

## CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between Plaintiffs Teddy Lawrence Dreher (“Dreher”), Cutrenia M. Saxon (“Saxon”), Curtisha Holden (“Holden”), and Luke Perry (“Perry”) (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) and Defendant Center for Employment Opportunities, Inc. (“Defendant”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiffs and Defendant collectively as “Parties,” or individually as “Party.”

### 1. **DEFINITIONS.**

- 1.1 “Action” means Plaintiffs’ lawsuits alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned (1) *Dreher, et al. v. Center for Employment Opportunities, Inc.* initiated on September 1, 2023 in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Sacramento, Case No. 23CV007758, and subsequently removed to and currently pending in the United States District Court, Eastern District of California, Case No.: 2:23-cv-02515-JDP (the “Dreher Action”); (2) *Curtisha Holden v. Center for Employment Opportunities*, initiated on January 25, 2024, in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Alameda, Case No. 24CV061398, and subsequently removed to and currently pending in the United States District Court, Northern District of California, Case No. 3:24-cv-01269 (the “Holden Action”); and (3) *Luke Perry v. Center for Employment Opportunities*, initiated on January 23, 2024, in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Riverside, and subsequently removed to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, Case No. 24-cv-00489-KK-SP (the “Perry Action”). The Dreher Action, the Holden Action and the Perry Action were subsequently consolidated into a single consolidated complaint in the Dreher Action and is pending as the Second Amended Complaint in the Dreher Action. As part of the Settlement, the Parties agree to remand the Dreher matter to the Sacramento County Superior Court, where the settlement approval papers will be filed.
- 1.2 “Administrator” means Apex Class Action LLC (“Apex”), the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.
- 1.3 “Administration Expenses Payment” means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s “not to exceed” bid submitted to the Court in connection with Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.4 “Aggrieved Employee” means a person employed by Defendant in California as a non-exempt, hourly employee during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5 “Class” means all persons employed by Defendant in hourly, non-exempt positions in California during the Class Period.
- 1.6 “Class Counsel” means Emil Davtyan, David Yeremian, David Keledjian, David Arakelyan, Enoch J. Kim, and Norayr Zakaryan of D.Law, Inc.; Matthew J. Matern and

Deanna S. Leifer of Matern Law Group, P.C.; and Paul K. Haines, Sean M. Blakely, and Joel M. Gordon of Haines Law Group, APC.

- 1.7 “Class Counsel Fees Payment” and “Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment” mean the amounts allocated to Class Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action.
- 1.8 “Class Data” means Class Member identifying information in Defendant’s possession, including the Class Member’s name, last-known mailing address and email address if available, Social Security number, and number of Class Period Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods.
- 1.9 “Class Member” means a member of the Class, as either a Participating Class Member or Non-Participating Class Member (including a Non-Participating Class Member who qualifies as an Aggrieved Employee).
- 1.10 “Class Member Address Search” means the Administrator’s investigation and search for current Class Member mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods, and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address database, skip traces, and direct contact by the Administrator with Class Members.
- 1.11 “Class Notice” means the COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL, to be mailed to Class Members in English, attached as **Exhibit A** and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.
- 1.12 “Class Period” means the period from September 16, 2021 through March 7, 2025.
- 1.13 “Class Representatives” means the named Plaintiffs Teddy Lawrence Dreher, Cutrenia M. Saxon, Curtisha Holden, and Luke Perry seeking Court approval to serve as Class Representatives.
- 1.14 “Class Representative Service Payments” means the payment to the Class Representatives for initiating the Action and providing services in support of the Action.
- 1.15 “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento.
- 1.16 “Defendant” means named Defendant, Center for Employment Opportunities, Inc.
- 1.17 “Defense Counsel” means Adam Y. Siegel and Michael Y. Hsueh of Jackson Lewis P.C.
- 1.18 “Effective Date” means the date by when both of the following have occurred: (a) the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement; and

(b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (a) if no Participating Class Member objects to the Settlement, 65 days after the day the Court enters Judgment; (b) if one or more Participating Class Members objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment; or if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur.

- 1.19 “Final Approval” means the Court’s order granting final approval of the Settlement.
- 1.20 “Final Approval Hearing” means the Court’s hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.21 “Final Judgment” means the Judgment Entered by the Court upon Granting Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.22 “Gross Settlement Amount,” subject to Paragraph 8 below, means \$2,299,500.00 which is the total amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Counsel Fees, Class Counsel Expenses, Class Representative Service Payments and the Administrator’s Expenses. The Gross Settlement Amount does not include the employer’s share of payroll taxes, which will be paid by Defendant, and separate and in addition to this amount.
- 1.23 “Individual Class Payment” means the Participating Class Member’s pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the Class Period.
- 1.24 “Individual PAGA Payment” means the Aggrieved Employee’s pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of PAGA Pay Periods worked during the PAGA Period.
- 1.25 “Judgment” means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.
- 1.26 “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.27 “LWDA PAGA Payment” means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.28 “Net Settlement Amount” means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: the LWDA PAGA Payment, Individual PAGA Payments, Class Representatives Service Payments, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment.

The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members as Individual Class Payments.

- 1.29 “Non-Participating Class Member” means any Class Member who opts out of the Settlement by sending the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.
- 1.30 “PAGA Pay Period” means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Period.
- 1.31 “PAGA Period” means the period from September 1, 2022 through March 7, 2025.
- 1.32 “PAGA” means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).
- 1.33 “PAGA Notice” means Dreher’s September 1, 2023 letter to Defendant and the LWDA, Holden’s October 24, 2023 letter to Defendant and the LWDA, and Perry’s January 23, 2024 letter to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a), collectively.
- 1.34 “PAGA Penalties” means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees (\$25,000) and the 75% to LWDA (\$75,000.00) in settlement of PAGA claims.
- 1.35 “Participating Class Member” means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.
- 1.36 “Plaintiffs” means Teddy Lawrence Dreher, Cutrenia M. Saxon, Curtisha Holden, and Luke Perry, the named Plaintiffs in the Action.
- 1.37 “Preliminary Approval” means the Court’s Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.38 "Preliminary Approval Order" means the proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement.
- 1.39 “Released Class Claims” means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.2 below.
- 1.40 “Released PAGA Claims” means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.3 below.
- 1.41 “Released Parties” means Defendant and each of its former and present directors, officers, employees, shareholders, owners, members, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, subsidiaries, and affiliates.

1.42 “Request for Exclusion” means a Class Member’s submission of a written request to be excluded from the Class Settlement signed by the Class Member.

1.43 “Response Deadline” means 60 days after the Administrator mails Notice to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees, and shall be the last date on which Class Members may: (a) fax, email, or mail Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, or (b) fax, email, or mail his or her Objection to the Settlement. Class Members to whom Notice Packets are resent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator shall have an additional 14 calendar days beyond the Response Deadline has expired.

1.44 “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.

1.45 “Workweek” means any week during which a Class Member worked for Defendant for at least one day during the Class Period.

