor Code, Wage Orders issued by the Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC"), and the California Business & Professions Code.

Plaintiff ELIZABETH ARCHER is a California resident who worked for Defendants in San Diego County, California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately February 2022 to approximately February 2023. During Plaintiff's employment for Defendants, Defendants paid Plaintiff an hourly wage and classified her as non-exempt from overtime. Defendants typically scheduled Plaintiff to work at least five days in a workweek and at least eight hours per day, but Plaintiff regularly worked more than eight hours in a workday and/or more than forty (40) hours in a workweek.

Throughout Plaintiff's employment, Defendants failed to pay for all hours worked (including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), failed to provide Plaintiff with legally compliant meal periods, failed to authorize and permit Plaintiff to take rest periods, failed to timely pay all final wages to Plaintiff when Defendants terminated her employment, failed to furnish accurate wage statements to Plaintiff, and failed to indemnify Plaintiff for expenditures. As discussed below, Plaintiff's experience working for Defendants was typical and illustrative.

<u>Defendants Failed to Pay for All Hours Worked, Including Minimum, Straight Time, and Overtime Wages</u>

Under California law, an employer must pay for all hours worked by an employee. "Hours worked" is the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, and includes all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work, whether or not required to do so.

In addition, Labor Code § 510 provides that employees in California shall not be employed more than eight hours in any workday or forty (40) hours in a workweek unless they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law.

Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1198 also provide that employees in California shall not be employed more than eight hours in any workday unless they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law. Additionally, Labor Code § 1198 states that the employment of an employee for longer hours than those fixed by the IWC is unlawful.

Throughout the statutory period, Defendants maintained a policy and practice of not paying Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for all hours worked, including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages. Defendants required Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to work "off-the-clock", uncompensated. Some of this unpaid work should have been paid at the overtime rate. In failing to pay for all hours worked, Defendants also failed to maintain accurate records of the hours Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees worked.

As a result, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code §§ 210, 1197.1, and 2699(f)(2) for failing to pay for all hours worked, including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages.

Failure to Provide Meal Periods

Under California law, employers have an affirmative obligation to relieve employees of all duty in order to take their first 30-minute, duty-free meal periods no later than the start of sixth hour of work in a workday, and to allow employees to take their second 30-minute, duty-free meal period no later than the start of the eleventh hour of work in the workday. Further, employees are entitled to be paid one hour of additional wages for each workday they were not provided with all required meal period(s).

Despite these legal requirements, Defendants wrongfully failed to provide Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees with legally compliant meal periods. Defendants regularly, but not always, required Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to work in excess of five consecutive hours a day without providing a 30-minute, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal period for every five hours of work, or without compensating Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for meal periods that were not provided by the end of the fifth hour of work or tenth hour of work. Instead, Defendants continued to assert control over Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees by requiring, pressuring, or encouraging them to perform work tasks which could not be completed without working in lieu of taking mandatory meal periods, or by denying Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees permission to take a meal period. Accordingly, Defendants' policy and practice was not to provide meal periods to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees in compliance with California law.

Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees are thus entitled to be paid one hour of additional wages for each workday he or she was not provided with all required meal period(s). Defendants, however, regularly failed to pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees the additional wages to which they were entitled for meal periods and that were not provided.

As a result, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code §§ 210 and 2699(f)(2) for failing to provide meal periods and pay meal period premium wages.

Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods

Employers are required by California law to authorize and permit breaks of ten uninterrupted minutes for each four hours of work or major fraction of four hours (i.e. more than two hours). Thus, for example, if an employee's work time is six hours and ten minutes, the employee is entitled to two rest breaks. Each failure to authorize rest breaks as so required is itself a violation of California's rest break laws.

Throughout the statutory period, Defendants have wrongfully failed to authorize and permit Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to take legally compliant rest periods. Defendants regularly required Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to work in excess of four consecutive hours a day without Defendants authorizing and permitting them to take a 10-minute, uninterrupted, duty-free rest period for every four hours of work (or major fraction of four hours), or without compensating Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for rest periods that were not authorized or permitted. Instead, Defendants continued to assert control over Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees by requiring, pressuring, or encouraging them to perform work tasks which could not be completed without working in lieu of taking mandatory rest periods, or by denying Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees permission to take a rest period. Accordingly, Defendants' policy and practice was to not authorize and permit Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to take rest periods in compliance with California law.

Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees are thus entitled to be paid one hour of additional wages for each workday he or she was not authorized and permitted to take all required rest period(s). Defendants, however, regularly failed to pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees the additional wages to which they were entitled for rest periods and that they were not authorized and permitted to take.

As a result, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code §§ 210 and 2699(f)(2) for failing to authorize and permit rest periods and pay rest period premium wages.

Failure to Pay All Earned Wages Twice Per Month

Based on its failure to pay Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for all wages as discussed above, Defendants also violated Labor Code § 204.

Labor Code § 204 requires employers to pay employees all earned wages two times per month. Throughout the statute of limitations period applicable to this cause of action, employees were entitled to be paid twice a month at their regular rates, including all meal period premium wages owed, rest period premium wages owed, and wages owed for overtime hours worked. However, during all such times, Defendants systematically failed and refused to pay the employees all wages due, and failed to pay those wages twice a month, in that employees were not paid all wages for all meal periods not provided by Defendants, all wages for all rest periods not authorized and permitted by Defendants, and all wages for all hours worked. As a result, Defendants owe employees the legally required wages for unpaid wages, and Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees suffered damages in those amounts.

Moreover, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code § 210 for failing to pay all earned wages twice per month.

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<u>Failure to Maintain Accurate Records of Hours Worked and Meal Periods</u>

Plaintiff seeks penalties under California Labor Code § 1174(d). Pursuant to California Labor Code § 1174.5, any person, including any entity, employing labor who willfully fails to maintain accurate and complete records required by California Labor Code § 1174 is subject to a penalty under § 1174.5. Pursuant to the applicable IWC Order § 7(A)(3), every employer shall keep time records showing when the employee begins and ends each work period. Meal periods and total hours worked daily shall also be recorded.

Defendants, however, failed to maintain accurate records of hours worked and all meal periods taken or missed by Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees.

Defendants' failure to provide and maintain records required by the California Labor Code and the applicable IWC Wage Orders deprived Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees the ability to know, understand and question the accuracy and frequency of meal periods, and the accuracy of their hours worked stated in Defendants' records. Therefore, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees had no way to dispute the resulting failure to pay wages, all of which resulted in an unjustified economic enrichment to Defendants. As a direct result, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees have suffered and continue to suffer, substantial losses related to the use and enjoyment of such wages, lost interest on such wages and expenses and attorney's fees in seeking to compel Defendants to fully perform its obligation under state law, all to their respective damage in amounts according to proof at trial. As a result of Defendants' knowing failure to comply with the California Labor Code and applicable IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees have also suffered an injury in that they were prevented from knowing, understanding, and disputing the wage payments paid to them.

<u>Failure to Timely Pay All Wages at Termination</u>

Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 provide that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately, and that if an employee voluntarily leaves his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than seventy-two (72) hours thereafter, unless the employee has given seventy-two (72) hours previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.

Within the applicable statute of limitations, the employment of Plaintiff and many other Aggrieved Employees ended, i.e., was terminated by quitting or being discharged, and the employment of others will be terminated. However, during the relevant time period, Defendants failed, and continues to fail to pay Plaintiff and terminated Aggrieved Employees, without abatement, all wages required to be paid by Labor Code sections 201 and 202 either at the time of discharge, or within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employment. These unpaid wages include wages for unpaid work time (including minimum, straight time, and overtime wages), missed meal period premium wages, and missed rest period premium wages.

Defendants' conduct violates Labor Code §§ 201 and 202. Labor Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay wages owed, in accordance with sections 201 and 202, then the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty wage from the due date, and at the same rate until paid or until an action is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty (30) days.

Accordingly, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover from Defendants their additionally accruing wages for each day they were not paid, at their regular hourly rate of pay, up to thirty (30) days maximum pursuant to Labor Code § 203.

Moreover, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code § 2699(f)(2) for failing to timely pay all wages at termination.

