

PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between plaintiff Ashleigh Garrett (“Plaintiff”) and defendants Danny Chou erroneously sued as Dan Chou, Have Blue, LLC, A4 Capital, LLC (collectively referred to as “Defendants”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendants collectively as “Parties,” or individually as “Party.”

1 DEFINITIONS.

- 1.1 “Action” or “Operative Complaint” means the Plaintiff’s PAGA lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendants captioned *Ashleigh Garrett v. Dan Chou, et al.*, initiated on December 12, 2023 and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Alameda, Case No. 23CV056472.
- 1.2 “Administrator” means Phoenix Class Action Administration Solutions (“Phoenix”), 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 PAGA 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 all persons who are or have been employed by Defendants as hourly nonexempt employees at *Massage Envy*, located at 2100 Portola Avenue, Suite E, Livermore, California and/or 3348 Village Drive, Castro Valley, California during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5 “Aggrieved Employee Data” means Aggrieved Employee identifying information in Defendants’ 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 “Approval Order” means the proposed Court Order Granting Approval of PAGA Settlement.
- 1.8 “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.
- 1.9 “Defense Counsel” means Annette Rose and Renee Corona of Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP
- 1.10 “Effective Date” means the date on which the Final Award becomes final. For purposes of this Section, the Final Award “becomes final” only upon the latter of:

(i) the Court grants the Motion for PAGA Settlement Approval and upon service of the Notice of Entry of Order and/or Judgment provided that no Aggrieved Employees or the State of California objected to this Settlement, (ii) if any such objections have been raised or filed, the expiration date of the time for the filing or noticing of any appeal from, or other challenge to, the Order Granting PAGA Settlement Approval and/or Judgment (this time period shall not be less than sixty (60) calendar days after the Court's Order/Judgment is entered); (iii) if appeal is filed, the date of affirmance of an appeal of the Order Granting PAGA Settlement Approval and/or Judgment becomes final under the California Rules of Court; or (iv) the date of final dismissal of any appeal from the Order Granting PAGA Settlement Approval and/or Judgment or the final dismissal of any proceeding on review of any court of appeal decision.

- 1.11 "Gross PAGA Settlement Amount" means \$60,000.00 which is the total amount Defendants agree to pay under the Settlement for the Released PAGA Claims. The Gross PAGA Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administrator's Expenses Payment.
- 1.12 "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.
- 1.13 "Judgment" means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Court's approval of the settlement.
- 1.14 "LWDA" means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.15 "LWDA PAGA Payment" means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.16 "Net Settlement Amount" means the amount remaining to distribute to the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees after the following amounts (subject to Court approval) are subtracted from the Gross Settlement Amount: (a) PAGA Counsel Fees Payment up to one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount, currently estimated at \$20,000.00; (b) PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$10,000.00; and (c) the Administration Expenses Payment.
- 1.17 "Notice of PAGA Settlement" means the letter, substantially similar to the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, explaining the Settlement to the Aggrieved Employees, which will accompany each settlement check.
- 1.18 "PAGA Counsel" means Alexei Kuchinsky, Esq. of Kuchinsky Law Office, P.C., the attorney currently representing the Plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.19 "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 Action. Defendants will not oppose Plaintiff's request for attorneys' fees in the amount of up to one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount, currently estimated at \$20,000.00, and PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$10,000.00. In the event the Court approves a payment of less than these amounts, the difference will be added to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will report these payments on IRS Form 1099 issued to PAGA Counsel.