## 2. **RECITALS.**

2.1 On September 1, 2023, Dreher commenced this Action by filing a Complaint in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, alleging causes of action against Defendant for violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Order for (1) Failure to Provide Meal Periods; (2) Failure to Provide Rest Periods; (3) Failure to Pay Hourly Wages and Overtime, (4) Failure to Pay Proper Reporting Time Wages, (5) Failure to Pay Proper Sick Pay, (6) Failure to Provide Accurate Written Wage Statements, (7) Failure to Pay All Wages Upon Termination, (8) Failure to Indemnify; and (9) Unfair Competition in violation of California Business and Professions Code section 17200, et. seq. (the “Original Action.”). On September 1, 2023, Plaintiff Dreher also submitted his PAGA letter to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”).

2.2 On November 1, 2023, the Dreher Action was removed to the United States District Court, Eastern District of California, and assigned Case No.: 2:23-cv-02515-JDP.

2.3 On November 16, 2023, Dreher filed a First Amended Complaint in the United States District Court adding a cause of action against Defendant for civil penalties for violation of PAGA, predicated on underlying violations of Labor Code sections § 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 226.8, 246, 510, 512, 515, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1185, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1199, 2698, 2699, et seq., and 2802, et. seq., and the applicable Wage Orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission.

2.4 On January 23, 2024, Perry commenced an action against Defendant titled *Luke Perry v. Center for Employment Opportunities*, in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Riverside for violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Orders for (1) failure to pay minimum wages; (2) failure to pay overtime wages; (3) failure to provide meal periods; (4) failure to provide rest periods; (5) failure to reimburse for necessary business expenses; (6) failure to provide accurate written wage statements; and (7) unfair competition. On the same date, Perry also submitted a PAGA letter to the LWDA.

- 2.5 On March 5, 2024, the Perry Action was removed to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, and assigned Case No. 24-cv-00489-KK-SP.
- 2.6 On January 25, 2024, Holden commenced an action against Defendant titled *Curtisha Holden v. Center for Employment Opportunities*, in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Alameda for violation of the Labor Code and the Wage Orders for (1) failure to provide meal periods; (2) failure to authorize and permit rest periods; (3) failure to pay minimum wages; (4) failure to pay overtime wages; (5) failure to pay all wages due to discharged and quitting employees; (6) failure to maintain required records; (7) failure to furnish accurate written wage statements; (8) failure to indemnify; (9) unfair competition; and (10) PAGA. Holden had submitted her PAGA letter to the LWDA on October 24, 2023.
- 2.7 On March 1, 2024, the Holden Action was removed to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, and assigned Case No. 3:24-cv-01269.
- 2.8 On June 28, 2024, Plaintiffs filed a Second Amended (Consolidated) Complaint in the Dreher Action (the “Operative Complaint”), adding Saxon, Holden, and Perry as named plaintiffs and proposed class representatives. Perry and Holden subsequently dismissed the Perry Action and the Holden Action.
- 2.9 Defendant expressly denies any liability or wrongdoing of any kind associated with the claims alleged in the Action and those released as part of this settlement of the Action. Defendant denies all material allegations set forth in the Operative Complaint and have asserted numerous affirmative defenses. Defendant maintains, among other things, it has complied with federal and California law in all respects. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed an admission of liability, culpability, negligence or wrongdoing on the part of Defendant. Notwithstanding, in the interest in avoiding further litigation, Defendant desires to fully and finally settle the Action, Released Class Claims, and Released PAGA Claims.
- 2.10 Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a), Plaintiffs gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.
- 2.11 On July 2, 2024, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by experienced wage and hour mediator Brandon McKelvey, Esq., which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.
- 2.12 Prior to mediation, Plaintiffs obtained, through informal discovery, a representative sample of the payroll and timekeeping records of the Class Members, among other data. Plaintiffs’ investigation was sufficient to satisfy the criteria for court approval set forth in *Dunk v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1801 and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116, 129-130 (“Dunk/Kullar”).

2.13 The Court has not granted class certification.

3. **MONETARY TERMS.**

3.1 Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 8 below, Defendant promises to pay \$2,299,500.00 and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount, and to separately pay any and all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant.

3.2 Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Final Approval Order:

3.2.1 To Plaintiffs: Class Representative Service Payments to the Class Representatives of not more than \$10,000.00 each (totaling \$40,000.00). These amounts are subject to approval by the Court and are in addition to any Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment the Class Representatives are entitled to receive as Participating Class Members. Defendant will not oppose Plaintiffs' request for Class Representative Service Payments that do not exceed this amount. As part of the motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment, Plaintiffs will seek Court approval for any Class Representative Service Payments no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Representative Service Payment less than the amount requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will pay the Class Representative Service Payments using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiffs shall be solely and legally responsible to pay and all applicable taxes on their Class Representative Service Payments and shall hold Defendant harmless from any claim or liability for taxes, penalties, or interest arising as a result of the Class Representatives Service Payments. It is understood by Plaintiffs and Class Counsel that the Court has final discretion on any Class Representative Service Payments.

3.2.2 To Class Counsel: A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount, which is currently estimated to be \$766,500.00, and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$40,000.00. Defendant will not oppose requests for these payments provided they do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiffs and/or Class Counsel will file a motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Counsel Fees Payment and/or a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the

Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to Class Counsel or any other Plaintiffs' Counsel arising from any claim to any portion of any Class Counsel Fee Payment and/or Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. Class Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the Class Counsel Fees Payment and the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds Defendant harmless, and indemnifies Defendant, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these Payments. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, if the Court should fail to award attorneys' fees to Class Counsel in the full amount provided for in this Agreement, no order of the Court or modification of any order of the Court concerning the amount of any attorneys' fees to be paid by Defendant to Class Counsel pursuant to this settlement shall constitute grounds for cancellation or termination of the Agreement or grounds for limiting any other provision of the Judgment. It is agreed that no order of the Court, including any order concerning attorneys' fees, may alter or otherwise increase the Gross Settlement Amount except for the escalation clause being triggered pursuant to Paragraph 8.

- 3.2.3 To the Administrator: An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed \$40,000.000 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 \$40,000.000, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.
- 3.2.4 To Each Participating Class Member: An Individual Class Payment calculated by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Participating Class Member's Workweeks.
  - 3.2.4.1 Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. 15% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portions are subject to tax withholding and will be reported on an IRS W-2 Form. 85% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of claims for interest and penalties (the "Non-Wage Portion"). The Non-Wage Portions are not subject to wage withholdings and will be reported on IRS 1099 Forms. Participating Class Members assume full responsibility and liability for any employee taxes owed on their Individual Class Payment.
  - 3.2.4.2 Effect of Non-Participating Class Members on Calculation of Individual Class Payments. Non-Participating Class Members will not receive any Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will retain amounts equal to their Individual Class Payments in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis.

3.2.5 To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties in the amount of \$100,000.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% (\$75,000.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (\$25,000.00) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.

3.2.5.1 The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalties (\$25,000.00) by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

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

#### 4. **SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.**

4.1 Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods. Based on a review of its records as of the date of mediation, July 2, 2024, Defendant estimates there are 6,728 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 92,006 Workweeks, and 1,144 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total of 135,606 PAGA Pay Periods.

