



FILED

Superior Court of California
County of San Francisco

MAR 12 2026

CLERK OF THE COURT

BY: *Sam Kane*
Deputy Clerk

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

CONNOR BROWN, individually, and on behalf
of other members of the general public similarly
situated and on behalf of other aggrieved
employees pursuant to the California Private
Attorneys General Act,

Plaintiff,

v.

BI-RITE MANAGEMENT SERVICES LLC, a
California limited liability company; BI-RITE
MARKET, INC. dba BI-RITE FAMILY OF
BUSINESSES, a California corporation; BIRITE
CREAMERY, INC., a California corporation; BI-
RIT CATERING, LLC dba BI-RITE CATERING
& COMMISSARY KITCHEN, a California
limited liability company; BI-RITE DIVIS, INC.,
a California corporation; and DOES 1-25,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. CGC-24-611385

ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL AND
ATTORNEY'S FEES, COSTS, AND
SERVICE AWARD

Before the court is an unopposed motion by plaintiff Connor Brown for final approval of the settlement of putative class and PAGA claims reached with defendants Bi-Rite Management Services LLC, Bi-Rite Market, Inc. dba Bi-Rite Family of Businesses, Bi-Rite Creamery, Inc., Bi-Rite Catering, LLC dba Bi-Rite Catering & Commissary Kitchen, and Bi-Rite Divis, Inc (defendants) and their accompanying unopposed motion for an award of attorney's fees, reimbursement of litigation expenses, and plaintiff's service award. The motion came on for hearing on March 12, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 613, the Honorable Jeffrey S. Ross presiding. Miriam Schimmel (Blackstone Law, PC) appeared for plaintiff. Sat Sang S. Khalsa (Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP) appeared for

1 defendants. One class member, Lori-Ann Rowe requested exclusion from the settlement. No class
2 members or aggrieved employees submitted advance written objections or otherwise appeared at the
3 hearing. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the motion for final approval and for attorney's fees, costs, and
4 service awards is GRANTED with an award of \$555,000.00 in attorney's fees, \$24,597.83 in costs, and a
5 service award of \$8,000 for the named plaintiff. A compliance hearing is reserved for **September 11,**
6 **2026, at 9:00 a.m.** with a compliance statement that includes an accounting of funds and disbursements
7 due no later than **September 4, 2026.** IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

- 8 1. Except as otherwise specified here, the court adopts and incorporates by reference the terms
9 and definitions of the First Amended Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement
10 ("Settlement") (attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**).
- 11 2. The following Settlement Class is certified for settlement purposes: "all current and former
12 hourly-paid and/or non-exempt employees who worked for Defendants in the State of
13 California at any time during the Class Period, which is from January 3, 2020, through
14 December 23, 2024." (Settlement, ¶¶ 6(b), (f).)
- 15 3. The following Aggrieved Employees class is certified for settlement purposes: "all current and
16 former hourly-paid and/or non-exempt employees who worked for Defendants in the State of
17 California at any time during the PAGA Period, which is from December 19, 2022, through
18 December 23, 2024." (Settlement, ¶¶ 6(y), (aa).)
- 19 4. The court finds that the Settlement Class meets the requirements for certification under Code
20 of Civil Procedure section 382 because: (1) the proposed Settlement Class is numerous and
21 ascertainable; (2) there are predominant common questions of law or fact; (3) plaintiff's claims
22 are typical of the claims of the members of the proposed Settlement Class; and (4) a class
23 action is superior to other methods to efficiently adjudicate this controversy.
- 24 5. One class member, Lori-Ann Rowe requested exclusion from the settlement. No other class
25 members objected, opted out or requested exclusion.
- 26 6. The notice and plan of distribution approved by this court met the requirements of due process
27 and constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances. As set forth in the
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1 declaration of Amanda Howard, ILYM Group, Inc. distributed notice in compliance with this
2 court's preliminary approval order and the Settlement Agreement. The court finds the
3 administration process to date was adequate and comported with due process.