- 1.20 "PAGA Pay Period" means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendants for at least one day during the PAGA Period.
- 1.21 "PAGA Period" means the period from September 14, 2022, to September 19, 2024.
- 1.22 "PAGA" means the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).
- 1.23 "PAGA Notice" means Plaintiff's September 14, 2023, letter to Defendants and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a).
- 1.24 "PAGA Penalties" means the Net Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees and the 75% to LWDA in settlement of PAGA claims.
- 1.25 "Plaintiff" means Ashleigh Garrett, the named plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.26 "Released PAGA Claims" means the claims being released by Plaintiff, Aggrieved Employees, and PAGA Counsel and as described in Paragraph 5, below.
- 1.27 "Released Parties" means: Defendants and each of their past, present, and future parents, subsidiaries, affiliated companies, agents, managing agents, employees, servants, officers, directors, owners (whether direct or indirect), franchisors, general partners, limited partners, trustees, representatives, shareholders, stockholders, members, mortgagees or ground lessors, attorneys, parents, subsidiaries, equity sponsors, related companies/corporations and/or partnerships, divisions, assigns, predecessors, successors, insurers, consultants, joint venturers, joint employers, potential and/or alleged joint employers, temporary staffing agencies, dual employers, potential and/or alleged dual employers, co-employers, potential and/or alleged co-employers, common law employers, contractors, affiliates, service providers, alter-egos, potential and/or alleged alter-egos, vendors, affiliated organizations, any person and/or entity with potential or alleged to have joint liability, and all of their respective past, present and future employees, directors, officers, members, owners, agents, representatives, payroll agencies, attorneys, stockholders, fiduciaries, parents, subsidiaries, other service providers, and assigns and any and all persons and/or entities acting under, by, through or in concert with any of them.

- 1.28 “Representative” means the named Plaintiff in the Action seeking Court approval to serve as a Representative for the Aggrieved Employees.
- 1.29 “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.30 “Defendants” means Danny Chou erroneously sued as Dan Chou, Have Blue, LLC, A4 Capital, LLC.

2 RECITALS.

- 2.1 On December 12, 2023, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a Complaint seeking penalties against Defendants, pursuant to PAGA for Defendants’ alleged violations of California wage and hour law under the Labor Code; including, but not limited to, failure to pay overtime, failure to provide compliant meal and rest periods, failure to pay premiums for non-compliant meal and rest breaks, failure to provide sick leave, inaccurate wage statements, and penalties pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004. In addition, to the PAGA claims, Plaintiff alleged individual claims for unpaid wages and wrongful termination. The Complaint is the operative complaint in the Action. Defendants deny the allegations in the Operative Complaint, deny any failure to comply with the laws identified in the Operative Complaint and deny 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 the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.
- 2.3 On September 19, 2024, the Parties participated in a mediation with Michael Leb, which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.
- 2.4 Prior to mediation, Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery, a 25% sampling of employees’ wage and time records, the number of Aggrieved Employees and applicable pay periods.

3 MONETARY TERMS.

- 3.1 Gross Settlement Amount. Defendants promise to pay \$60,000.00 and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendants must pay the Gross PAGA Settlement Amount by the deadline stated in Paragraph 4.3 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross PAGA Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross PAGA Settlement Amount will revert to Defendants.
- 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 Approval Order:

- 3.2.1 To PAGA Counsel: A PAGA Counsel Fees Payment of not more than one-third of the Gross PAGA Settlement Amount which is currently estimated to be \$20,000.00 and PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$10,000.00. Defendants 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 a stipulation or motion for PAGA Approval, including for approval of 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 that is 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 I099 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 Defendants harmless, and indemnifies Defendants, 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 \$3,000.00 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the Administration Expenses are less or the Court approves a payment that is less than \$3,000.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.
- 3.2.3 To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: The Net Settlement Amount, the PAGA Penalties, will be distributed 75% to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% to the Individual PAGA Payments.
- 3.2.3.1 The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalties by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Period Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.
- 3.2.3.2 If the Court approves PAGA Penalties of less than the amount requested, the Administrator will allocate the

remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS I099 Forms.