Failure to Furnish Accurate Itemized Wage Statements

Labor Code § 226(a) provides that every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees an accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing nine pieces of information, including: (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee. An employee is presumed to suffer an injury if this information is missing. (Lab. Code § 226(e)(2)(B)(iii).)

The statute further provides: "An employee suffering injury as a result of a knowing and intentional failure by an employer to comply with subdivision (a) is entitled to recover the greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars ($50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars ($100) per employee for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not to exceed an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars ($4,000), and is entitled to an award of costs and reasonable attorney's fees." (Lab. Code § 226(e)(1).)

Throughout the statutory period, Defendants failed to furnish Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees with accurate, itemized wage statements showing all applicable hourly rates, and all gross and net wages earned (including correct hours worked, correct wages for meal periods that were not provided in accordance with California law, and correct wages for rest periods that were not authorized and permitted to take in accordance with California law).

Because Defendants violated Labor Code § 226, Plaintiff and similarly Aggrieved Employees suffered injury and damage to their statutorily protected rights. Accordingly, Plaintiff and similarly Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover from Defendants the greater of their actual damages caused by Defendants' failure to comply with Labor Code § 226(a), or an aggregate penalty not exceeding four thousand dollars ($4,000) per employee.

Moreover, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code § 226.3 for failing to furnish accurate itemized wage statements.

Failure to Indemnify for Necessary Expenditures

Labor Code § 2802(a) provides that employers shall indemnify his or her employees for all necessary business expenditures or losses that have been incurred by the employees in direct discharge of his or her duties. Throughout the statute of limitations period applicable to this cause of action, Defendants wrongfully required Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees to pay expenses that they incurred in direct discharge of their duties for Defendants. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees regularly paid out-of-pocket for necessary employment-related expenses, including, without limitation, work attire and use of personal cell phones. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees incurred substantial expenses as a direct result of performing their job duties for Defendants, but Defendants failed to indemnify Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for these employment-related expenses.

As a result, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for the civil penalties provided for in Labor Code §§ 2802 and 2699(f)(2) for failing to indemnify Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees for necessary business expenditures.

Action for Civil Penalties Under PAGA

In light of the above, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants violated the following provisions of the Labor Code with respect to the Aggrieved Employees:

1. Labor Code § 204, 510, 1194, 1197, and 1198 by failing to pay for all hours worked, including minimum wages, straight time wages, and overtime wages;
2. Labor Code § 226.7 and applicable Wage Orders by failing to provide meal periods;
3. Labor Code § 226.7 and applicable Wage Orders by failing to authorize and permit rest periods;
4. Labor Code § 204 by failing to pay all earned wages two times per month;
5. California Labor Code § 1174.5 and applicable Wage Orders by failing to maintain accurate records of hours worked and meal periods taken or missed;
6. Labor Code §§ 201 to 203 by willfully failing to pay all wages owed at termination;
7. Labor Code § 226 by failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements; and
8. Labor Code § 2802 by failing to indemnify for necessary expenditures.

Therefore, on behalf of all Aggrieved Employees, Plaintiff seeks applicable penalties related to the violations alleged above pursuant to the PAGA. These include, but are not limited to, penalties under Labor Code §§ 210, 226.3, 1174.5, 1197.1, and 2699(f)(2).

Plaintiff has placed Defendants on notice by mailing a certified copy of this correspondence, as indicated on the first page. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM

Justin F. Marquez, Esq.

WILSHIRE LAW FIRM, PLC
3055 WILSHIRE BLVD. 12TH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90010

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EXHIBIT 2

PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This PAGA Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is made by and between Plaintiff Elizabeth Arthur ("Plaintiff") and Defendant Smith Chason College, Inc., dba Smith Chason College School of Nursing ("Defendant"). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendant collectively as "Parties," or individually as "Party."

1. <u>DEFINITIONS</u>.

1.1. "Actions" means the following actions captioned: (1) *Elizabeth Archer v. Triad Education, Inc., et al.*, initiated on August 22, 2023 and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Diego, Case No. 37-2023-00036216-CU-OE-CTL; and (2) *Elizabeth Archer v. Triad Education, Inc., et al.*, initiated on March 13, 2024 and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los San Diego, Case No. 37-2024-00011838-CU-OE-CTL.

1.2. "Administrator" means Phoenix Settlement Administrators, 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 approval of this Settlement.

1.4. "Aggrieved Employee" means a person employed by Defendant in California and classified as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee who worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period.

1.5. "Aggrieved Employee Data" means Aggrieved Employee identifying information in Defendant's possession including the Aggrieved Employee's name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, and number of PAGA Pay Periods.

1.6. "Aggrieved Employee Address Search" means the Administrator's investigation and search for current Aggrieved Employee 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 Aggrieved Employees.

1.7. "Court" means the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego.

1.8. "Defense Counsel" means Grace Y. Horoupian and Tuan Q. Nguyen of Fisher & Phillips LLP.

1.9. "Effective Date" means the date by when both of the following have occurred: (a) the Court enters a Judgment on the Approval Order and (b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (a) the day the

Court enters Judgment assuming no appeal is filed; or (b) if a timely appeal is filed, the date of final resolution of that appeal (including any requests for rehearing and/or petitions for writs of certiorari) resulting in final judicial approval of the Settlement.

1.10. "Gross Settlement Amount" means One Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand and Zero Cents ($195,000.00), 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 PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, the PAGA Representative Awards, and the Administrator's Expenses Payment.

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

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

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

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

1.15. "Net Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, the PAGA Representative Awards, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Aggrieved Employees as Individual PAGA Payments.

1.16. "PAGA Counsel" means Justin F. Marquez and Arrash T. Fattahi of Wilshire Law Firm PLC, the attorneys representing the Plaintiff in the Actions.

1.17. "PAGA Counsel Fees Payment" and "PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment" mean the amounts allocated to PAGA Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Actions.

1.18. "PAGA Pay Period" means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Period.

1.19. "PAGA Period" means the period from September 20, 2022 to March 31, 2024.

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

1.21. "PAGA Notices" means Plaintiff's September 20, 2023 letter to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a).

1.22. "PAGA Penalties" means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Net Settlement Amount, which is currently estimated to be $90,250, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees ($22,562.50) and the 75% to LWDA ($67,687.50) in settlement of PAGA claims.

1.23. "Plaintiff" means Elizabeth Archer, the named plaintiff in the Actions.

1.24. "Approval Order" means the Court Order Granting Approval of PAGA Settlement.

1.25. "Released PAGA Claims" means the claims being released by the Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel and as described in Paragraph 5 below.

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

1.27. "Settlement" means the disposition of the Actions effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.

1.28. "Defendant" means Smith Chason College, Inc., dba Smith Chason College School of Nursing.

1.29. "PAGA Representative Awards" means the $10,000.00 to be paid to Plaintiff for serving as the named representatives in the Actions.

2. RECITALS.

2.1. On August 22, 2023, Plaintiff filed a putative wage-and-hour class action complaint against Defendant on behalf of herself and all hourly-paid, non-exempt employees in California in the San Diego Superior Court. On September 20, 2023, Plaintiff sent notice to Defendant and the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") alleging similar wage-and-hour violations pursuant to PAGA. In or around February 2024, Defendant's counsel informed PAGA Counsel that Plaintiff allegedly signed an arbitration agreement during her employment with Defendant. In light of such, the Parties agreed to pursue mediation solely for Plaintiff's individual claims and the PAGA claims. On March 13, 2024, Plaintiff separately filed a PAGA-only complaint against Defendant in the San Diego County Superior Court. The PAGA only complaint is the operative complaint in the Action (the "Operative Complaint"). Defendant denies the allegations in the Operative Complaint, denies any failure to comply with the laws identified in the Operative Complaint and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged.

2.2. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notices. On March 18, 2024, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by Gail A. Glick, Esq., which led to this Agreement to settle the Actions.

2.3. Prior to mediation, Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery, among other things, a random sample of timekeeping and payroll data, as well as information about the Aggrieved Employees and Defendant's wage and hour policies.