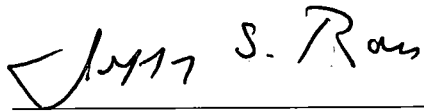
- 4 7. The court hereby approves payment of administration expenses to ILYM Group, Inc. in the
5 amount of \$10,950.00. ILYM Group, Inc. shall continue to serve as settlement administrator
6 and shall, *inter alia*, disburse payments in accordance with the terms of the Settlement
7 Agreement and this final approval order.
- 8 8. The court has considered the *Dunk/Kullar factors* and the circumstances surrounding the
9 settlement and finally approves the settlement as a fair, adequate, and reasonable settlement.
- 10 9. For settlement purposes only, Connor Brown is appointed as class representative.
- 11 10. Connor Brown requests a service award of \$10,000, but the court finds that the evidence is
12 insufficient to justify a service award in that amount, based on the limited evidence presented,
13 considering the pertinent criteria (*Cellphone Termination Fee Cases* (20100 186 Cal.App.4th
14 1380, 1394-95), and average settlement payment for class members. The court approves a
15 service award in the amount of \$8,000 for Brown.
- 16 11. For settlement purposes only, Blackstone Law, APC appointed as Class Counsel.
- 17 12. The court awards attorney's fees to Class Counsel in the amount of \$555,000.00 or 30% of the
18 settlement fund. In making this award, the court considered the following factors: (1) the
19 results obtained by Class Counsel in this case; (2) the risks and legal issues involved in this
20 case; (3) the fee's contingency upon success; (4) the range of awards made in similar cases and
21 (5) the time spent and work performed in litigating the case. The declaration of Miriam L.
22 Schimmel states that the Blackstone Law, APC lodestar is \$280,527.00. The court reviewed
23 the services provided, the lodestar, the result achieved, and concluded that a multiplier of 1.98
24 is appropriate and on that basis awards fees in the amount of \$555,000.00.
- 25 13. The court authorizes reimbursement of class counsels' litigation expenses in the amount of
26 \$24,597.83 to Blackstone Law, APC consisting of filing and mailing fees.
- 27 14. The Court reserves a compliance hearing for **September 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.** No later than
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1 **September 4, 2026**, the parties shall submit a compliance statement setting forth
2 disbursements made, a summary accounting, the number and value of any uncashed settlement
3 checks, and any other matters the parties need to bring to the court's attention. The compliance
4 statement must be accompanied by a declaration from a representative of ILYM Group, Inc.

5 15. Class Counsel shall serve this order and the judgment upon the LWDA within 5 court days.

6 16. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6, and Rule 3.769(h) of the California Rules
7 of Court—and without impacting the finality of this order—the court retains jurisdiction over
8 plaintiffs, all members of the Settlement Class, and defendant for the purpose of supervising
9 the implementation, enforcement, construction, administration, and interpretation of the
10 Settlement Agreement and this order.

11
12 Dated: March 12, 2026



JEFFREY S. ROSS
Judge of the Superior Court

EXHIBIT 1

1 **FIRST AMENDED JOINT STIPULATION OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA**
2 **SETTLEMENT**

3 This First Amended Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement (“Settlement,”
4 “Agreement,” or “Settlement Agreement”) is made and entered into by and between Plaintiff Connor
5 Brown (“Plaintiff” or “Class Representative”), individually, and on behalf of all others similarly
6 situated and on behalf of the State of California with respect to aggrieved employees, and Defendants
7 Bi-Rite Management Services LLC, Bi-Rite Market, Inc. dba Bi-Rite Family of Businesses, Bi-Rite
8 Creamery, Inc., Bi-Rite Catering, LLC dba Bi-Rite Catering & Commissary Kitchen, and Bi-Rite
9 Divis, Inc. (collectively, “Defendants”) (collectively, Plaintiff and Defendants are referred to as
10 “Parties” and individually as “Party”).

11 This Settlement Agreement shall be binding on Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members (as
12 defined herein), the State of California as to the employment of PAGA Employees (as defined herein),
13 and Defendants, subject to the terms and conditions hereof and the approval of the Court.

14 **RECITALS**

15 1. On December 19, 2023, Plaintiff provided written notice to the Labor and Workforce
16 Development Agency (“LWDA”) by online submission and to Defendants by U.S. Certified Mail,
17 pursuant to California Labor Code Section 2699.3, of the specific provisions of the California Labor
18 Code alleged to have been violated by Defendants (“PAGA Letter”). On January 3, 2024, Plaintiff
19 filed a Class Action Complaint in the action entitled *Connor Brown v. Bi-Rite Management Services*
20 *LLC, et al.*, San Francisco County Superior Court Case No. CGC-24-611385 (“Action”), thereby
21 commencing a putative class action against Defendants. On February 27, 2024, Plaintiff filed a First
22 Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint (“Operative Complaint”) in the Action, which
23 added a cause of action under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 pursuant to California Labor
24 Code Section 2698 *et seq.* (“PAGA”). The Operative Complaint alleges ten (10) causes of action for
25 violations of the California Labor Code for failure to pay minimum wages, failure to pay overtime
26 wages, failure to provide compliant meal periods and premium payments in lieu thereof, failure to
27 provide compliant rest periods and premiums payments in lieu thereof, failure to timely pay wages
28 during employment, failure to provide accurate wage statements, failure to timely pay wages upon

1 termination, and failure to reimburse necessary business expenses, for violations of California
2 Business & Professions Code Section 17200, *et seq.* based on the aforementioned California Labor
3 Code violations, and for civil penalties under PAGA based on the aforementioned California Labor
4 Code violations.