4.2 Class Data. Not later than 15 days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendant will deliver the Class Data to the Administrator, in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Class Members' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Class Data in confidence, use the Class Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Class Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Class Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. The Administrator will not provide Class Data to Class Counsel. The Class Data provided to the Settlement Administrator will be treated as confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone, except as may be required to applicable tax authorities, pursuant to Defendant's express written consent, by order of the Court, or to carry out the reasonable steps described in this Settlement to locate missing Class Members. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify Class Counsel if it discovers that the Class Data omitted class member identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Class Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendant must send the Class Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Class Data.

- 4.3 Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount and the amounts necessary to fully pay Defendant's share of payroll taxes by transmitting the first half of the funds due to the Administrator no later than 14 days after the Effective Date, and the second half of the funds to the Administrator no later than six (6) months after transmission of the first payment.
- 4.4 Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within 14 days after Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payments.
- 4.4.1 The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual Class Payments and/or Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Class Members via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (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. The Administrator will send checks for Individual Settlement Payments to all Participating Class Members (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator will send checks for Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees including Non-Participating Class Members who qualify as Aggrieved Employees (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator may send Participating Class Members a single check combining the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment. Before mailing any checks, the Settlement Administrator must update the recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.
- 4.4.2 The Administrator must conduct a Class Member Address Search for all other Class Members whose checks are returned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within seven (7) days of receiving a returned check, the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Class Member Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to deliver checks to Class Members whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Class Member whose original check was lost or misplaced, if requested by the Class Member prior to the void date.
- 4.4.3 For any Class Member whose Individual Class Payment check or Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to Legal Aid of Northern California (50%) and Legal Aid of Southern California (50%), non-profit organizations providing legal services to the indigent, thereby leaving no "unpaid residue" subject to the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 384, subd. (b).

4.4.4 The payment of Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, and the Class Representative Service Payments made to Plaintiffs, as well as any other payments made under this Agreement, shall not be utilized to calculate any additional benefits under any benefit plans to which any Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees may be eligible, including, but not limited to: profit sharing plans, bonus plans, 401(k) plans, stock purchase plans, vacation plans, sick leave plans, PTO plans, and any other benefit plans. Rather, it is the Parties' intention that this Settlement will not affect any rights, contributions, or amounts to which any Participating Class Member or Aggrieved Employee may be entitled under any benefit plans.

5. **RELEASES OF CLAIMS.** Effective on the date when Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount and funds all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments, Plaintiffs, Class Members, and Aggrieved Employees will release claims against the Released Parties as follows:

5.1 **Plaintiffs' Release.** Plaintiffs and their respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all claims, transactions, or occurrences, including, but not limited to: (a) all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained, in the Operative Complaint;(b) all PAGA claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged based on facts contained in the Operative Complaint in the Action and in the PAGA Notice; (c) any claim arising out of the California common law of contract; the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*, and federal common law; and (d) all claims arising out of their employment by Defendant, including but not limited to claims for lost wages and benefits, emotional distress, retaliation, punitive damages, and attorneys' fees and costs arising under federal, state, or local laws for discrimination, harassment, and wrongful termination, including but not limited to, 42 U.S.C. section 1981, title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, the California Labor code, and the law of contract and tort ("Plaintiffs' Release"). Plaintiffs' 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 to any claims arising after the date of Plaintiffs' execution of this Agreement. Plaintiffs acknowledge that Plaintiffs may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiffs now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiffs' Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiffs' discovery of them.

Plaintiffs' Release does not pertain to any individual wrongful termination and/or discrimination claims, and related relief, for Plaintiff Cutrenia Saxon, which are being negotiated separately, and any individual wrongful termination and/or discrimination claims, and related relief, by Plaintiff Teddy Lawrence Dreher, titled *Teddy Lawrence Dreher v. Center For Employment Opportunities, Inc., et al.*, which are currently pending

in the Superior Court of California, County of Superior, Case No. 23CV423538 (“Preserved Claims”).

5.1.1 Plaintiffs’ Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542. For purposes of Plaintiffs’ Release, and excluding the Preserved Claims in Paragraph 5.1 above, Plaintiffs expressly waive and relinquish the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

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

5.2 Release by Participating Class Members: All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the allegations and causes of action stated in the Operative Complaint, including claims for (1) Failure to Provide Meal Periods, (2) Failure to Provide Rest Periods, (3) Failure to Pay Hourly Wages and Overtime, (4) Failure to Pay Proper Reporting Time Wages, (5) Failure to Pay Proper Sick Pay, (6) Failure to Provide Accurate Written Wage Statements, (7) Failure to Timely Pay All Final Wages, (8) Failure to Pay Wages Due, Negotiable and Payable in Cash on Demand, (9) Failure to Indemnify for Reasonable Business Expenses, and (10) Unfair Competition under California Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.* (“Released Class Claims”). Except as set forth in Section 5.3 of this Agreement, Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers’ compensation, claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period, or the Preserved Claims.

5.3 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 allegations stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice, including claims for (1) Failure to Provide Meal Periods, (2) Failure to Provide Rest Periods, (3) Failure to Pay Hourly Wages and Overtime, (4) Failure to Pay Proper Reporting Time Wages, (5) Failure to Pay Proper Sick Pay, (6) Failure to Provide Accurate Written Wage Statements, (7) Failure to Timely Pay All Final Wages, (8) Failure to Pay Wages Due, Negotiable and Payable in Cash on Demand, (9) Failure to Indemnify for Reasonable Business Expenses, and (10) violation of Labor Code section 2698, *et. seq.* (“Released PAGA Claims”).

6. **MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL.** The Parties agree that Plaintiffs will prepare and file a motion for preliminary approval (“Motion for Preliminary Approval”) that complies with the Court’s current checklist for Preliminary Approval.

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

6.2 Responsibilities of Counsel. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval; obtaining a prompt hearing date for the Motion for Preliminary Approval; and for appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the Motion for Preliminary Approval. Class Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Preliminary Approval Order to the Administrator.

6.3 Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed Motion for Preliminary Approval and/or the supporting declarations and documents, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does not grant Preliminary Approval or conditions Preliminary Approval on any material change to this Agreement, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

## 7. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

7.1 Selection of Administrator. The Parties have jointly selected Apex to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, Apex 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 Notice to Class Members.

7.4.1 No later than three (3) business days after receipt of the Class Data, the Administrator shall notify Class Counsel that the list has been received and state the number of Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, Workweeks, and Pay Periods in the Class Data.

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

7.4.3 Not later than three (3) business days after the Administrator’s receipt of any Class Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the Class Notice using any forwarding address provided by the USPS. If the USPS does not provide a forwarding address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class Member Address Search, and re-mail the Class Notice to the most current address obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further attempts to locate or send Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by the USPS a second time.

7.4.4 The deadlines for Class Members’ written objections, Challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional 14 days beyond the 60 days otherwise provided in the Class Notice for all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.

- 7.4.5 If the Administrator, Defendant or Class Counsel is contacted by or otherwise discovers any persons who believe they should have been included in the Class Data and should have received Class Notice, the Parties will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, in an effort to agree on whether to include them as Class Members. If the Parties agree, such persons will be Class Members entitled to the same rights as other Class Members, and the Administrator will send, via email or overnight delivery, a Class Notice requiring them to exercise options under this Agreement not later than 14 days after receipt of Class Notice, or the deadline dates in the Class Notice, whichever are later.