2.4. The Parties, PAGA 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 One Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($195,000.00) and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount 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 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 PAGA Counsel: A PAGA Counsel Fees Payment of not more than 1/3 of the Gross Settlement Amount, which is currently estimated to be Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($65,000.00) and PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($25,000.00). Defendant will not oppose requests for Court approval of these payments provided that they do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiff and/or PAGA Counsel will file an application or motion for PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Litigation Expenses Payment. If the Court approves a PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and/or a PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to PAGA Counsel or any other Plaintiff's Counsel arising from any claim to any portion any PAGA Counsel Fee Payment and/or PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. PAGA Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds Defendant harmless, and indemnifies Defendant, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these Payments.

3.2.2. To the Administrator: An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars ($4,750) except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the Administration Expenses are less or the Court approves payment less than $4,750, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.

3.2.3. To the Plaintiff: The PAGA Representative Awards not to exceed $10,000.00. To the extent the Court approves payment less than $10,000.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.

3.3. Payment from the Net Settlement Amount: The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Net Settlement Amount, the amount specified by the Court in the Approval Order:

3.3.1. To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties in the amount of $90,250 to be paid from the Net Settlement Amount, with 75% ($67,687.50) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% ($22,562.50) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.

3.3.1.1. The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalties ($22,562.50) by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Period Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

3.3.1.2. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

4. SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.

4.1. Aggrieved Employee Pay Periods. Based on a review of its records to date, Defendant estimates there are 305 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total 5,141 PAGA Pay Periods.

4.2. Aggrieved Employee Data. Within 30 days of the Court's Approval Order, Defendant will simultaneously deliver the Aggrieved Employee Data to the Administrator in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Aggrieved Employee' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Aggrieved Employee Data in confidence, use the Aggrieved Employee Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Aggrieved Employee Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Aggrieved Employee Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify PAGA Counsel if it discovers that the Aggrieved Employee Data omitted employee identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Aggrieved Employee Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendant must send the Aggrieved Employee 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 Aggrieved Employee Data.

4.3. Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than 21 days after the Effective Date.

4.4. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within 14 days after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the PAGA Representative Award, the Administration Expenses Payment, the PAGA Counsel Expenses Payment. Disbursement of the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment shall not precede disbursement of Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Aggrieved Employees via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (not less than 180 days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided. The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. Before mailing any checks, the Settlement Administrator must update the recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.

4.4.1. The Administrator must conduct an Aggrieved Employee Address Search for all Aggrieved Employees whose checks are retuned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within 7 days of receiving a returned check the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Aggrieved Employee Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to deliver checks to Aggrieved Employees whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Aggrieved Employee whose original check was lost or misplaced, requested by the Aggrieved Employee prior to the void date.

4.4.2. For any Aggrieved Employee who's Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Aggrieved Employee.

4.4.3. The payment of Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendant to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to the Aggrieved Employees (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses) beyond those specified in this Agreement.

5. **RELEASES OF CLAIMS**. Effective on the date when Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

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

5.1.1 Plaintiff's Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542. For purposes of Plaintiff's Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, and that if known by him or her would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or Released Party.

5.2 Release by Aggrieved Employees: 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 claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notices and ascertained in the course of the Actions including, but not limited to, any claims for civil penalties based on Defendant's alleged: (a) failure to pay minimum, straight time, and overtime wages; (b) failure to provide legally compliant meal periods or pay meal period premiums; (c) failure to authorize and permit rest periods or pay rest period premiums; (d) failure to pay all earned wages twice per month; (e) failure to maintain accurate records of hours worked and meal periods; (f) failure to timely pay final wages at termination; (g) failure to furnish accurate wage statements, and (h) failure to reimburse or indemnify all necessary business expenses.

5.3 Release by PAGA Counsel: PAGA Counsel release on behalf of their present and former attorneys, employees, agents, successors and assigns the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA Fees incurred in connection based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notices.

6. MOTION OR APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT. The Parties agree to jointly prepare and file an application or motion for approval of this Settlement.

6.1 Plaintiff's Responsibilities. Plaintiff will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all documents necessary for obtaining approval of this Settlement under Labor Code Section 2699, subd. (f)(2), including (i) a draft proposed Order Granting Approval of PAGA Settlement; (ii) a signed declaration from PAGA Counsel firm attesting to 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)); and (iii) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Aggrieved Employees and/or the Administrator. In the Declaration, PAGA Counsel shall aver that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.

6.2 Responsibilities of PAGA Counsel. PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the application or motion for approval of this Settlement no later than 60 days after the full execution of this Agreement and, if necessary, obtaining a prompt hearing date for the motion and appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the motion. PAGA Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Approval Order to the Administrator.

6.3 Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed application or motion for approval of this Settlement and/or the supporting declarations and documents, PAGA 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 the motion for approval of this Settlement or conditions its approval on any material change to this Agreement, PAGA 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 Phoenix Settlement Administrators to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, Phoenix Settlement Administrators agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for payment of Administration Expenses. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.

7.2 Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports state and federal tax authorities.

7.3 Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1.

7.4 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.

8. AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE SIZE ESTIMATES AND ESCALATOR CLAUSE. Based on its records, Defendant estimates that there are 305 Aggrieved Employees who worked 5,141 Pay Periods during the PAGA Period. In the event that the actual number of Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period increases by 7.5% (or 386) or more, then Defendant shall increase the Gross Settlement Fund on a proportional basis in excess of 7.5 percent (i.e., if there were a 10 percent (10%) increase in the number of Pay Periods, then Defendant will increase the Gross Settlement Fund by 2.5%). However, Defendant may cap the PAGA release period as of the date that the 7.5% of the pay periods is exceeded.

9. CONTINUING JURISDICTION OF THE COURT. The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Actions, and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.

9.1. Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, the Parties, their respective counsel 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 another party 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.

10. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

10.1 No Admission of Liability or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by Defendant that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that Defendant has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendant's defenses in the Actions have merit. The Parties agree that representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason the Court does not approve this Settlement, Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Actions, and Plaintiff reserve the right to contest Defendant's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement and Parties' willingness to settle the Actions 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).

10.2 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.

10.3 Attorney Authorization. PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff and Defendant, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.

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

10.5 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.

10.6 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, PAGA 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.

10.7 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.

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

10.9 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.

10.10 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.

10.11 Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made, and orders entered during Actions and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.

10.12 Use and Return of Aggrieved Employee Data. Information provided to PAGA Counsel pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §1152, and all copies and summaries of the PAGA Data provided to PAGA 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 Administrator discharges its obligation to pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy all paper and electronic versions of Aggrieved Employee Data received from Defendant unless, prior to the Administrator's payment of all Settlement Funds, Defendant makes a written request to PAGA Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of Aggrieved Employee Data.

10.13 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.

10.14 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.

10.15 Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff:

Justin F. Marquez, Esq.
Arrash T. Fattahi, Esq.
Wilshire Law Firm
3055 Wilshire Blvd., 12th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90010

To Defendant:

Grace Y. Horoupian, Esq.
Tuan Q. Nguyen, Esq.

Fisher & Phillips LLP
2050 Main Street, Suite 1000
Irvine, California 92614

10.16 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.

10.17 Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

Dated: 11/3/2024

DocuSigned by:
ELIZABETH ARCHER
F23279A06E78453...

Elizabeth Arthur
Plaintiff

Dated: Nov 4, 2024

Andrew High
Andrew High (Nov 4, 2024 15:21 MST)

Smith Chason College, Inc., dba Smith Chason College School of Nursing
By: Andrew High

Its: Chief Operations Officer

Defendant

2024 11-03 Triad Education - PAGA Settlement Agreement (WLF) (Partially Executed)

Final Audit Report 2024-11-04

Created:	2024-11-04
By:	Tuan Nguyen (tqnguyen@fisherphillips.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAzKmbAPR1qtO2AgdaA_06FI8LGEqt3b0j

"2024 11-03 Triad Education - PAGA Settlement Agreement (WLF) (Partially Executed)" History

Document digitally presigned by DocuSign\, Inc. (enterprisesupport@docusign.com)
2024-11-04 - 5:00:37 AM GMT

Document created by Tuan Nguyen (tqnguyen@fisherphillips.com)
2024-11-04 - 10:17:21 PM GMT

Document emailed to andrew.high@smithchason.edu for signature
2024-11-04 - 10:20:17 PM GMT

Email viewed by andrew.high@smithchason.edu
2024-11-04 - 10:20:53 PM GMT

Signer andrew.high@smithchason.edu entered name at signing as Andrew High
2024-11-04 - 10:21:21 PM GMT

