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9 Attorneys for Plaintiff FRANCISCO AMEZQUITA
10 and all other Aggrieved Employees

11 **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**
12 **COUNTY OF IMPERIAL – EN CENTRO COURTHOUSE**
13

14 FRANCISCO AMEZQUITA, on behalf of
15 himself and all other aggrieved employees,

16 Plaintiff,

17 vs.

18 KAIZEN RESOURCES, INC., a Delaware
19 corporation; and DOES 1 through 100,
inclusive,

20 Defendants.
21

Case No. ECU003568

[Hon. Jeffrey B. Jones, Dept. 5]

**DECLARATION OF ADRIAN C. BYRNE
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF’S MOTION
FOR APPROVAL OF REPRESENTATIVE
PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Date: February 20, 2025

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Dept.: 5

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I, Adrian C. Byrne, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice before all of the courts of the State of California. I am co-lead counsel of record for Plaintiff Francisco Amezcuita and the allegedly aggrieved employees in the above-captioned action. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration and, if called upon to do so, could and would testify competently thereto, except where I make a statement on information and belief, in which case I am informed and believe the statement to be true.

2. I, along with my co-counsel John Van Hook of Van Hook Law Firm, have been representing Plaintiff throughout this litigation. I make this declaration in support of Plaintiff's Motion for Approval of Representative PAGA Settlement (the "Motion").

3. The following is a brief description of my legal background: I graduated from Bristol Law School in the United Kingdom and was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2010. In 2013, I became licensed to practice as a Solicitor of England and Wales. I subsequently became licensed as an attorney in California in 2015.

4. For over 9 years, I have worked exclusively on employment law with a focus on complex and individual wage and hour cases. During that time, I estimate that I have litigated over 50 representative PAGA and/or class wage and hour actions.

5. I have been selected for several years to Southern California Super Lawyers – Rising Star list in the category of “Employment Litigation Plaintiff”.

6. My hourly rate is \$465. This rate has been approved by numerous courts and arbitrators in comparable litigation. In litigating this PAGA representative action, I estimate that I expended more than 35 hours of billable time, for a lodestar exceeding \$16,275.00.

7. From the outset of the case to the present, prosecution of this action has involved significant financial risk. My co-counsel and I undertook this matter on a contingent basis, investing significant time, resources, and out-of-pocket costs, with no guarantee of recovery, and at the expense of other work that we could have performed.

8. For all of the reasons set forth in Plaintiff's Motion and based on my experience litigating and settling wage and hour and class action cases, I believe the settlement reached in this case is fair, reasonable, and an excellent outcome for the State of California and the aggrieved employees. I strongly support this settlement and Plaintiff's Motion.

9. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on January 24, 2025.

Adrian C. Byrne