5 2. Defendants deny all materials allegations set forth in the Action and have asserted
6 numerous affirmative defenses. Notwithstanding, in the interest of avoiding further litigation,
7 Defendants desire to fully and finally settle the Action, Released Class Claims (as defined herein), and
8 Released PAGA Claims (as defined herein).

9 3. Class Counsel diligently investigated the class and PAGA claims against Defendants,
10 including any and all applicable defenses and the applicable law. The investigation included, *inter*
11 *alia*, the exchange of information, data, and documents, and review of corporate policies and practices.
12 The Parties have engaged in sufficient formal and informal discovery and investigation to assess the
13 relative merits of the claims and contentions of the Parties.

14 4. On September 11, 2024, the Parties participated in mediation with Tripper Ortman,
15 Esq. (the "Mediator"), a respected mediator of complex wage and hour actions, and with the assistance
16 of the Mediator's evaluations, the Parties reached the settlement that is memorialized herein. The
17 Parties' settlement discussions were conducted at arms' length, and the Settlement is the result of an
18 informed and detailed analysis of Defendants' potential liability and exposure in relation to the costs
19 and risks associated with continued litigation. Based on Class Counsel's investigation and evaluation,
20 Class Counsel believes that the settlement with Defendants for the consideration and on the terms set
21 forth in this Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interest of the
22 Class Members, State of California, and PAGA Employees in light of all known facts and
23 circumstances, including the risk of significant delay and uncertainty associated with litigation and
24 various defenses asserted by Defendants.

25 5. The Parties expressly acknowledge that this Settlement Agreement is entered into
26 solely for the purpose of compromising significantly disputed claims and that nothing herein is an
27 admission of liability or wrongdoing by Defendants. If for any reason this Settlement Agreement is
28 not approved, it will be of no force or effect, and the Parties shall be returned to their original respective

positions.

DEFINITIONS

6. The following definitions are applicable to this Settlement Agreement. Definitions contained elsewhere in this Settlement Agreement will also be effective.

a. "Attorneys' Fees and Costs" means attorneys' fees approved by the Court for Class Counsel's litigation and resolution of the Action and all actual costs and expenses incurred and to be incurred by Class Counsel in connection with the Action, as set forth in Paragraph 9.

b. "Class" or "Class Member(s)" means all current and former hourly-paid and/or non-exempt employees who worked for Defendants in the State of California at any time during the Class Period.

c. "Class Counsel" means Jonathan M. Genish, Miriam L. Schimmel, Joana Fang, Alexandra Rose, and Jared C. Osborne of Blackstone Law, APC, who will seek to be appointed counsel for the Class.

d. "Class List" means a complete list of all Class Members that Defendants will diligently and in good faith compile from its records and provide to the Settlement Administrator. The Class List will be formatted in a readable Microsoft Office Excel spreadsheet containing the following information for each Class Member: (1) full name; (2) last known mailing address; (3) Social Security number; (4) dates worked for Defendants during the Class Period; and (5) the total Workweeks and Pay Periods. On or about the same date that the Defendant provides the Class List to the Administrator, Defendant will separately provide Plaintiff's Counsel with a declaration attesting to the number of Workweeks and Pay Periods.

e. "Class Notice" means the Notice of Class Action Settlement, substantially in the form attached hereto as "**Exhibit A.**"

f. "Class Period" means the period from January 3, 2020 through December 23, 2024.

g. "Class Settlement" means the settlement and resolution of all Released Class Claims.

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1 h. "Court" means the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of
2 San Francisco.

3 i. "Defendants' Counsel" means Mollie M. Burks and Sat Sang S. Khalsa of
4 Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP.

5 j. "Dispute" means a letter submitted by a Class Member disputing the number of
6 Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to which they have been credited, which must: (a) contain the case
7 name and number of the Action; (b) contain the Class Member's full name, signature, address, and
8 telephone number; (c) clearly state that the Class Member disputes the number of Workweeks and/or
9 Pay Periods credited to the Class Member and what the Class Member contends is the correct number;
10 and (d) be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address, postmarked on or
11 before the Response Deadline.