Document e-signed by Andrew High (andrew.high@smithchason.edu)
Signature Date: 2024-11-04 - 10:21:23 PM GMT - Time Source: server

Agreement completed.
2024-11-04 - 10:21:23 PM GMT

Theresa Chan

From: no-reply@formassembly.com
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 5:30 PM
To: Theresa Chan
Subject: Thank you for your Proposed Settlement Submission

10/23/2025 05:29:39 PM

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

Item submitted: Proposed Settlement

On 10/23/2025 05:29:39 PM your Proposed Settlement was successfully processed for case number LWDA-CM-982827-23

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://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Flabor.ca.gov%2FPrivate_Attorneys_General_Act.htm&data=05%7C02%7Ctheresa.chan%40wilshirelawfirm.com%7C698a0dad08e74257401f08de12947573%7C9ada260a4f194da187b814d372333753%7C1%7C0%7C638968626013977052%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0YuJivfIFvqdzjff7ARn07jcGPe2n4gSZ5igjHuRy44%3D&reserved=0

EXHIBIT 4

Wilshire Law Firm, PLC

Transaction Detail by Account

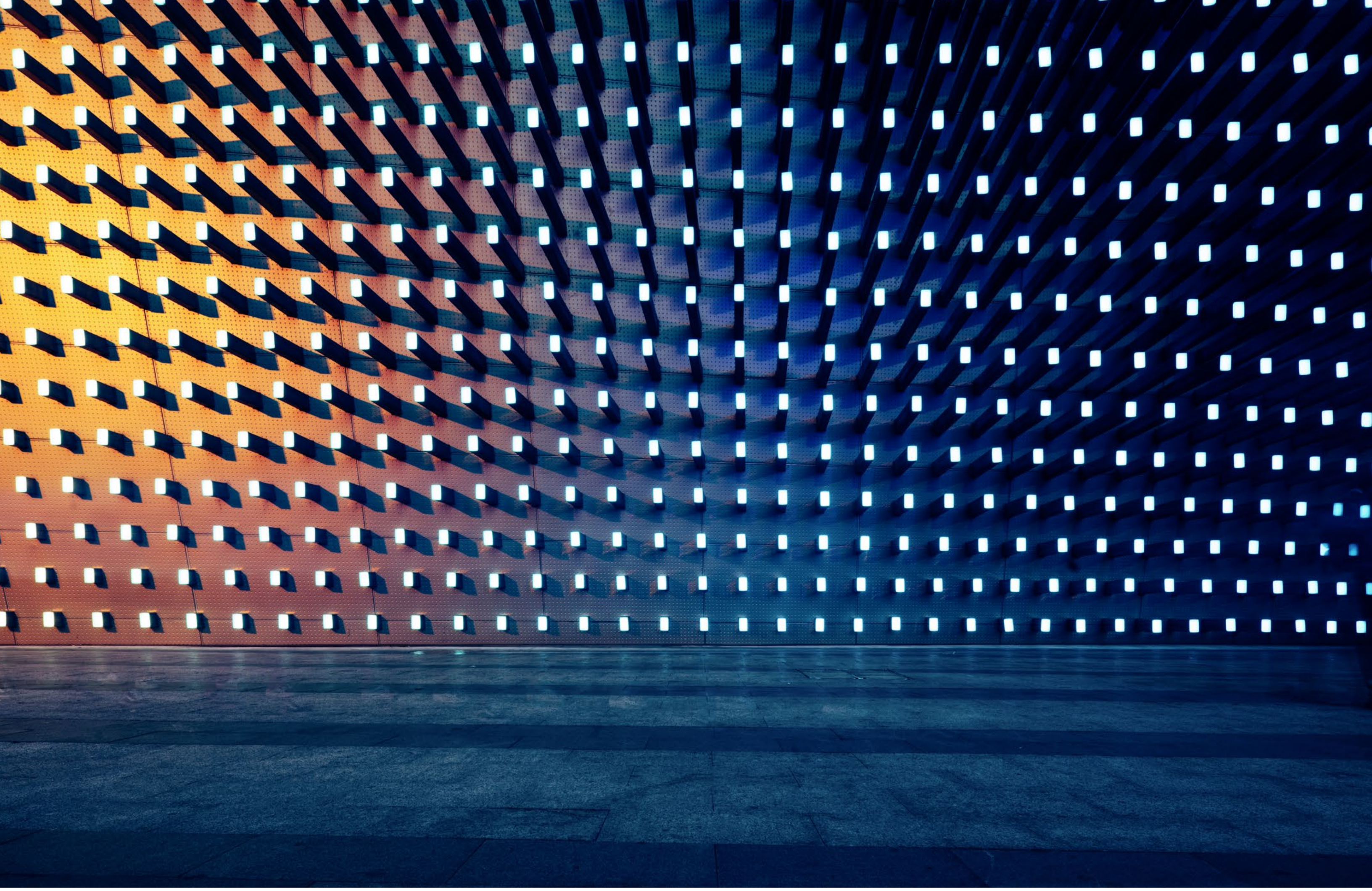
All Transactions

10/29/2025

Accrual Basis

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Amount	Balance
COS					
Mediation Fees					
	10/26/2023	612522	Mediation Fee	6,375.00	6,375.00
Total MEDIATION FEES				6,375.00	6,375.00
Expert Fees					
	4/4/2024	11186	Expert Fees	3,100.00	3,100.00
Total EXPERT FEES				3,100.00	3,100.00
Legal Expenses					
	3/9/2023	847939906	Legal Research	52.63	52.63
	3/9/2023	847939906	Legal Research	39.22	39.22
	9/19/2023	848896021	Legal Research	246.06	246.06
	9/22/2023		PAGA Fee	75.00	75.00
	4/24/2024	0849974595-1	Legal Research	34.46	34.46
	4/26/2024	INV104303-01-01	Legal Research	2,210.00	2,210.00
Total LEGAL EXPENSES				2,657.37	2,152.11
Process Service Fees					
	8/23/2023	21059521	Attorney Services	1,490.66	1,490.66
	3/7/2024	22404649	Attorney Services	15.39	15.39
	3/7/2024	22404669	Attorney Services	15.39	15.39
	3/7/2024	22404794	Attorney Services	15.39	15.39
	3/14/2024	22440410	Attorney Services	463.22	463.22
	4/10/2024		Attorney Services	1.00	1.00
	4/11/2024	22664102	Attorney Services	15.39	15.39
	6/6/2024	22664102(2)	Attorney Services	1.00	1.00
	6/6/2024	23071684	Attorney Services	16.42	16.42
	7/11/2024		Attorney Services	1.00	1.00
	9/19/2024	23771461	Attorney Services	20.34	20.34
	10/3/2024	23860706	Attorney Services	20.34	20.34
	10/3/2024		Attorney Services	2.00	2.00
	10/14/2024	23932474	Attorney Services	20.34	20.34
	10/16/2024	23586682	Attorney Services	20.28	20.28
	1/22/2025	24475087	Attorney Services	43.06	43.06
	1/30/2025	24621269	Attorney Services	21.37	21.37
	4/10/2025	25128365	Attorney Services	21.37	21.37
	5/19/2025	25288380	Attorney Services	21.37	21.37
	5/21/2025	25352767	Attorney Services	21.37	21.37
	7/3/2025	CC073125TA-822	Attorney Services	23.63	23.63
	7/11/2025	CC073125TA-1284	Attorney Services	23.63	23.63
Total PROCESS SERVICE FEES				2,293.96	2,293.96
Other Costs					
	2/28/2023	E-3129800	DocuSign Envelope	1.89	1.89
	9/21/2023	E-3145766	Postage Cost	7.42	7.42
	9/21/2023	E-3145763	Postage Cost	7.42	7.42
	9/21/2023	E-3145762	Postage Cost	7.42	7.42
	9/21/2023	E-3145765	Postage Cost	7.42	7.42
	9/21/2023	E-3145765	Postage Cost	7.42	7.42
	3/8/2024	E-3185025	Postage Cost	3.04	3.04
	3/18/2024		Lunch During Mediation	67.76	67.76
	3/20/2024	E-3193494	DocuSign Envelope	1.89	1.89
	4/12/2024	E-3191876	Postage Cost	3.28	3.28
	6/7/2024	E-3207676	Postage Cost	1.76	1.76
Total OTHER COSTS				116.72	116.72
TOTAL				**14,543.05**	**14,543.05**