#### 7.5 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs).

- 7.5.1 Any Class Member, other than Plaintiffs, may opt-out from the Settlement. Class Members who wish to exclude themselves from the Class Settlement must send the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail, a signed written Request for Exclusion not later than 60 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed). A Request for Exclusion is a letter from a Class Member that reasonably communicates the Class Member's election to be excluded from the Settlement and includes the Class Member's name, last four digits of the Social Security Number of the Class Member requesting exclusion, address and email address and telephone number. To be valid, a Request for Exclusion must be timely faxed, emailed, or postmarked by the Response Deadline. At no time shall any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class Members to submit a Request for Exclusion. Class Counsel shall not represent any Class Members with any such request.
- 7.5.2 The Administrator may not reject a Request for Exclusion as invalid because it fails to contain all the information specified in the Class Notice. The Administrator shall accept any Request for Exclusion as valid if the Administrator can reasonably ascertain the identity of the person as a Class Member and the Class Member's desire to be excluded. If the Administrator has reason to question the authenticity of a Request for Exclusion, the Administrator may demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity.
- 7.5.3 Every Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion is deemed to be a Participating Class Member under this Agreement, entitled to all benefits and bound by all terms and conditions of the Settlement, including the Participating Class Members' Releases under Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of this Agreement, regardless whether the Participating Class Member actually receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.
- 7.5.4 Every Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion is a Non-Participating Class Member and shall not receive an Individual Class Payment or have the right to object to the class action components of the

Settlement. Because future PAGA claims are subject to claim preclusion upon entry of the Judgment, Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release the claims identified in Paragraph 5.3 of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.

7.6 Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks and Pay Periods. Each Class Member shall have 60 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if any) allocated to the Class Member in the Class Notice. The Class Member may challenge the allocation by communicating with the Administrator via fax, email or mail. The Administrator must encourage the challenging Class Member to submit supporting documentation. In the absence of any contrary documentation, the Administrator is entitled to presume, after consultation with Defendant's counsel, that the Workweeks contained in the Class Notice are correct so long as they are consistent with the Class Data. The Administrator's determination of each Class Member's allocation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods shall not be appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge by a Class Member. The Administrator shall promptly provide copies of all challenges to calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel (Class Counsel's copy to have identifying information redacted) and the Administrator's determination to the challenges.

7.7 Objections to Settlement.

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

7.7.2 Participating Class Members may send written objections to the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail. In the alternative, Participating Class Members may appear in Court (or hire an attorney to appear in Court) to present verbal objections at the Final Approval Hearing. A Participating Class Member who elects to send a written objection to the Administrator must do so not later than 60 days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice was re-mailed). At no time shall any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class Members to submit an objection. Class Counsel shall not represent any Class Members with any such objections.

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

7.7.4 Participating Class Members are not permitted to object to the PAGA portion of the Settlement.

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

- 7.8.1 Website, Email Address and Toll-Free Number. The Administrator will establish and maintain and use an internet website to post information of interest to Class Members including the date, time and location for the Final Approval Hearing and copies of the Settlement Agreement, Motion for Preliminary Approval, the Preliminary Approval, the Class Notice, the Motion for Final Approval, the Motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and Class Representatives Service Payments, the Final Approval and the Judgment. The Administrator will also maintain and monitor an email address and a toll-free telephone number to receive Class Member calls, faxes and emails.
- 7.8.2 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-outs) and Exclusion List. The Administrator will promptly review on a rolling basis Requests for Exclusion to ascertain their validity. Not later than 5 days after the expiration of the deadline for submitting Requests for Exclusion, the Administrator shall email a list to Defense Counsel containing (a) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have timely submitted valid Requests for Exclusion (“Exclusion List”); (b) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have submitted invalid Requests for Exclusion; (c) copies of all Requests for Exclusion from Settlement submitted (whether valid or invalid). Not later than 5 days after the expiration of the deadline for submitting Requests for Exclusion, the Administrator shall email copies of all Requests for Exclusion from Settlement submitted (whether valid or invalid) with the Class Members’ identifying information redacted.
- 7.8.3 Weekly Reports. The Administrator must, on a weekly basis, provide written reports to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel that, among other things, tally the number of: Class Notices mailed or re-mailed, Class Notices returned undelivered, Requests for Exclusion (whether valid or invalid) received, objections received, challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods received and/or resolved, and checks mailed for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments (“Weekly Report”). The Weekly Reports must include provide the Administrator’s assessment of the validity of Requests for Exclusion.
- 7.8.4 Workweek and/or Pay Period Challenges. The Administrator has the authority to address and make final decisions consistent with the terms of this Agreement on all Class Member challenges over the calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods after consultation with Defendant’s counsel. The Administrator’s decision shall not be appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge by a Class Member.
- 7.8.5 Administrator’s Declaration. Not later than 14 days before the date by which Plaintiffs are required to file the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, the Administrator will provide to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its due diligence and

compliance with all of its obligations under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, its mailing of Class Notice, the Class Notices returned as undelivered, the re-mailing of Class Notices, attempts to locate Class Members, the total number of Requests for Exclusion from Settlement it received (both valid or invalid), and the number of written objections and attach the Exclusion List with Non-Participating Class Members identified by employee identification number only. The Administrator will supplement its declaration as needed or requested by the Parties and/or the Court. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration(s) in Court.

- 7.8.6 Final Report by Settlement Administrator. Within 10 days after the Administrator disburses all funds in the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will provide Class Counsel and Defense Counsel with a final report detailing its disbursements by employee identification number only of all payments made under this Agreement. At least 15 days before any deadline set by the Court, the Administrator will prepare, and submit to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its disbursement of all payments required under this Agreement. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration in Court.
8. CLASS SIZE ESTIMATES and ESCALATOR CLAUSE. Based on its records, Defendant estimates that, as of July 2, 2024, (1) there were 6,728 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 92,006 Workweeks during the Class Period, and (2) there were 1,144 Aggrieved Employees who worked 135,606 PAGA Pay Periods during the PAGA Period. If the final number of Workweeks worked by Class Members during the Class Period increases by more than 10% (i.e., 9,201), then Defendant shall have the option, in its sole discretion, to: (1) increase the Gross Settlement Amount proportionally by the number of Workweeks in excess of 101,206; or (2) end the Class Period on the date that the number of Workweeks worked does not exceed 101,206. For example, with respect to option 1, if the total number of Workweeks increases by 11%, then the Gross Settlement Amount will increase by 1%. Defendant agrees to provide the final number of Class Members, Workweeks, Aggrieved Employees, and PAGA Pay Periods to Class Counsel within 30 days of the full execution of this Agreement and if the escalator clause is triggered, to make its election between the two options within 30 days of the full execution of this Agreement. If this provision is triggered so as to increase the Gross Settlement Amount, the Parties agree that the portion of the Gross Settlement Amount allocated to attorneys' fees will increase proportionally such that the Class Counsel Fees Payment remains one-third of the increased Gross Settlement Amount.
9. DEFENDANT'S RIGHT TO RESCIND. If the number of valid Requests for Exclusion identified in the Exclusion List exceeds 5% of the total of all Class Members, Defendant will have sole and absolute discretion to rescind/void this Settlement. The Parties agree that, if Defendant rescinds, the Settlement shall be void ab initio, have no force or effect whatsoever, and that neither Party will have any further obligation to perform under this Agreement, including, without any limitation, any obligation by Defendant to pay the Gross Settlement Amount, or any amounts that otherwise would have been owed under this Agreement;

provided, however, Defendant will remain responsible for paying all Settlement Administration Expenses incurred to that point. Defendant must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its election to rescind not later than seven (7) days after the Administrator sends the final Exclusion List to Defense Counsel; late elections will have no effect. In the event the Settlement is terminated, the Parties shall proceed in all respects as if this Agreement had not been executed.