12 k. "Effective Date" means the following: (i) if no Settlement Class Member
13 objects to the Class Settlement, then the Effective Date will be the date of Final Approval; or (ii) if
14 any Settlement Class Member objects to the Class Settlement, the Effective Date will be the sixty-first
15 (61st) calendar day after the date of Final Approval, provided no appeal is initiated by an objector; or
16 (iii) if a timely appeal is initiated by an objector, then the Effective Date will be the day after final
17 resolution of that appeal (including any requests for rehearing and/or petitions for certiorari), resulting
18 in final judicial approval of the Settlement.

19 l. "Employer Taxes" means the employers' share of taxes and contributions in
20 connection with the wages portion of Individual Settlement Shares, which shall be paid by Defendants
21 in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount.

22 m. "Enhancement Payment" means the amount to be paid to Plaintiff, in
23 recognition of his effort and work in prosecuting the Action on behalf of Class Members and PAGA
24 Employees, as set forth in Paragraph 10.

25 n. "Final Approval" means the determination by the Court that the Settlement is
26 fair, reasonable, and adequate, and entry of the Final Approval Order and Judgment based thereon.

27 o. "Final Approval Hearing" means the hearing at which the Court will consider
28 and determine whether the Settlement should be granted Final Approval.

1 p. “Final Approval Order and Judgment” means the order granting final approval
2 of the Settlement and entering judgment thereon, in a form and content mutually agreed to by the
3 Parties, and subject to approval by the Court.

4 q. “Gross Settlement Amount” means the amount of One Million Eight Hundred
5 Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$1,850,000.00) to be paid by Defendants in full satisfaction
6 of the Action, Released Class Claims, and Released PAGA Claims, which includes all Attorneys’ Fees
7 and Costs, Enhancement Payment, PAGA Amount, Settlement Administration Costs, and Net
8 Settlement Amount to be paid to the Settlement Class Members. Defendants shall pay the Employer
9 Taxes separately and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount. The Gross Settlement Amount is
10 non-reversionary; no portion of the Gross Settlement Payment will return to Defendants. The Gross
11 Settlement Amount is subject to increase, as provided in Paragraph 13.

12 r. “Individual PAGA Payment” means the *pro rata* share of the PAGA Employee
13 Amount that a PAGA Employee may be eligible to receive under the PAGA Settlement, to be
14 calculated in accordance with Paragraph 15.

15 s. “Individual Settlement Payment” means the net payment of each Settlement
16 Class Member’s Individual Settlement Share, after reduction for the employee’s share of taxes and
17 withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Share, as provided in
18 Paragraph 16.

19 t. “Individual Settlement Share” means the *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement
20 Amount that a Class Member may be eligible to receive under the Class Settlement, to be calculated
21 in accordance with Paragraph 14.

22 u. “LWDA Payment” means the amount of Sixty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred
23 Dollars and Zero Cents (\$67,500.00), i.e., 75% of the PAGA Amount, that the Parties have agreed to
24 pay to the LWDA under the PAGA Settlement, as set forth in Paragraph 11.

25 v. “Net Settlement Amount” means the portion of the Gross Settlement Amount
26 that is available for distribution to Settlement Class Members, which is the Gross Settlement Amount
27 less the Court-approved Attorneys’ Fees and Costs, Enhancement Payment, PAGA Amount, and
28 Settlement Administration Costs.

1 w. “Notice of Objection” means a Settlement Class Member’s written objection to
2 the Class Settlement, which must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action; (b) contain the
3 objector’s full name, signature, address, and telephone number; (c) contain a written statement of all
4 grounds for the objection accompanied by any legal support for such objection; (d) contain copies of
5 any papers, briefs, or other documents upon which the objection is based; and (e) be returned by mail
6 to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address, postmarked on or before the Response
7 Deadline.

8 x. “PAGA Amount” means the allocation of Ninety Thousand and Zero Cents
9 (\$90,000.00) from the Gross Settlement Amount for the PAGA Settlement. Seventy-five percent
10 (75%) of the PAGA Amount, or \$67,500.00, will be paid to the LWDA (i.e., the LWDA Payment)
11 and the remaining twenty-five percent (25%), or \$22,500.00, will be distributed to the PAGA
12 Employees (i.e., the PAGA Employee Amount).

13 y. “PAGA Employee(s)” means all current and former hourly-paid and/or non-
14 exempt employees who worked for Defendants in the State of California at any time during the PAGA
15 Period.

16 z. “PAGA Employee Amount” means the amount of Twenty-Two Thousand Five
17 Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$22,500.00), i.e., 25% of the PAGA Amount, to be distributed to
18 PAGA Employees on a *pro rata* basis based on their Pay Periods.