4 SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.

- 4.1 Aggrieved Employee Pay Periods. Based on a review of its records at the time of mediation, Defendants estimate there were approximately 3,056 PAGA Pay Periods.
- 4.2 Aggrieved Employee Data. Within 30 calendar days after the Court grants Approval of the PAGA Settlement, Defendants 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 only Administrator employees who need access to the Aggrieved Employee Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel are not to be provided the Aggrieved Employee Data. Defendants have 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. 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. Defendants shall fully fund the Gross PAGA Settlement Amount by transmitting the funds to a qualified settlement account established by Settlement Administrator no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the Effective Date. In the event that the PAGA Settlement does not become effective as required under Paragraph 1.10 of this Agreement, Settlement Administrator shall return all Settlement Funds deposited to Defendants. Any service fees owed to Settlement Administrator shall be equally split and paid by the parties.
- 4.4 Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within 14 business days after Defendants complete funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, AND the PAGA Counsel Expenses Payment. Disbursement of the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment shall not precede disbursement of Individual PAGA Payments.
 - 4.4.1 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.

- 4.4.2 The distribution of Individual PAGA Payments shall be accompanied by the Notice of PAGA Settlement.
- 4.4.3 The Administrator must conduct an Aggrieved Employee Address Search for all Aggrieved Employees whose checks are returned 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.
- 4.4.4 For any Aggrieved Employee whose 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.
- 4.4.5 The payment of Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendants 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 Defendants fully fund the entire Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff, and Aggrieved Employees, will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

5.1 Release by Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees:

The State of California and all Aggrieved Employees, including Plaintiff, 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, known or unknown, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and/or the PAGA Notice, including, but not limited to, failure to pay overtime, failure to provide compliant meal and rest periods, failure to pay premiums for non-compliant meal and rest breaks, failure to provide sick leave, inaccurate wage statements, and penalties pursuant to

the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Labor Code sections 200-204, 210, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 245 *et. seq.*, 510, 512, 558, 1102.5, 2698, 2699 *et seq.*, 2699.3, 2699.5, the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Orders and California Code of Regulations, Title 8, section 11050. Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees shall be deemed to have acknowledged and agreed that their claims in this Action are disputed, and that the payments to them set forth in this Agreement constitute payment of all sums allegedly due to them. Aggrieved employees shall not have the ability to request exclusion or opt-out from the release claims outlined above.

5.2 Release of Attorneys' Fees:

Plaintiff, the State of California and all Aggrieved Employees release on behalf of themselves and their respective present and former representatives, attorneys, heirs, administrators, employees, agents, successors and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Counsel Expenses Payment incurred in connection with or any way related to, the Action, the PAGA Period facts stated in the Action, and the PAGA Notice, except for the right to enforce the provisions of settlement providing for the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Counsel Expenses Payment.

6 MOTION OR STIPULATION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT. Plaintiff shall 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 a stipulation or motion for approval of PAGA Settlement, including 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 the Administrator attaching its "not to exceed" bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve; competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Aggrieved Employee Data; amounts of insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Aggrieved Employees or the LWDA; and the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiff, PAGA Counsel or Defense Counsel; (iii) a signed declaration from PAGA Counsel 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. (1)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (1)(2)); and (iv) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Aggrieved Employees and/or the Administrator.

6.2 Responsibilities of PAGA Counsel. PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the stipulation or motion for approval of this Settlement and, if necessary, obtaining a prompt hearing date for the stipulation or motion and appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the

stipulation or motion. PAGA Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Order Granting Approval of PAGA Settlement to the Administrator.

- 6.3 Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed stipulation 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 stipulation or motion for approval of this Settlement or conditions its approval on any material change to this Agreement, PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously attempt to work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, try 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 to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, agrees 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, if any, and providing reports to state and federal tax authorities.
- 7.3 Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1.
- 7.4 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**

- 8.1 Based on its records, Defendants estimate that, as of the date of the mediation, there were approximately 3,056 Pay Periods during the PAGA Period. Should the number of Pay Periods during the PAGA increase by more than five percent (10%), the Gross Settlement Amount shall increase in proportion to the increase in the number of Pay Periods above 3,056—*e.g.*, if the Pay Periods increase by six percent (11%) or to 3,362 Pay Periods, the Gross Settlement Amount shall also increase by one percent (1%).