10. **MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.** Not later than 16 court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiffs will file in Court a motion for final approval of the Settlement that includes a request for approval of the PAGA settlement under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l), a Proposed Final Approval Order and a proposed Judgment (collectively “Motion for Final Approval”). Plaintiffs shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel not later than three (3) days prior to filing the Motion for Final Approval. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve any disagreements concerning the Motion for Final Approval.

10.1 **Response to Objections.** Each Party retains the right to respond to any objection raised by a Participating Class Member, including the right to file responsive documents in Court no later than five court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered or accepted by the Court.

10.2 **Duty to Cooperate.** If the Court does not grant Final Approval or conditions Final Approval on any material change to the Settlement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), the Parties will expeditiously work together in good faith to address the Court’s concerns by revising the Agreement as necessary to obtain Final Approval. The Court’s decision to award less than the amounts requested for the Class Representatives Service Payments, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Administrator Expenses Payment shall not constitute a material modification to the Agreement within the meaning of this paragraph.

10.3 **Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court.** The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law. In the event that one or more of the Parties institutes any legal action or other proceeding against any other Party or Parties to enforce the provisions of this Settlement or to declare rights and/or obligations under this Settlement, the successful Party or Parties will be entitled to recover from the unsuccessful Party or Parties reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs, including expert witness fees incurred in connection with any enforcement actions.

10.4 **Waiver of Right to Appeal.** Provided the Judgment is materially consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment reflected set forth in this

Settlement, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Participating Class Members who did not object to the Settlement as provided in this Agreement, waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs, and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If an objector appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.

10.5 Appellate Court Orders to Vacate, Reverse, or Materially Modify Judgment. If the reviewing Court vacates, reverses, or modifies the Judgment in a manner that requires a material modification of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), this Agreement shall be null and void. The Parties shall nevertheless expeditiously work together in good faith to address the appellate court's concerns and to obtain Final Approval and entry of Judgment, sharing, on a 50-50 basis, any additional Administration Expenses reasonably incurred after remittitur. An appellate decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of the Class Representatives Service Payments or any payments to Class Counsel shall not constitute a material modification of the Judgment within the meaning of this paragraph, as long as the Gross Settlement Amount remains unchanged.

11. **AMENDED JUDGMENT.** If any amended judgment is required under Code of Civil Procedure section 384, the Parties will work together in good faith to jointly submit and a proposed amended judgment.

12. **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.**

12.1 Remand: For the purposes of this Settlement only, the Parties will stipulate to remand the *Dreher* Action to the Sacramento County Superior Court for approval of this Settlement. In the event the Court does not approve the Settlement, or the Settlement is rescinded pursuant to any provision herein, Plaintiffs agree to re-file the *Dreher* Action in the United States District Court, for the Eastern District of California, and the applicable statute(s) of limitations on Plaintiffs' claims will be tolled from the date the Action was originally filed.

12.2 No Admission of Liability, Class Certification or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. The Parties enter into this Agreement to resolve the dispute that has arisen between them and to avoid the burden, expense, and risk of continued litigation. In entering into this Agreement, Defendant does not admit, and specifically denies, that it has violated any federal, state, or local law; violated any regulations or guidelines promulgated pursuant to any statute or any other applicable laws, regulations, or legal requirements; breached any contract; violated or breached any duty; engaged in any misrepresentation or deception; or engaged in any other unlawful conduct with respect to its employees. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an

admission by Defendant that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that Defendant has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiffs that Defendant's defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree that class certification and representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason the Court does not grant Preliminary Approval, Final Approval or enter Judgment, Defendant reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reasons, and Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiffs reserve the right to move for class certification on any grounds available and to contest Defendant's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement and Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation or proceeding to establish any liability or admission of any nature on the part of Defendant, or to establish the existence of any condition constituting a violation of, or a non-compliance with any federal, state, local or other applicable law(except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement).

12.3 Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval. Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree that, until the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement is filed, they and each of them will not disclose, disseminate and/or publicize, or cause or permit another person to disclose, disseminate or publicize, any of the terms of the Agreement directly or indirectly, specifically or generally, to any person, corporation, association, government agency, or other entity except: (1) to the Parties' attorneys, accountants, insurers, funders or spouses, all of whom will be instructed to keep this Agreement confidential; (2) counsel in a related matter; (3) to the extent necessary to report income to appropriate taxing authorities; (4) in response to a court order, subpoena, or as required by law; (5) in response to an inquiry or subpoena issued by a state or federal government agency; or (6) in connection with public reporting requirements. Each Party agrees to immediately notify each other Party of any judicial or agency order, inquiry, or subpoena seeking such information prior to the filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement. Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree not to, directly or indirectly, initiate any conversation or other communication, before the filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval, any with third party regarding this Agreement or the matters giving rise to this Agreement except to respond only that "the matter was resolved," or words to that effect. This paragraph does not restrict Class Counsel's communications with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

12.4 No Solicitation. The Parties separately agree that they and their respective counsel and employees will not solicit any Class Member to opt out of or object to the Settlement, or appeal from the Judgment. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to restrict Class Counsel's ability to communicate with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

12.5 Integrated Agreement. Upon execution by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement together with its attached exhibits shall constitute the entire agreement

between the Parties relating to the Settlement, superseding any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements made to or by any Party.

- 12.6 Attorney Authorization. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiffs and Defendant, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.
- 12.7 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 the mediator and/or the Court for resolution.
- 12.8 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.
- 12.9 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Defendant nor Defense Counsel are providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise. Defendant, Defense Counsel, the Settlement Administrator, and Class Counsel make no representation as to the tax treatment or legal effect of the payments called for hereunder, and Plaintiffs and Participating Class Members are not relying on any statement, representation, or calculation by Defendant, Defense Counsel, Class Counsel, or by the Settlement Administrator in this regard. Plaintiffs and Participating Class Members understand and agree that they will be solely responsible for the payment of any and all taxes and penalties assessed on their respective payments described herein and will defend, indemnify, and hold Defendant, Defense Counsel, Class Counsel, and the Settlement Administrator free and harmless from and against any claims resulting from treatment of such payments as non-taxable penalties/damages.
- 12.10 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.
- 12.11 Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors, heirs, or assigns of each of the Parties hereto, as previously defined.