19 aa. “PAGA Period” means the period from December 19, 2022 through December
20 23, 2024.

21 bb. “PAGA Settlement” means the settlement and resolution of all Released PAGA
22 Claims.

23 cc. “Pay Periods” means the number of pay periods each PAGA Employee worked
24 for Defendants as an hourly-paid and/or non-exempt employee in California during the PAGA Period.

25 dd. “Preliminary Approval” means the date on which the Court enters the
26 Preliminary Approval Order.

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1 ee. "Preliminary Approval Order" means the order granting preliminary approval
2 of the Settlement, in a form and content mutually agreed to by the Parties, and subject to approval by
3 the Court.

4 ff. "Released Class Claims" means any and all claims which were alleged or
5 reasonably could have been alleged based on the factual allegations in the Operative Complaint,
6 arising during the Class Period, and shall specifically include claims for Defendants' alleged failure
7 to pay minimum and overtime wages, provide compliant meal and rest periods and associated premium
8 payments, timely pay wages during employment and upon termination, provide accurate wage
9 statements, and reimburse necessary business-related expenses in violation of California Labor Code
10 Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 1174(d), 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1,
11 1198, 2800, and 2802, and the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order, and for violations of the
12 California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.* based on the aforementioned
13 California Labor Code violations.

14 gg. "Released PAGA Claims" means any and all claims arising from any of the
15 factual allegations in the PAGA Letter and/or Operative Complaint, arising during the PAGA Period,
16 for civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code Sections
17 2698 *et seq.*, including for Defendants' alleged failure to pay minimum and overtime wages, provide
18 compliant meal and rest periods and associated premium payments, timely pay wages during
19 employment and upon termination, provide accurate wage statements, maintain complete and accurate
20 payroll records, and reimburse necessary business-related expenses in violation of California Labor
21 Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 1174(d), 1194, 1194.2, 1197,
22 1197.1, 1198, 2800, and 2802, and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order.

23 hh. "Released Parties" means Defendants and each of their respective agents,
24 officers, employees who are not Class Members, directors, members, owners, parent companies,
25 insurers, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors, successors, and assigns.

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1 ii. “Request for Exclusion” means a letter submitted by a Class Member indicating
2 a request to be excluded from the Class Settlement, which must: (a) contain the case name and number
3 of the Action; (b) contain the Class Member’s full name, signature, address, and telephone number;
4 (c) clearly state that the Class Member does not wish to be included in the Class Settlement; and (d)
5 be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address, postmarked on or before
6 the Response Deadline.

7 jj. “Response Deadline” means the deadline by which Class Members must submit
8 a Request for Exclusion, Notice of Objection, and/or Dispute, which shall be the date that is forty-five
9 (45) calendar days from the initial mailing of the Class Notice by the Settlement Administrator to
10 Class Members, unless the 45th day falls on a Sunday or Federal holiday, in which case the Response
11 Deadline will be extended to the next day on which the United States Postal service is open. The
12 Response Deadline may also be extended by express agreement between Class Counsel and
13 Defendants’ Counsel. Under no circumstances, however, will the Settlement Administrator have the
14 authority to extend the Response Deadline. In the event that a Class Notice is re-mailed to a Class
15 Member, the Response Deadline for that Class Member shall be extended fifteen (15) calendar days
16 from the original Response Deadline.

17 kk. “Settlement Administrator” means ILYM Group, Inc., subject to approval by
18 the Court, for purposes of administering the Settlement. The Parties and their counsel each represent
19 that they do not have any financial interest in the Settlement Administrator or otherwise have a
20 relationship with the Settlement Administrator that could create a conflict of interest.

21 ll. “Settlement Administration Costs” means the costs payable from the Gross
22 Settlement Amount to the Settlement Administrator for administering the Settlement, as set forth in
23 Paragraph 12.

24 mm. “Settlement Class” or “Settlement Class Member(s)” means all Class Members
25 who do not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion.

26 nn. “Workweeks” means the number of weeks each Class Member worked for
27 Defendants as an hourly-paid and/or non-exempt employee in California during the Class Period.

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1 **CLASS CERTIFICATION**

2 7. For the purposes of this Settlement only, the Parties stipulate to the certification of the
3 Class.

4 8. The Parties agree that certification for the purpose of settlement is not an admission
5 that certification is proper under Section 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure. Should, for
6 whatever reason, the Court not grant Final Approval, the Parties' stipulation to class certification as
7 part of the Settlement shall become null and void ab initio and shall have no bearing on, and shall not
8 be admissible in connection with, the issue of whether or not certification would be inappropriate in a
9 non-settlement context.