EXHIBIT 5



ELM Solutions

2022 Real Rate Report®

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

Wolters Kluwer

Table of Contents - 2022 Real Rate Report

Report Use Considerations

2022 Real Rate Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

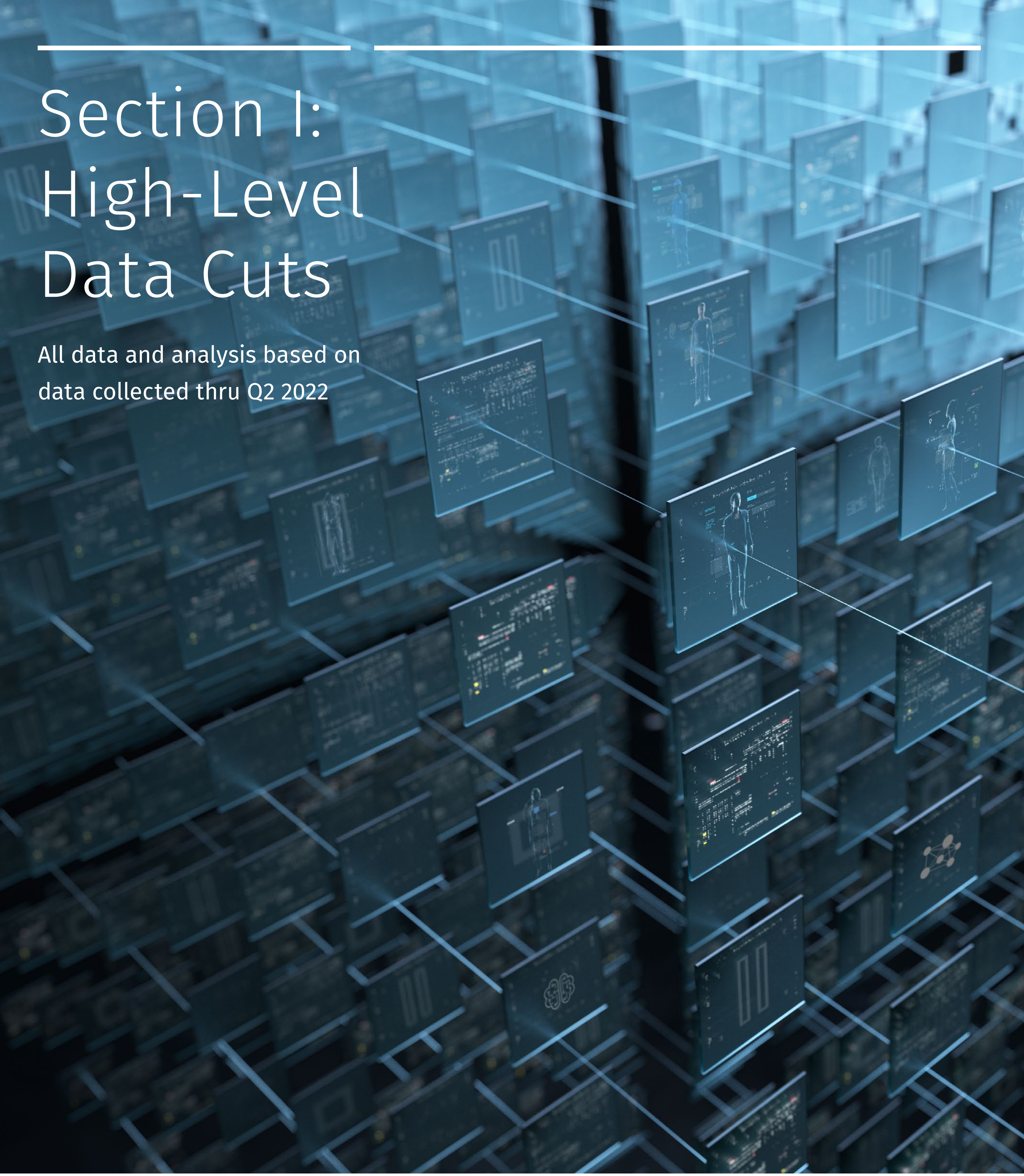
Firm size – The rates can increase if the firm is large and has various timekeeper roles at the firm. For example, the cost to work with an associate or partner at a larger firm will be higher compared to a firm that has one to two associates and a paralegal.

1 **David Goguen, J.D., University of San Francisco School of Law (2020) Guide to Legal Services Billing Retrieved from:** https://www.lawyers.com/legal-info/research/guide-to-legal-services-billing-rates.html