- 12.12 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.
- 12.13 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.
- 12.14 Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made, and orders entered during Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.
- 12.15 Use and Return of Class Data. Information provided to Class Counsel pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §1152, and all copies and summaries of the Class Data provided to Class Counsel by Defendant in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of court. Not later than 90 days after the date when the Court discharges the Administrator's obligation to provide a Declaration confirming the final pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiffs shall destroy, all paper and electronic versions of Class Data received from Defendant unless, prior to the Court's discharge of the Administrator's obligation, Defendant makes a written request to Class Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of Class Data.
- 12.16 Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.
- 12.17 Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to "days" in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.
- 12.18 Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

**To Plaintiffs:**

D.Law, Inc.  
Emil Davtyan  
emil@d.law  
David Yeremian

d.yeremian@d.law  
David Keledjian  
d.keledjian@d.law  
Enoch J. Kim  
e.kim@d.law  
David Arakelyan  
d.arakelyan@d.law  
Norayr Zakaryan  
n.zakaryan@d.law  
450 N. Brand Blvd., Suite 840  
Glendale, CA 91203  
Telephone: (818) 962-6465  
Facsimile: (818) 962-6469

Matern Law Group, PC  
Matthew J. Matern  
MMatern@maternlawgroup.com  
Deanne S. Leifer  
dleifer@maternlawgroup.com  
2101 E. El Segundo Boulevard, Suite 403  
El Segundo, California 90245 Telephone: (310) 531-1900  
Facsimile: (310) 531-1901

Haines Law Group, APC  
Paul K. Haines  
phaines@haineslawgroup.com  
Sean M. Blakely  
sblakely@haineslawgroup.com  
Joel M. Gordon  
jgordon@haineslawgroup.com  
2155 Campus Drive, Suite 180  
El Segunda, CA 90245  
Telephone: (424) 292-2350  
Facsimile: (424) 292-2355

**To Defendant:**

Jackson Lewis P.C.  
Adam Y. Siegel  
adam.siegel@jacksonlewis.com  
725 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500  
Los Angeles, CA 90017-5408  
Telephone: (213) 689-0404  
Facsimile: (213) 689-0430

Michael Y. Hsueh  
michael.hsueh@jacksonlewis.com

160 W. Santa Clara St., Suite 400  
San Jose, CA 95113-1708  
Telephone: (408) 579-0404  
Facsimile: (408) 454-0290

12.19 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.

12.20 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.

12.21 Representation by Counsel. The Parties acknowledge that they have been represented by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Agreement, and that this Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel. Further, Plaintiffs and Class Counsel warrant and represent that there are no liens on the Agreement.

12-20-  
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

DocuSigned by:  
  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Teddy Lawrence Dreher

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cutrenia M. Saxon

Dated: 10/31, 2025



\_\_\_\_\_  
Curtisha Holden

160 W. Santa Clara St., Suite 400  
San Jose, CA 95113-1708  
Telephone: (408) 579-0404  
Facsimile: (408) 454-0290

12.19 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.

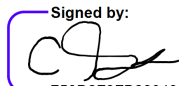
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12.21 Representation by Counsel. The Parties acknowledge that they have been represented by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Agreement, and that this Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel. Further, Plaintiffs and Class Counsel warrant and represent that there are no liens on the Agreement.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teddy Lawrence Dreher

Dated: 12/26/252025

Signed by:  
  
750D2F3FB28049A...  
Cutrenia M. Saxon

Dated: 10/31, 2025

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Curtisha Holden

Dated: Nov 6, 2025

  
Luke Perry (Nov 6, 2025 10:53:12 PST)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Luke Perry

11/12  
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

  
Sam Schaeffer (Nov 12, 2025 09:09:55 PST)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Center for Employment Opportunities, Inc.

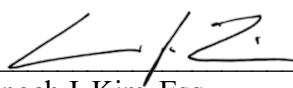
By: Sam Schaeffer

Its: Chief Executive Officer

**AGREED AS TO FORM**

Dated: 1/5, 2026

D.LAW, INC.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Enoch J. Kim, Esq.

Dated: 10/31, 2025

MATERN LAW GROUP, PC

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew J. Matern, Esq.

Deanna S. Leifer, Esq.

Dated: November 6, 2025

HAINES LAW GROUP, APC

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul K. Haines, Esq.

Dated: 11/12, 2025

JACKSON LEWIS P.C.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Adam Y. Siegel, Esq.

Michael Y. Hsueh, Esq.

# Exhibit A

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

*Dreher, et al. v. Center for Employment Opportunities, Inc.*  
Case No. 23CV007758, Sacramento County Superior Court

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

**YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED WHETHER YOU ACT OR DO NOT ACT. PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.**

**You may be eligible to receive money** from an employee class action lawsuit ("Action") against Center for Employment Opportunities, Inc. ("Defendant") for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by former employees, Teddy Lawrence Dreher, Cutrenia M. Saxon, Curtisha Holden, and Luke Perry ("Plaintiffs") and seeks payment of (1) wages and other relief for a class of hourly, non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant during the Class Period (September 16, 2021 to March 7, 2025) ("Class Members"); and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA") for all hourly, non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period (September 1, 2022 to March 7, 2025) ("Aggrieved Employees").

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT**

|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>You Don't Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement</b>                                                  | If you do nothing, you will be a Participating Class Member, eligible for an Individual Class Payment and an Individual PAGA Payment (if any). In exchange, you will give up your right to assert the wage claims against Defendant that are covered by this Settlement (Released Claims).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>You Can Opt-out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement</b><br><br><b>The Opt-out Deadline is _____</b> | If you don't want to fully participate in the proposed Settlement, you can opt-out of the Class Settlement by sending the Administrator a written Request for Exclusion. Once excluded, you will be a Non-Participating Class Member and no longer eligible for an Individual Class Payment. Non-Participating Class Members cannot object to any portion of the proposed Settlement. See Section 6 of this Notice.<br><br>You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. Defendant must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees and the Aggrieved Employees must give up their rights to pursue Released Claims (defined below). |
| <b>Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement</b>                      | All Class Members who do not opt-out ("Participating Class Members") can object to any aspect of the proposed Settlement. The Court's decision whether to finally approve the Settlement will include a determination of how much will be paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiffs who pursued the Action on behalf of the Class. You are not personally responsible for any payments to Class Counsel or Plaintiffs, but every dollar paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiffs reduces the overall amount paid to Participating Class Members.                                                                                                                               |

|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Written Objections Must be Submitted by</b>                                                                       | You can object to the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiffs if you think they are unreasonable. See Section 7 of this Notice.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>You Can Participate in the _____ Final Approval Hearing</b>                                                       | The Court's Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on _____. You don't have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone or by using the Court's virtual appearance platform. Participating Class Members can verbally object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing. See Section 8 of this Notice.                                                                                                 |
| <b>You Can Challenge the Calculation of Your Workweeks/Pay Periods Written Challenges Must be Submitted by _____</b> | The amount of your Individual Class Payment and PAGA Payment (if any) depend on how many Workweeks you worked at least one day during the Class Period and how many PAGA Pay Periods you worked at least one day during the PAGA Period, respectively. The number of Workweeks and number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked according to Defendant's records is stated on the first page of this Notice. If you disagree with either of these numbers, you must challenge it by _____. See Section 4 of this Notice. |

## 1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?

Plaintiffs are former employees of Defendant. The Action accuses Defendant of violating California labor laws by failing to pay overtime wages, minimum wages, and wages due upon termination, failing to pay reimbursable expenses, failing to provide meal periods and rest breaks, failing to pay proper reporting time, failing to pay proper sick pay, and failing to issue accurate itemized wage statements. Based on the same claims, Plaintiffs have also asserted a claim for civil penalties under PAGA. Plaintiffs are represented in the Action by the attorneys of D.Law, Inc, Matern Law Group, PC, and Haines Law Group, APC ("Class Counsel").

