

EXHIBIT A

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF ORANGE
CIVIL COMPLEX CENTER**

MINUTE ORDER

DATE: 10/02/2025

TIME: 02:00:00 PM

DEPT: CX102

JUDICIAL OFFICER PRESIDING: Layne H. Melzer

CLERK: L. Mendez

REPORTER/ERM: None

BAILIFF/COURT ATTENDANT: A. Condaras

CASE NO: **30-2022-01244519-CU-OE-CXC** CASE INIT.DATE: 02/08/2022

CASE TITLE: **Torres vs. JF RETAIL SERVICES, LLC**

CASE CATEGORY: Civil - Unlimited CASE TYPE: Other employment

EVENT ID/DOCUMENT ID: 74642880

EVENT TYPE: Motion for Approval of Class Settlement

MOVING PARTY: Dante Teddington, Ashley Behnken

CAUSAL DOCUMENT/DATE FILED: Motion - Other for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and
PAGA Settlement, 05/12/2025

APPEARANCES

No Appearance by all parties

Tentative Ruling posted on the Internet.

The Tentative Ruling was accepted and no appearance was requested.

The Court confirms the tentative ruling as follows:

The Court has reviewed the supplemental materials provided by Class Counsel and finds that they adequately address the previously identified issues. Accordingly, Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement is GRANTED.

This is a putative wage-and-hour class action and PAGA matter. On February 8, 2022, Plaintiff Michelle Torres, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated ("Torres"), filed a Class Action Complaint against Defendant JF Retail Services, LLC dba Fabletics, LLC ("Defendant"). The Complaint alleged two causes of action for: (1) failure to reimburse business expenses, and (2) unfair business practices.

On January 20, 2023, by stipulation and order, Torres filed the First Amended Class Action and PAGA Complaint alleging ten (10) causes of action for various violations of the Labor Code's wage-and-hour provisions and PAGA penalties.

On October 23, 2023, Torres filed the Second Amended Class Action and PAGA Complaint ("SAC") alleging the same ten (10) causes of action and adding Plaintiff Dante Teddington.

The parties attended mediation on February 9, 2023. However, the mediation was unsuccessful.

On February 9, 2024, pursuant to stipulation and order, Torres and Dante Teddington filed the Third Amended Complaint ("TAC"). The TAC alleges the same ten (10) causes of action and adds Ashley Behnken as a named plaintiff.

On August 2, 2024, the Court granted Class Counsel's motion to be relieved as counsel for Plaintiff

Torres after counsel repeatedly tried, but was unable, to contact her.

On September 6, 2024, the parties attended a second mediation. Although they were unable to resolve the matter at the mediation, the mediator subsequently made a double-blind mediator's proposal, and it was accepted by the parties. Thereafter, the parties drafted and finalized the long-form settlement agreement and filed a Notice of Settlement on October 4, 2024.

On February 3, 2025, counsel filed a joint stipulation wherein the parties agreed to remove Torres as a Class Representative, replace her with Angelique Teddington as Class Representative, and to amend the TAC accordingly. Therefore, on February 5, 2025, pursuant to stipulation and order, Plaintiffs Dante Teddington and Ashley Behnken filed the operative Fourth Amended Complaint ("4AC") adding Angelique Teddington as a Named Plaintiff. The 4AC alleges the same ten (10) causes of action as alleged in the TAC.

On May 12, 2025, Plaintiffs filed the current Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement and submitted the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Addendum to Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (together "Settlement Agreement") for the Court's review. The Motion seeks preliminary approval of the parties' proposed settlement for the non-reversionary Gross Settlement Amount of \$500,000.00.

After the Court expressed certain concerns about the Settlement Agreement and other matters, the parties prepared and executed the Second Addendum to Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement. Based on a review of the Settlement Agreement and the Second Addendum (together, "Amended Settlement Agreement"), the Court finds the Settlement falls within the range of what is considered fair and reasonable, subject to a final determination at the Final Approval hearing.

The Motion for Final Approval will be heard on **May 7, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in Department CX102**. All papers for the Motion for Final Approval are due no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the hearing date. If Class Counsel cannot meet this deadline, then counsel must request a continuance of the hearing. Failure to do so may result in the issuance of an OSC re Monetary Sanctions.

At the Final Approval hearing, evidence supporting the request for an award of attorneys' fees should be presented in the form of time records, or a summary of time spent on the substantive tasks, to enable the Court to evaluate the lodestar and costs claimed. Class Counsel should state by declaration whether time records were kept and created contemporaneously or otherwise. The Court also reminds Class Counsel that although a determination regarding the amount of the attorneys' fees award will not be made until final approval, the Court is unlikely to approve attorneys' fees in excess of thirty percent (30%) of the Gross Settlement Amount absent unique circumstances. As a result, in the supplemental filing, Class Counsel should address whether any such unique circumstances exist.

At the Final Approval hearing, Plaintiffs and Class Counsel must provide detailed declarations describing circumstances to justify the requested enhancement award, and addressing factors set forth in *Golba v. Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc.* (2015) 238 Cal.App.4th 1251, 1272, and *Clark v. Am. Residential Servs., LLC* (2019) 175 Cal.App.4th 785, 804. Plaintiffs must provide an estimate of the hours each spent participating in this litigation.

Plaintiffs to give notice of this Court's ruling, including to the LWDA, within five (5) calendar days, and file proof of service.