2 **Source: 2018 RRR.** Factor order validated in multiple analyses since 2010

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

All data and analysis based on data collected thru Q2 2022



Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities
By Matter Type

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

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

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities

By Matter Type

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

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

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities

By Matter Type

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

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

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities

By Matter Type

2022 - Real Rates for Associate and Partner

Trend Analysis - Mean

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

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities

By Years of Experience

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

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

Section I: High-Level Data Cuts

Cities

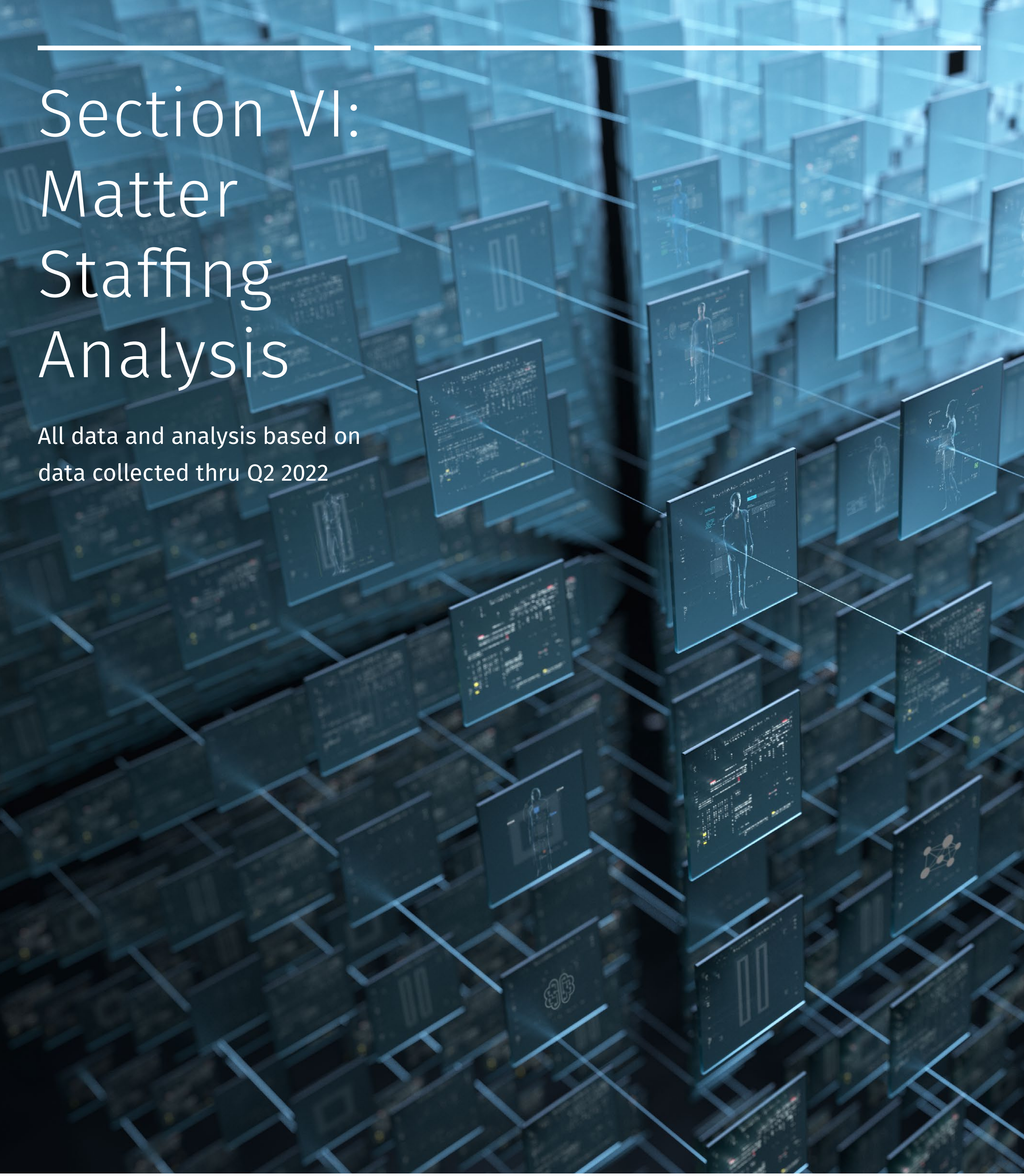
By Years of Experience

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

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

Section VI: Matter Staffing Analysis

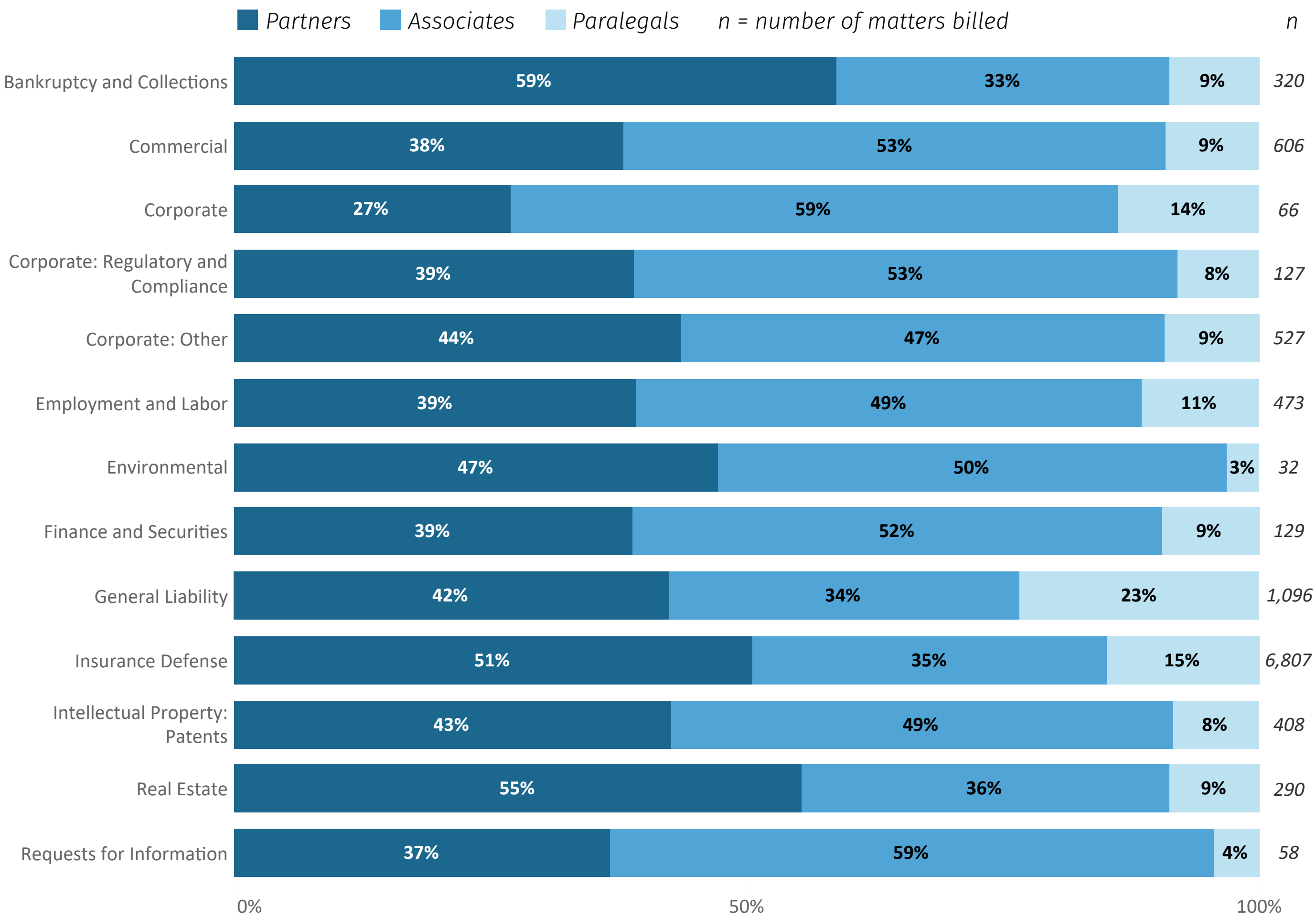
All data and analysis based on data collected thru Q2 2022

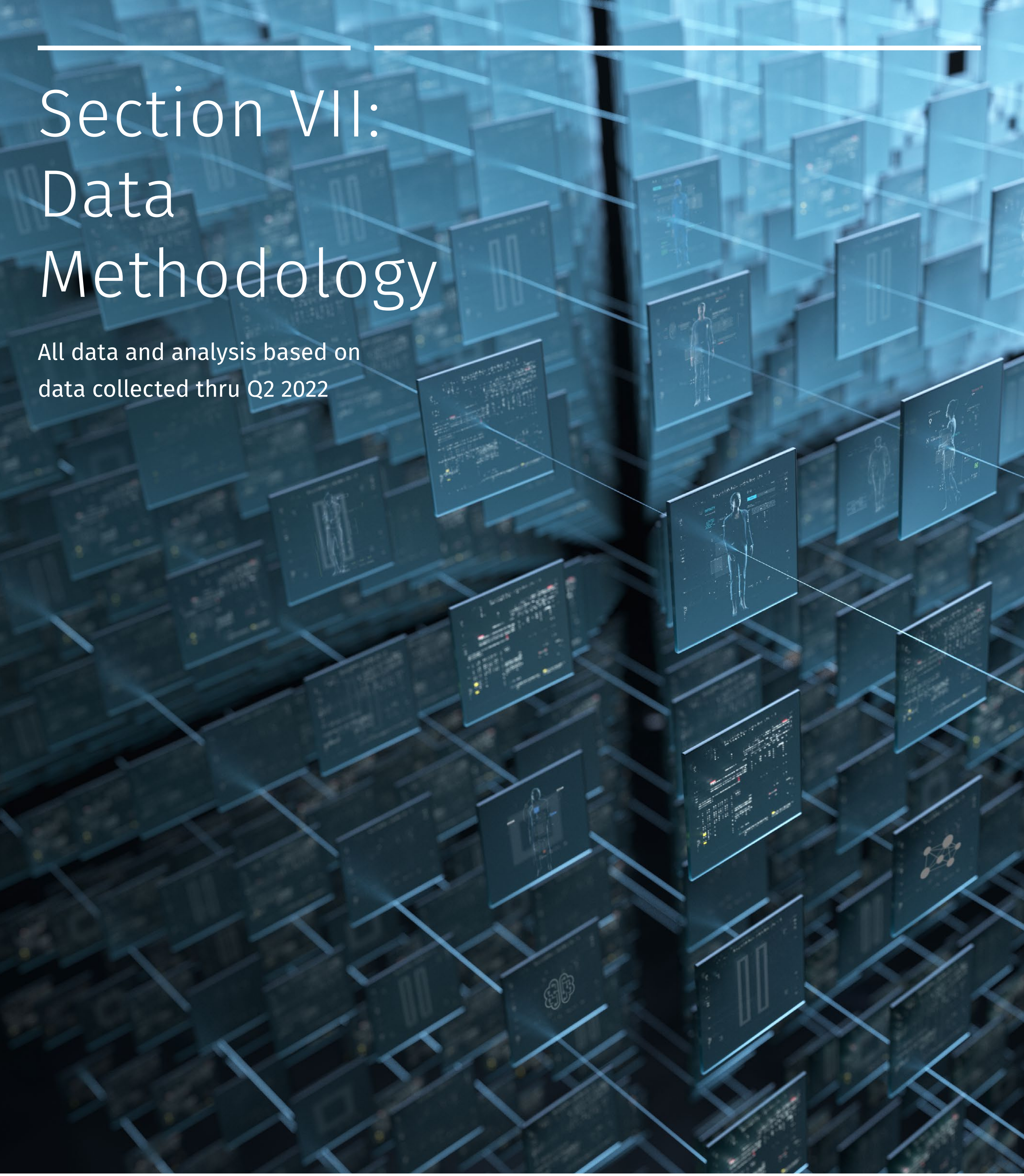


Section VI: Matter Staffing Analysis

Long Litigation Matters, More Than 100 Total Hours Billed

2019 to 2022 -- Percentage of Hours Billed per Matter





Section VII: Data Methodology

All data and analysis based on data collected thru Q2 2022

Appendix: Data Methodology

Invoice Information

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

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

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

Non-Invoice Information

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix: Data Methodology

A Note on US Cities

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

Appendix: Data Methodology

Bankruptcy and Collections

Chapter 11
Collections
General/Other
Workouts and Restructuring

Commercial (Commercial Transactions and Agreements)

