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Attorneys for Plaintiff

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

JACQUELINE MALDONADO, individually,
and on behalf of the State of California and
other aggrieved persons,

Plaintiff,

v.

RUHNAU CLARKE ARCHITECTS, a
California corporation; and DOES 1 through 10,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 37-2023-00037299
[Related Case No. 37-2024-00027674]

*[Assigned for All Purposes to the Hon. Terrie
E. Roberts, Dept. C-68]*

**DECLARATION OF JACQUELINE
MALDONADO IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR FINAL
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND
PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Final Approval Hearing:

Date: August 21, 2026

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Dept.: C-68

Action Filed: August 28, 2023

DECLARATION OF JACQUELINE MALDONADO

I, Jacqueline Maldonado, declare as follows:

1. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration and could and would competently testify to them under oath if called as a witness. I submit this declaration in support of my Motion for Final Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement.

Risks, Both Financial and Otherwise, Faced in Bringing the Suit

2. When I decided to become involved in this lawsuit as a class representative on behalf of other employees of Defendant Ruhnau Clarke Architects (“Defendant”) and as a private attorney general for the State of California, I understood that I was not only seeking unpaid wages and penalties on behalf of myself, but also for other employees who worked for Defendant, and that by doing so, I would be delaying more immediate recovery available to me through the Labor Commissioner’s office.

3. I was also made aware that being a class representative and private attorney general in an action filed on behalf of others would subject me to a stigma that is sometimes associated with those who bring these kinds of lawsuits. I was aware that, as a class representative and private attorney general, I might be responsible for some or all of Defendant’s legal costs if the case was not successfully concluded. Even with knowledge of these risks, I was willing to go forward and to act on behalf of the other employees and the State of California, but I was nervous about losing and having a judgment filed against me for costs or losing job opportunities in the future.

4. I understood that there were risks involved in class and representative action lawsuits. I understood that the lawsuit could continue for several years and require my services and attention throughout the entire length of the lawsuit. I learned that even if we won at trial, the case could be further delayed by appeals.

Notoriety and Personal Difficulties Encountered

5. As the named plaintiff, I am the face of the litigation. Additionally, the class notice that was mailed in this case was sent to approximately 157 current and former employees of Defendant. The notice informed all these employees that I filed a class and representative

1 action against Defendant. Exposing myself to this kind of publicity creates a risk for my future
2 career prospects, since current and former employees of Defendant may move to different
3 companies within the architectural and project management industry or may know people at
4 other companies within the architectural and project management industry who may not want
5 to hire someone who sued her employer.

6 **Amount of Time and Effort Spent and Duration of the Litigation**

7 6. I have spent a substantial amount of time and effort on this litigation. My work
8 on this case has included, among other things, searching for documents related to my
9 employment with Defendant, discussing my experiences working for Defendant, keeping in
10 regular contact with my attorneys regarding the status of the case, helping my attorneys prepare
11 for mediation, being on-call for my attorneys on the day of mediation in case questions or
12 concerns arose during mediation, and participating in settlement discussions. After mediation,
13 I remained actively involved by reviewing the settlement papers and contacting my counsel for
14 updates. I estimate that since I retained my counsel in July 2023, I have spent approximately 30
15 hours on the activities described above. And I estimate that I will spend an additional 1-5 hours
16 assisting my attorneys through the approval process and staying up to date with the case through
17 disbursement of the settlement checks

18 **Personal Benefit Received as a Result of the Litigation**

19 7. Absent the requested service payment, the personal benefit I will receive is the
20 same as all other employees. But unlike the other employees, I have signed a general release for
21 Defendant. The other employees are only releasing the wage and hour claims asserted in the
22 lawsuit.

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

25 Executed on 7/29/2026, at Encinitas, California.

26 DocuSigned by:

27 

28 9732858116AC4C1...

Jacqueline Maldonado