Defendant expressly denies any liability or wrongdoing of any kind associated with the claims alleged in the Action and those released as part of the settlement of the Action. Defendant further denies all material allegations set forth in the Action and has asserted numerous affirmative defenses. Defendant denies all wrongdoing and maintains, among other things, it has complied with federal and California law, including wage-and-hour laws, in all respects and that the members of the Class have been paid all monies that were due to them.

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

So far, the Court has made no determination whether Defendant or Plaintiffs are correct on the merits.

However, in order to avoid the time and expense of further litigation, the ultimate outcome of which is uncertain, and to provide a fair and reasonable resolution of this legal dispute, Plaintiffs and Defendant hired an experienced, neutral mediator in an effort to resolve the Action by negotiating an to end the case by agreement (settle the case) rather than continuing the expensive and time-consuming process of litigation. The negotiations were successful. By signing a lengthy

written settlement agreement (“Agreement”) and agreeing to jointly ask the Court to enter a judgment ending the Action and enforcing the Agreement, Plaintiffs and Defendant have negotiated a proposed Settlement that is subject to the Court’s Final Approval. Both sides agree the proposed Settlement is a compromise of disputed claims. By agreeing to settle, Defendant does not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims. The Court preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, authorized this Notice, and scheduled a hearing to determine Final Approval.

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

1. Defendant Will Pay \$2,299,500.00 as the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant has agreed to deposit the Gross Settlement Amount into an account controlled by the Administrator of the Settlement. The Administrator will use the Gross Settlement Amount to pay the Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, Class Representative Service Payments, Class Counsel’s attorney’s fees and expenses, the Administrator’s expenses, and penalties to be paid to the LWDA.
2. Court Approved Deductions from Gross Settlement. At the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiffs and/or Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve the following deductions from the Gross Settlement Amount, the amounts of which will be decided by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing:
  - a. Up to \$766,500.00 (one-third of the Gross Settlement to Class Counsel for attorneys’ fees) and up to \$40,000.00 for their litigation expenses. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.
  - b. Up to \$10,000.00 for each Plaintiff as a Class Representative Service Payment for filing the Action, working with Class Counsel and representing the Class. A Class Representative Service Payment will be the only monies Plaintiffs will receive other than Plaintiffs’ Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment.
  - c. Up to \$40,000.00 to the Administrator for services administering the Settlement.
  - d. Up to \$100,000.00 for PAGA Penalties, allocated 75% to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% in Individual PAGA Payments to the Aggrieved Employees based on their PAGA Pay Periods.

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

3. Net Settlement Distributed to Class Members. After making the above deductions in amounts approved by the Court, the Administrator will distribute the rest of the Gross

Settlement Amount (the “Net Settlement Amount”) by making Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members based on their Class Period Workweeks.

4. Taxes Owed on Payments to Class Members. Plaintiffs and Defendant are asking the Court to approve an allocation of 15% of each Individual Class Payment to taxable wages (“Wage Portion”) and 85% to interest and penalties (“Non-Wage Portion”). The Wage Portion is subject to withholdings and will be reported on IRS W-2 Forms. Defendant will separately pay employer payroll taxes it owes on the Wage Portion. The Individual PAGA Payments are counted as penalties rather than wages for tax purposes. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments and the Non-Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

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

5. Need to Promptly Cash Payment Checks. The front of every check issued for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments will show the date when the check expires (the void date). If you don’t cash it by the void date, your check will be automatically cancelled, and the monies will be transmitted to Legal Aid of Northern California and Legal Aid of Southern California, non-profit organizations providing legal services to the indigent.
6. Requests for Exclusion from the Class Settlement (Opt-Outs). You will be treated as a Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Class Settlement, unless you notify the Administrator in writing, not later than \_\_\_\_\_, that you wish to opt-out. The easiest way to notify the Administrator is to send a written and signed Request for Exclusion by the \_\_\_\_\_ Response Deadline. The Request for Exclusion should be a signed letter from a Class Member or his/her representative setting forth a Class Member’s name, last four digits of the Class Member’s Social Security Number, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement electing to be excluded from the Settlement. Excluded Class Members (i.e., Non-Participating Class Members) will not receive Individual Class Payments, but will preserve their rights to personally pursue the Released Class Claims against Defendant.

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

7. The Proposed Settlement Will be Void if the Court Denies Final Approval. It is possible the Court will decline to grant Final Approval of the Settlement or decline

enter a Judgment. It is also possible the Court will enter a Judgment that is reversed on appeal. Plaintiffs and Defendant have agreed that, in either case, the Settlement will be void: Defendant will not pay any money and Class Members will not release any claims against Defendant.

8. Administrator. The Court has appointed a neutral company, Apex Class Action LLC (the “Administrator”) to send this Notice, calculate and make payments, and process Class Members’ Requests for Exclusion. The Administrator will also preside over Class Member Challenges over Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods, mail and remail settlement checks and tax forms, and perform other tasks necessary to administer the Settlement. The Administrator’s contact information is contained in Section 9 of this Notice.
9. Participating Class Members’ Release. After the Judgment is final and Defendant has fully funded the Gross Settlement Amount and separately paid all employer payroll taxes, Participating Class Members will be legally barred from asserting any of the claims released under the Settlement. This means that unless you opted out by validly excluding yourself from the Class Settlement, you and the other Participating Class Members will be bound by the following release:

All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the allegations and causes of action stated in the Operative Complaint, including claims for Failure to Provide Meal Periods, (2) Failure to Provide Rest Periods, (3) Failure to Pay Hourly Wages and Overtime, (4) Failure to Pay Proper Reporting Time Wages, (5) Failure to Pay Proper Sick Pay, (6) Failure to Provide Accurate Written Wage Statements, (7) Failure to Timely Pay All Final Wages, (8) Failure to Pay Wages Due, Negotiable and Payable in Cash on Demand, (9) Failure to Indemnify for Reasonable Business Expenses, and (10) Unfair Competition under California Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.* (“Released Class Claims”).

“Released Parties” means Defendant and each of its former and present directors, officers, employees, shareholders, owners, members, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, subsidiaries, and affiliates.

10. Aggrieved Employees’ PAGA Release. After the Court’s judgment is final, and Defendant has paid the Gross Settlement Amount (and separately paid the employer-side payroll taxes), all Aggrieved Employees, including those who are Participating Class Members and those who opt-out of the Class Settlement, will be barred from asserting the Released PAGA Claims (as defined below) and will be bound by the following release:

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 allegations stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice, including claims for (1) Failure to Provide Meal Periods, (2) Failure to Provide Rest Periods, (3) Failure to Pay Hourly Wages and Overtime, (4) Failure to Pay Proper Reporting Time Wages, (5) Failure to Pay Proper Sick Pay, (6) Failure to Provide Accurate Written Wage Statements, (7) Failure to Timely Pay All Final Wages, (8) Failure to Pay Wages Due, Negotiable and Payable in Cash on Demand, (9) Failure to Indemnify for Reasonable Business Expenses, and (10) violation of Labor Code section 2698, *et. seq.* (“Released PAGA Claims”).