10 **TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT**

11 NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, promises, and agreements set
12 forth herein, the Parties agree, subject to the Court's approval, as follows:

13 9. Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Defendants agree not to oppose or impede any application
14 or motion by Class Counsel for attorneys' fees in the amount up to one-third (1/3) of the Gross
15 Settlement Amount (i.e., \$616,666.67 if the Gross Settlement Amount is \$1,850,000.00) and
16 reimbursement of actual costs and expenses associated with Class Counsel's litigation and settlement
17 of the Action, in an amount not to exceed Twenty-Six Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$26,000.00),
18 both of which will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. These amounts will cover any and all
19 work performed and any and all costs incurred by Class Counsel in connection with the litigation of
20 the Action, including without limitation all work performed and costs incurred to date, and all work
21 to be performed and all costs to be incurred in connection with obtaining the Court's approval of this
22 Settlement Agreement, including any objections raised and any appeals necessitated by those
23 objections. Class Counsel shall be solely and legally responsible for correctly characterizing this
24 compensation for tax purposes and for paying any taxes on the amounts received. The Settlement
25 Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 to Class Counsel for the Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Any
26 portion of the requested Attorneys' Fees and Costs that is not awarded by the Court to Class Counsel
27 shall be reallocated to the Net Settlement Amount for the benefit of the Settlement Class Members.

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1 10. Enhancement Payment. Defendants agree not to oppose or impede any application or
2 motion by Plaintiff for an Enhancement Payment in the amount up to Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero
3 Cents (\$10,000.00). The Enhancement Payment, which will be paid from the Gross Settlement
4 Amount, subject to Court approval, will be in addition to his Individual Settlement Payment as a
5 Settlement Class Member and Individual PAGA Payment as a PAGA Employee. Plaintiff shall be
6 solely and legally responsible for correctly characterizing this compensation for tax purposes and for
7 paying any taxes on the amounts received. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099
8 to Plaintiff for the Enhancement Payment. Any portion of the requested Enhancement Payment that is
9 not awarded by the Court to Plaintiff shall be reallocated to the Net Settlement Amount for the benefit
10 of the Settlement Class Members.

11 11. PAGA Amount. Subject to approval by the Court, the Parties agree that the amount of
12 Ninety Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$90,000.00) shall be allocated from the Gross Settlement
13 Amount toward penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act, California Labor Code Section
14 2698, *et seq.* (i.e., the PAGA Amount), of which seventy-five percent (75%), or \$67,500.00, will be
15 paid to the LWDA (i.e., the LWDA Payment) and twenty-five percent (25%), or \$22,500.00, will be
16 distributed to PAGA Employees (i.e., the PAGA Employee Amount) on a *pro rata* basis, based on the
17 total number of Pay Periods worked by each PAGA Employee during the PAGA Period (i.e., the
18 Individual PAGA Payments).

19 12. Settlement Administration Costs. The Settlement Administrator will be paid for the
20 reasonable costs of administration of the Settlement and distribution of payments under the Settlement,
21 which are currently not to exceed Thirteen Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$13,000.00). These
22 costs, which will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, subject to Court approval, will include,
23 *inter alia*, printing, distributing, and tracking Class Notices and other documents for the Settlement,
24 calculating and distributing payments due under the Settlement, issuing of 1099 and W-2 IRS Forms
25 and all required tax reporting, filings, withholdings, and remittances, providing necessary reports and
26 declarations, and other duties and responsibilities set forth herein to process the Settlement, and as
27 requested by the Parties. To the extent the actual Settlement Administrator's costs are greater than the
28 estimated amount stated herein, such excess amount will be deducted from the Gross Settlement

1 Amount, subject to approval by the Court. Any portion of the estimated, designated, and/or awarded
2 Settlement Administration Costs which are not in fact required to fulfill payment to the Settlement
3 Administrator to undertake the required settlement administration duties shall be reallocated to the Net
4 Settlement Amount for the benefit of the Settlement Class Members.

5 13. Escalator Clause. Defendants have represented that the Class Members worked a total
6 of 54,431 workweeks during the period January 3, 2020 through September 11, 2024. If the total
7 number of Workweeks worked by the Class Members during the Class Period actually exceeds 54,431
8 by more than 10% (i.e., by more than 59,874 Workweeks), then the Gross Settlement Amount will be
9 increased on a *pro rata* basis equal to the percentage increase in the number of Workweeks worked
10 by the Class Members above 10%. For example, if the number of Workweeks increases by 11% to
11 60,418 Workweeks, then the Gross Settlement Amount will increase by 1%.