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

Corporate[1]

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

Employment and Labor

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

Environmental

General/Other
Health and Safety
Superfund
Waste/Remediation

Finance and Securities

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

General Liability

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

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

EXHIBIT 6

Business & Practice

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

By Roy Strom

Column
June 9, 2022, 2:30 AM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Charge It Up

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

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

Source: Court documents

Bloomberg Law

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Worth Your Time

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

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

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

00:00:00

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

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

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

Documents

Trustee's Objection

Related Articles

Overworked Big Law Can't Find Enough Lawyers With Demand Surging	Dec. 9, 2021, 3:00 AM
Never Underestimate Big Law's Ability to Raise Billing Rates	Aug. 12, 2021, 3:00 AM

Law Firms

Simpson Thacher
Hogan Lovells
Jones Day
Skadden
Sidley Austin
Quinn Emanuel
Cravath Swaine & Moore
Latham & Watkins
Kirkland & Ellis
Boies Schiller Flexner

Topics

expert fees
compensation of bankruptcy attorney
acquisitions
U.S. trustees
financial markets
client-paid legal fees
data breaches

Companies

Johnson & Johnson
Thomson Reuters Corp

EXHIBIT 7

CASE ASSUMPTIONS

Aggrieved Members	350
Opt Out Rate	N/A
Opt Outs Received	
Total Aggrieved Claimants	350
Subtotal Admin Only	**$4,750.00**

Not-to-Exceed Total $4,750.00

For 350 Aggrieved Members

Pricing Good for Scope of Estimate Only

April 24, 2024

Case: Archer v. Triad Education PAGA Administration wTranslation

Phoenix Contact: Jodey Lawrence
Contact Number: 949.566.1455
Email: Jodey@phoenixclassaction.com

Requesting Attorney: Justin Marquez
Firm: Wilshire Law Firm, PLC
Contact Number: (213) 381-9988, Ext. 345
Email: justin@wilshirelawfirm.com

Assumptions and Estimate are based on information provided by counsel. If class size changes, PHX will need to adjust this Estimate accordingly. Estimate is based on 350 Aggrieved Members. Class data Must be sent in Microsoft Excel or uploaded in the same format. Class Data Must be sent in one spreadsheet, with no additional programming needed. A rate of $150 per hour will be charged for any additional analysis or programming. Pricing good for 90 days.

Case & Database Setup / Toll Free Setup & Call Center / NCOA (USPS)

Administrative Tasks:	Rate	Hours/Units	Line Item Estimate
Programming Manager	$100.00	2	$200.00
Programming Database & Setup	$100.00	2	$200.00
Toll Free Setup*	$48.22	1	$48.22
Call Center & Long Distance	$2.00	13	$26.00
NCOA (USPS)	$125.00	1	$125.00
Language Translation	$215.00	1	$215.00
		Total	**$814.22**

* Up to 120 days after disbursement

Data Merger & Scrub / Notice Packet, Check & Postage

Project Action	Rate	Hours/Units	Line Item Estimate
Notice Packet Formatting	$100.00	2	$200.00
Data Merge & Duplication Scrub	$0.25	350	$87.50
Notice and Check Packet	$2.00	350	$700.00
Estimated Postage (up to 1 oz.)*	$0.64	350	$224.00
		Total	**$1,211.50**

* Prices good for 90 days. Subject to change with the USPS Rate or change in Notice pages or Translation, if any.

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CLASS ACTION ADMINISTRATION SOLUTIONS

Skip Tracing & Remailing Notice Packets / Tracking & Programming Undeliverables			
Project Action:	**Rate**	**Hours/Units**	**Line Item Estimate**
Case Associate	$75.00	2	$150.00
Skip Tracing Undeliverables	$1.50	53	$78.75
Remail Notice Packets	$1.50	53	$78.75
Estimated Postage	$0.61	53	$32.03
Programming Undeliverables	$50.00	1	$50.00
		Total	**$389.53**

Database Programming			
Project Action:	**Rate**	**Hours/Units**	**Line Item Estimate**
Programming Claims Database	$150.00	2	$300.00
Case Manager	$75.00	2	$150.00
		Total	**$450.00**

Calculation & Disbursement Programming/ Create & Manage QSF/ Mail Checks			
Project Action:	**Rate**	**Hours/Units**	**Line Item Estimate**
Programming Calculations	$75.00	2	$150.00
Disbursement Review	$75.00	2	$150.00
Programming Manager	$95.00	2	$190.00
QSF Bank Account & EIN	$50.00	1	$50.00
Check Run Setup & Printing	$100.00	3	$300.00
		Total	**$840.00**

* Checks are printed on 8.5 x 11 in. sheets with W2/1099 Tax Filing

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CLASS ACTION ADMINISTRATION SOLUTIONS

Tax Reporting & Reconciliation / Re-Issuance of Checks / Conclusion Reports and Declarations			
Project Action:	**Rate**	**Hours/Units**	**Line Item Estimate**
Case Supervisor	$165.00	2	$330.00
Remail Undeliverable Checks (Postage Included)	$1.50	67	$99.75
Case Associate	$55.00	1	$55.00
Reconcile Uncashed Checks	$85.00	1	$85.00
Conclusion Reports	$50.00	1	$50.00
Case Manager Conclusion	$75.00	1	$75.00
Final Reporting & Declarations	$100.00	1	$100.00
QSF Annual Tax Reporting With Individual* (State Tax Reporting Included)	$250.00	1	$250.00
		Total	**$1,044.75**

* All applicable California State & Federal taxes, which include SUI, ETT, and SDI, and FUTA filings. Additional taxes are Defendant's responsibilty.

Estimate Total:	**$4,750.00**

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CLASS ACTION ADMINISTRATION SOLUTIONS

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Provisions: The case estimate is in good faith and does not cover any applicable taxes and fees. The estimate does not make any provision for any services or class size not delineated in the request for proposal or stipulations. Proposal rates and amounts are subject to change upon further review, with Counsel/Client, of the Settlement Agreement. Only pre-approved changes will be charged when applicable. No modifications may be made to this estimate without the approval of PSA (Phoenix Settlement Administrators). All notifications are mailed in English language only unless otherwise specified. Additional costs will apply if translation into other language(s) is required. Rates to prepare and file taxes are for Federal and California State taxes only. Additional charges will apply if multiple state tax filing(s) is required. **Pricing is good for ninety (90) days.**

Data Conversion and Mailing: The proposal assumes that data provided will be in ready-to-use condition and that all data is provided in a single, comprehensive Excel spreadsheet. PSA cannot be liable for any errors or omissions arising due to additional work required for analyzing and processing the original database. A minimum of two (2) business days is required for processing prior to the anticipated mailing date with an additional two (2) business days for a National Change of Address (NCOA) update. Additional time may be required depending on the class size, necessary translation of the documents, or other factors. PSA will keep counsel apprised of the estimated mailing date.

Claims: PSA's general policy is to not accept claims via facsimile. However, in the event that facsimile filing of claims must be accepted, PSA will not be held responsible for any issues and/or errors arising out of said filing. Furthermore, PSA will require disclaimer language regarding facsimile transmissions. PSA will not be responsible for any acts or omissions caused by the USPS. PSA shall not make payments to any claimants without verified, valid Social Security Numbers. All responses and class member information are held in strict confidentiality.