#### **4. HOW WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR CALCULATE MY PAYMENT?**

1. Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual Class Payments by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members, and (b) multiplying the result by the number of Workweeks worked by each individual Participating Class Member.
2. Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing \$25,000.00 by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees and (b) multiplying the result by the number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by each individual Aggrieved Employee.

Workweek/Pay Period Challenges. The number of Workweeks you worked during the Class Period and the number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked during the PAGA Period, as recorded in Defendant’s records, are stated in the first page of this Notice. You have until [REDACTED] to challenge the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you. You can submit your challenge by signing and sending a letter to the Administrator via mail, email or fax. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator’s contact information.

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

#### **5. HOW WILL I GET PAID?**

1. Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single check to every Participating Class Member (i.e., every Class Member who doesn’t

opt-out) including those who also qualify as Aggrieved Employees. The single check will combine the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment.

2. Non-Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single Individual PAGA Payment check to every Aggrieved Employee who opts out of the Class Settlement (i.e., every Non-Participating Class Member).

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

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

Submit a written and signed letter with your name, last four digits of your Social Security Number, present address, telephone number, email address and a simple statement that you do not want to participate in the Settlement. The Administrator will exclude you based on any writing communicating your request to be excluded. Be sure to personally sign your request, identify the Action as *Dreher, et al. v. Center for Employment Opportunities, Inc.*, and include your identifying information (full name, last four digits of your Social Security Number, address, telephone number, and email address). You must make the request yourself. If someone else makes the request for you, it will not be valid. **The Administrator must be sent your request to be excluded by \_\_\_\_\_, or it will be invalid.** Section 9 of the Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

## **7. HOW DO I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT?**

Only Participating Class Members have the right to object to the Settlement. Before deciding whether to object, you may wish to see what Plaintiffs and Defendant are asking the Court to approve. At least 16 court days before the \_\_\_\_\_ Final Approval Hearing, Class Counsel and/or Plaintiffs will file in Court (1) a Motion for Final Approval that includes, among other things, the reasons why the proposed Settlement is fair, and (2) a Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Payment stating (i) the amount Class Counsel is requesting for attorneys' fees and litigation expenses; and (ii) the amount Plaintiffs are requesting as Class Representatives Service Payments. Upon reasonable request, Class Counsel (whose contact information is in Section 9 of this Notice) will send you copies of these documents at no cost to you. You can also view them on the Administrator's Website \_\_\_\_\_ or the Court's website \_\_\_\_\_.

A Participating Class Member who disagrees with any aspect of the Agreement, the Motion for Final Approval and/or Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Award may wish to object, for example, that the proposed Settlement is unfair, or that the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiffs are too high or too low. **The deadline for sending written objections to the Administrator is \_\_\_\_\_.** Be sure to tell the Administrator what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. Make sure you identify the Action *Dreher, et al. v. Center for Employment Opportunities, Inc.* and include your name, last four digits of your Social Security Number, current address, telephone number, and email

address and sign the objection. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

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

## **8. CAN I ATTEND THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING?**

You can, but don't have to, attend the Final Approval Hearing on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ in Department 22 of the Sacramento Superior Court, located at 720 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. At the Hearing, the judge will decide whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and how much of the Gross Settlement will be paid to Class Counsel, Plaintiffs, and the Administrator. The Court will invite comment from objectors, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel before making a decision. You can attend (or hire a lawyer to attend) either personally or virtually via Zoom (<https://saccourt-ca-gov.zoomgov.com/my/sscdept22>). You can log in by calling the Court as follows:

Phone Number: 833-568-8864  
ID: 16184738886

Check the Court's website for the most current information.

It's possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the Administrator's website \_\_\_\_\_ beforehand, the Court's website (<https://prod-portal-sacramento-ca.journaltech.com/public-portal/?q=Home>), or contact Class Counsel to verify the date and time of the Final Approval Hearing.

## **9. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

The Agreement sets forth everything Defendant and Plaintiffs have promised to do under the proposed Settlement. The easiest way to read the Agreement, the Judgment or any other Settlement documents is to go to \_\_\_\_\_'s website at \_\_\_\_\_. You can also telephone or send an email to Class Counsel or the Administrator using the contact information listed below, or consult the Superior Court website by going to (<https://prod-portal-sacramento-ca.journaltech.com/public-portal/?q=Home>) and entering the Case Number for the Action, Case No. 23CV007758. You can also make an appointment to personally review court documents in the Clerk's Office at the Godron D. Schaber Courthouse by calling (916) 874-5522.

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

Class Counsel:  
D.Law, Inc.

Emil Davtyan  
emil@d.law  
David Yeremian  
d.yeremian@d.law  
David Keledjian  
d.keledjian@d.law  
David Arakelyan  
d.arakelyan@d.law  
Enoch J. Kim  
e.kim@d.law  
Norayr Zakaryan  
n.zakaryan@d.law  
450 N. Brand Blvd., Suite 840  
Glendale, CA 91203  
Telephone: (818) 962-6465

Matern Law Group, PC  
Matthew J. Matern  
Deanna S. Leifer  
1230 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 200  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
Telephone: (310) 531-1900  
Facsimile: (310) 531-1901  
info@maternlawgroup.com

Haines Law Group, APC  
Paul K. Haines  
phaines@haineslawgroup.com  
Sean M. Blakely  
sblakely@haineslawgroup.com  
Joel M. Gordon  
jgordon@haineslawgroup.com  
2155 Campus Drive, Suite 180  
El Segundo, CA 90245  
Telephone: (424) 292-2350  
Facsimile: (424) 292-2355

Settlement Administrator:

Name of Company:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Telephone:

Fax Number:

**10. WHAT IF I LOSE MY SETTLEMENT CHECK?**

If you lose or misplace your settlement check before cashing it, the Administrator will replace it as long as you request a replacement before the void date on the face of the original check.

#### **11. WHAT IF I CHANGE MY ADDRESS?**

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

# Class and PAGA Settlement Agreement Draft (Dreher) - signed by LP, PKH - for Schaeffer

Final Audit Report

2025-11-12

|                 |                                              |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Created:        | 2025-11-10                                   |
| By:             | Camila Rodriguez (camrodriguez@ceoworks.org) |
| Status:         | Signed                                       |
| Transaction ID: | CBJCHBCAABAAJN5254ldgs-jQKvJc8L5nGHsGBLUoRw  |

## "Class and PAGA Settlement Agreement Draft (Dreher) - signed by LP, PKH - for Schaeffer" History

-  Document created by Camila Rodriguez (camrodriguez@ceoworks.org)  
2025-11-10 - 10:33:58 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Sam Schaeffer (sschaeffer@ceoworks.org) for signature  
2025-11-10 - 10:37:52 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Sam Schaeffer (sschaeffer@ceoworks.org)  
2025-11-10 - 10:38:06 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Sam Schaeffer (sschaeffer@ceoworks.org)  
Signature Date: 2025-11-12 - 5:09:55 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.  
2025-11-12 - 5:09:55 PM GMT