12 14. Individual Settlement Share Calculations. Individual Settlement Shares will be
13 calculated and apportioned from the Net Settlement Amount based on the Class Members' number of
14 Workweeks, as follows:

15 a. After Preliminary Approval, the Settlement Administrator will divide the Net
16 Settlement Amount by the Workweeks of all Class Members to yield the "Estimated Workweek
17 Value," and multiply each Class Member's individual Workweeks by the Estimated Workweek Value
18 to yield each Class Member's estimated Individual Settlement Share that each Class Member may be
19 entitled to receive under the Class Settlement.

20 b. After Final Approval, the Settlement Administrator will divide the final Net
21 Settlement Amount by the Workweeks of all Settlement Class Members to yield the "Final Workweek
22 Value," and multiply each Settlement Class Member's individual Workweeks by the Final Workweek
23 Value to each Settlement Class Member's final Individual Settlement Share.

24 15. Individual PAGA Payment Calculations. Individual PAGA Payments will be
25 calculated and apportioned from the PAGA Employee Amount based on the PAGA Employees'
26 number of Pay Periods, as follows: The Settlement Administrator will divide the PAGA Employee
27 Amount, i.e., 25% of the PAGA Amount, by the Pay Periods of all PAGA Employees to yield the
28 "PAGA Workweek Value," and multiply each PAGA Employee's individual Pay Periods by the

1 PAGA Workweek Value to yield each PAGA Employee's Individual PAGA Payment.

2 16. Tax Treatment of Individual Settlement Shares and Individual PAGA Payments. Each
3 Individual Settlement Share will be allocated as follows: twenty percent (20%) wages and eighty
4 percent (80%) penalties, interest, and non-wage damages. The portion allocated to wages will be
5 reported on an IRS Form W-2 and the portions allocated to penalties, interest, and non-wage damages
6 will be reported on an IRS Form 1099 (if applicable) by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement
7 Administrator will withhold the employee's share of taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages
8 portion of the Individual Settlement Shares, and issue checks to Settlement Class Members for their
9 Individual Settlement Payments (i.e., payment of their Individual Settlement Share net of these taxes
10 and withholdings). The Employer Taxes will be paid separately and in addition to the Gross Settlement
11 Amount. Each Individual PAGA Payment will be allocated as one hundred percent (100%) penalties
12 and will be reported on an IRS Form 1099 (if applicable) by the Settlement Administrator.

13 17. Administration of Taxes by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement
14 Administrator will be responsible for issuing to Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, PAGA
15 Employees, and Class Counsel any tax forms (i.e., IRS Forms W-2, IRS Forms 1099, etc.) as may be
16 required by law for all amounts paid pursuant to this Settlement Agreement. The Settlement
17 Administrator will also be responsible for calculating the Employer Taxes and forwarding all payroll
18 taxes and other legally required withholdings to the appropriate government authorities.

19 18. Tax Liability. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendants, and Defendants' Counsel do not
20 intend anything contained in this Settlement Agreement to constitute advice regarding taxes or
21 taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement Agreement be relied on as such. Plaintiff, Settlement
22 Class Members, and PAGA Employees are not relying on any statement, representation, or calculation
23 by Defendants, the Settlement Administrator, or Class Counsel in this regard. Plaintiff, Settlement
24 Class Members, and PAGA Employees understand and agree that Plaintiff, Settlement Class
25 Members, and PAGA Employees will be solely responsible for the payment of any taxes and penalties
26 assessed on the payments described in this Settlement Agreement. Plaintiff, Settlement Class
27 Members, and PAGA Employees should consult with their tax advisors concerning the tax
28 consequences of any payment they receive under the Settlement.