- 9 **NULLIFICATION OF AGREEMENT.** In the event: (i) the Court does not enter the Approval Order and approve the Released PAGA Claims specified herein; or (ii) the Settlement does not become final for any other reason, this Settlement Agreement shall be null and void. A reduction of the attorneys' fees and expenses shall not be grounds for nullification of this Settlement. If the Settlement is nullified, any order or judgment entered by the Court in furtherance of this Agreement shall be treated as void from the beginning, and the provisions contained herein shall be of no force or effect, and shall not be treated as an admission by the Parties or their counsel. In such a case, the Parties and any funds to be awarded under this Agreement shall be returned to their respective statuses as of the date and time immediately prior to the execution of this Agreement, and the Parties shall proceed in all respects as if this Agreement had not been executed, except that any fees already incurred by the settlement administrator shall be paid equally by both Parties.
- 10 **CONTINUING JURISDICTION OF THE COURT.** The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.
- 10.1 **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, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.
- 10.2 **Appellate Court Orders to Vacate, Reverse, or Materially Modify Judgment.** If the reviewing Court vacates, reverses, or modifies the Judgment in a manner that requires a material modification of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Aggrieved Employees), this Agreement shall be null and void. The Parties shall nevertheless expeditiously work together in good faith to address the appellate court's concerns and try to obtain approval of the Settlement and entry of Judgment, sharing, on a 50-50 basis, any additional Administration Expenses reasonably incurred after remittitur. An appellate decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of any payments to PAGA Counsel shall not constitute a material modification of the Judgment within the meaning of this paragraph, as long as the Gross PAGA Settlement Amount remains unchanged.

11 ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

- 11.1 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 Defendants that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that Defendants have any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendants' defenses in the Action 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, Defendants reserve all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiff reserves the right to contest Defendants' defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement and Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation (except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement or to support a defense of res judicata, collateral estoppel, release, or other theory of claim or issue preclusion or similar defense as to the claims being released in this PAGA Settlement Agreement).
- 11.2 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.
- 11.3 Attorney Authorization. PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff and Defendants, 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.
- 11.4 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.
- 11.5 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.
- 11.6 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, PAGA Counsel, Defendants nor Defense Counsel are providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything

in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.

- 11.7 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.
- 11.8 Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 11.9 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.
- 11.10 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.
- 11.11 Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made, and orders entered during Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.
- 11.12 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 Defendants 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 all Settlement funds, Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel shall destroy all paper and electronic Aggrieved Employee Data received from Defendants unless, prior to the Administrator's payment of all Settlement Funds, Defendants make a written request to PAGA Counsel for the return, rather than the destruction, of such paper and electronic Aggrieved Employee Data.
- 11.13 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.
- 11.14 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.
- 11.15 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:

Alex Kuchinsky, Esq.
ak@kuchinskylawoffice.com
Kuchinsky Law Office, P.C.
220 Montgomery Street, Suite 2100
San Francisco, CA 94104

To Defendants:

Annette Rose, Esq.
arose@grsm.com
Renee Corona, Esq.
rcorona@grsm.com
GORDON REES SCULLY MANSUKHANI, LLP
3 Parkcenter Drive, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95825
Telephone: (916) 565-2900
Facsimile: (916) 920-4402

11.16 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.

11.17 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, pursuant to CCP § 583.330, to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP § 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

The Settlement Agreement consists of 14 pages.

[THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK – SIGNATURES TO FOLLOW]

Dated: 10/10/2024

Ashleigh Garrett

Plaintiff Ashleigh Garrett

Dated: _____

Defendant Danny Chou erroneously sued as Dan
Chou, individually

Dated: _____

Danny Chou
for: Defendant Have Blue, LLC

Dated: _____

Danny Chou
for: Defendant A4 Capital, LLC

Dated: _____

Plaintiff Ashleigh Garrett

Dated: October 10, 2024 | 11:15 AM PDT

DocuSigned by:
DANNY CHOU
AA28AF52EFDC438...
Defendant Danny Chou erroneously sued as Dan
Chou, individually

Dated: October 10, 2024 | 11:15 AM PDT

DocuSigned by:
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Danny Chou
for: Defendant Have Blue, LLC

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