Payment Terms: All postage charges and 50% of the final administration charges are due at the commencement of the case and will be billed immediately upon receipt of the data and/or notice documents. PSA bills are due upon receipt unless otherwise negotiated and agreed to with PSA by Counsel/Client. In the event the settlement terms provide that PSA is to be paid out of the settlement fund, PSA will request that Counsel/Client endeavor to make alternate payment arrangements for PSA charges that are due at the onset of the case. The entire remaining balance is due and payable at the time the settlement account is funded by Defendant, or no later than the time of disbursement. Amounts not paid within thirty (30) days are subject to a service charge of 1.5% per month or the highest rate permitted by law.

Tax Reporting Requirements

PSA will file the necessary tax returns under the EIN of the QSF, including federal and state returns. Payroll tax returns will be filed if necessary. Under the California Employment Development Department, all taxes are to be reported under the EIN of the QSF with the exception of the following taxes: Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Employment Training Tax (ETT), employer-side taxes, and State Disability Insurance (SDI), an employee-side tax. These are reported under Defendant's EIN. Therefore, to comply with the EDD payroll tax filing requirements we will need the following information:

1. Defendant's California State ID and Federal EIN.

2. Defendant's current State Unemployment Insurance (UI) rate and Employment Training Tax (ETT) rate. This information can be found in the current year DE 2088, Notice of Contribution Rates, issued by the EDD.

3. Termination dates of the class members, or identification of current employee class members, so we can account for the periods that the wages relate to for each class member.

4. An executed Power of Attorney (Form DE 48) from Defendant. This form is needed so that we may report the UI, SDI, and ETT taxes under Defendant's EIN on their behalf. If this form is not provided we will work with the EDD auditors to transfer the tax payments to Defendant's EIN.

5. Defendant is responsible for reporting the SDI portion of the settlement payments on the class member's W-2. PSA will file these forms on Defendant's behalf for an additional fee and will issue an additional W-2 for each class member under Defendant's EIN, as SDI is reported under Defendant's EIN rather than the EIN of the QSF. The Power of Attorney (Form DE 48) will be needed in order for PSA to report SDI payments.

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

ELIZABETH ARCHER, on behalf of the State of California and other aggrieved persons,

Plaintiff,

v.

TRIAD EDUCATION, INC., a California corporation; SMITH CHASON COLLEGE, INC., a corporation; SMITH CHASON SCHOOL OF NURSING, an unknown entity; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 37-2024-00011838-CU-OE-CTL

Assigned for all purposes to:
Hon. Wendy M. Behan
Dept. C-66

SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF ARRASH T. FATTAHI IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO APPROVE PAGA SETTLEMENT

APPROVAL HEARING:
Date: November 14, 2025
Time: 10:15 a.m.
Dept.: C-66

SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF ARRASH T. FATTAHI

I, Arrash T. Fattahi, declare as follows:

1. I am admitted, in good standing, to practice as an attorney in the State of California, and the United States District Courts for the Central, Southern, Eastern, and Northern Districts of California. I am a Junior Partner at Wilshire Law Firm, PLC, counsel of record for Plaintiff Elizabeth Archer ("Plaintiff"). I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration and could and would competently testify to them under oath if called as a witness.

2. This supplemental declaration is submitted in support of Plaintiff's Motion to Approve PAGA Settlement.

3. A true and correct copy of the Settlement executed by the Parties, along with the confirmation that the Settlement was submitted to the LWDA, was attached to my Declaration in support of Plaintiff's Motion to Approve PAGA Settlement as Exhibit 2, filed October 29, 2025. The Settlement Notice that will be sent to the aggrieved employees with payment after the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Approving the PAGA Settlement, referenced as Exhibit 3 to my initial Declaration, was erroneously omitted. Now attached as **Exhibit 3** is a true and correct copy of the Settlement Notice that will be sent to the aggrieved employees with payment after the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Approving the PAGA Settlement.

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

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

Arrash T. Fattahi

EXHIBIT 3

[Administrator's Letterhead]

To: «FirstName» «LastName»
«Address1» «Address2»
«City» «State» «Zip»

Enclosed please find a check in the amount of [INDIVIDUAL SETTLEMENT SHARE].

You are receiving this check because of a lawsuit brought by Elizabeth Archer ("Plaintiff") against Defendant SMITH CHASON COLLEGE, INC. dba SMITH CHASON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF NURSING ("Defendant") for civil penalties pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act, California Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.* ("PAGA"). The lawsuit was filed in the San Diego County Superior Court under Case No. 37-2024-00011838-CU-OE-CTL (the "Action").

Plaintiff's Action against Defendant is for civil penalties pursuant to the PAGA, a law that allows Plaintiff to attempt to stand in the shoes of the government and to seek penalties on the government's behalf and on behalf of those employees who Plaintiff claims were "aggrieved" by Defendant's alleged unlawful conduct. Specifically, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant failed to comply with wage-and-hour laws as to non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant.

Defendant strongly denies these claims and maintains that it fully complied with all applicable wage-and-hour laws. Nevertheless, to avoid further costs and uncertainty from further litigation, Defendant agreed to settle the matter. The settlement covers Defendant and each of its former and present directors, officers, shareholders, owners, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, and assigns (all of whom are referred to here as the "Released Parties"). The Court has approved the settlement and release of claims described below. By settling this claim, Defendant and the Released Parties are not admitting they have done anything wrong, and they deny that they owe any penalties to the government or to you.

On [insert date], 2025, the settlement was approved by the Court. A portion of the settlement is being paid to the government and a portion is being paid to each non-exempt employee who worked for Defendant in California from September 20, 2022 to March 31, 2024 (the "Aggrieved Employees"). You are receiving a portion of the settlement because Defendant's records indicate that you worked for Defendant from September 20, 2022 to March 31, 2024.

You will not be retaliated against for cashing the check. It is entirely up to you if you cash your check or not. Checks that are not cashed within 180 days of issuance shall be sent to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund. Regardless of what you do with the check issued to you, by law and Court order, you have released the Released Parties from the released claims described below.

One hundred percent (100%) of your payment under this settlement will be considered penalties and will be reported to the IRS and state tax authorities as non-wage income.

This settlement bars you and other Aggrieved Employees, for the period spanning September 20, 2022 to March 31, 2024, from pursuing all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notices and ascertained in the course of the Actions including, but not limited to, any claims for civil penalties based on Defendant's alleged: (a) failure to pay minimum, straight time, and overtime wages; (b) failure to provide legally compliant meal periods or pay meal period premiums; (c) failure to authorize and permit rest periods or pay rest period premiums; (d) failure to pay all earned wages twice per month; (e) failure to maintain accurate records of hours worked and meal periods; (f) failure to timely pay final wages at termination; (g) failure to furnish accurate wage statements, and (h) failure to reimburse or indemnify all necessary business expenses.

Do not call or write the Court or Office of the Clerk to ask questions about the settlement.

If you have any questions, you may call or write [insert], at the following phone number or address: [insert address and telephone number for Administrator's contact person]

PROOF OF SERVICE

Elizabeth Archer v. Triad Education, Inc., et al.
37-2024-00011838-CU-OE-CTL

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I, Christina Hicklin, state that I am employed in the aforesaid County, State of California; I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within action; my business address is 660 S. Figueroa St., Sky Lobby, Los Angeles, California 90017. My electronic service address is christina.hicklin@wilshirelawfirm.com.

On October 30, 2025, I served the foregoing

- **Supplemental Declaration of Arrash T. Fattahi in support of Plaintiff's Motion to Approve PAGA Settlement,** on the interested parties as follows:

Grace Y. Horoupian ghoroupian@fisherphillips.com Tuan Q. Nguyen tqnguyen@fisherphillips.com Fisher & Phillips LLP 2050 Main Street, Suite 1000 Irvine, CA 92614 Tel: (949) 798-2115	Attorneys for Defendants TRIAD EDUCATION, INC. and SMITH CHASON COLLEGE, INC.

(X) **BY E-MAIL:** Based on a court order or an agreement of the parties to accept service by electronic transmission, I caused the documents to be sent to the person at the email addresses listed above using One Legal.

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

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

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

Christina Hicklin