1 19. Circular 230 Disclaimer. EACH PARTY TO THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
2 (FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE “ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY” AND EACH PARTY
3 TO THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT OTHER THAN THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY, AN
4 “OTHER PARTY”) ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT (1) NO PROVISION OF THIS
5 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, AND NO WRITTEN COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE
6 BETWEEN OR AMONG THE PARTIES OR THEIR ATTORNEYS AND OTHER ADVISERS, IS
7 OR WAS INTENDED TO BE, NOR WILL ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE
8 CONSTITUTE OR BE CONSTRUED OR BE RELIED UPON AS, TAX ADVICE WITHIN THE
9 MEANING OF UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR 230 (31 CFR PART
10 10, AS AMENDED); (2) THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY (A) HAS RELIED EXCLUSIVELY
11 UPON HIS, HER, OR ITS OWN, INDEPENDENT LEGAL AND TAX COUNSEL FOR ADVICE
12 (INCLUDING TAX ADVICE) IN CONNECTION WITH THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, (B)
13 HAS NOT ENTERED INTO THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BASED UPON THE
14 RECOMMENDATION OF ANY OTHER PARTY OR ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO ANY
15 OTHER PARTY, AND (C) IS NOT ENTITLED TO RELY UPON ANY COMMUNICATION OR
16 DISCLOSURE BY ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO ANY OTHER PARTY TO AVOID ANY
17 TAX PENALTY THAT MAY BE IMPOSED ON THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY; AND (3) NO
18 ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO ANY OTHER PARTY HAS IMPOSED ANY LIMITATION THAT
19 PROTECTS THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY SUCH ATTORNEY’S OR ADVISOR’S TAX
20 STRATEGIES (REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH LIMITATION IS LEGALLY BINDING)
21 UPON DISCLOSURE BY THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY OF THE TAX TREATMENT OR
22 TAX STRUCTURE OF ANY TRANSACTION, INCLUDING ANY TRANSACTION
23 CONTEMPLATED BY THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.

24 20. Settlement Awards Do Not Trigger Additional Benefits. All payments made under the
25 Settlement shall be deemed to be paid to the payee solely in the year in which such payments actually
26 are issued to the payee. It is expressly understood and agreed that payments made under this Settlement
27 shall not in any way entitle Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, or any PAGA Employee to additional
28 compensation or benefits under any new or additional compensation or benefits, or any bonus, contest,

1 or other compensation or benefit plan or agreement in place during the Class Period, nor will it entitle
2 Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, or any PAGA Employee to any increased retirement, 401K
3 benefits or matching benefits, or deferred compensation benefits (notwithstanding any contrary
4 language or agreement in any benefit or compensation plan document that might have been in effect
5 during the Class Period).

6 21. Duties of the Parties with Respect to Obtaining Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.

7 Upon execution of this Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff will obtain a hearing date from the Court for
8 Plaintiff's motion for preliminary approval of the Settlement, which Plaintiff and Class Counsel will
9 be responsible for drafting, and submit this Settlement Agreement to the Court in support of said
10 motion. Class Counsel will provide Defendants' Counsel a draft of the preliminary approval motion
11 before filing it with the Court. Defendants agree not to oppose the motion for preliminary approval of
12 the Settlement consistent with this Settlement Agreement. By way of said motion, Plaintiff will apply
13 for the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order seeking the following:

- 14 a. Conditionally certifying the Class for settlement purposes only;
- 15 b. Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement;
- 16 c. Preliminarily appointing Plaintiff as the representative of the Class;
- 17 d. Preliminarily appointing Class Counsel as counsel for the Class;
- 18 e. Approving as to form and content, the mutually-agreed upon and proposed
19 Class Notice and directing its mailing by First Class U.S. Mail;
- 20 f. Approving the manner and method for Class Members to request exclusion
21 from or object to the Class Settlement as contained herein and within the Class Notice;
- 22 g. Scheduling a Final Approval Hearing at which the Court will determine whether
23 Final Approval of the Settlement should be granted.

24 22. Notice of Settlement to the LWDA. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699(1)(2),
25 Class Counsel shall notify the LWDA of the Settlement.

26 23. Delivery of Class List. Within fourteen (14) calendar days of Preliminary Approval,
27 Defendants will provide the Class List to the Settlement Administrator.

28 24. Notice by First-Class U.S. Mail.

1 a. Within seven (7) calendar days after receiving the Class List from Defendants,
2 the Settlement Administrator will perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database
3 or any other similar services available, such as provided by Experian, for information to update and
4 correct for any known or identifiable address changes, and will mail a Class Notice (in the form
5 attached as **Exhibit A** to this Settlement Agreement) to all Class Members via First-Class U.S. Mail,
6 using the most current, known mailing addresses identified by the Settlement Administrator.

7 b. Any Class Notice returned to the Settlement Administrator as undeliverable on
8 or before the Response Deadline will be sent promptly via First-Class U.S. Mail to the forwarding
9 address affixed thereto and the Settlement Administrator will indicate the date of such re-mailing on
10 the Class Notice. If no forwarding address is provided, the Settlement Administrator will promptly
11 attempt to determine the correct address using a skip-trace or other search, using the name, address,
12 and/or Social Security number of the Class Member, and perform a single re-mailing within five (5)
13 calendar days.

14 c. Compliance with the procedures described herein above shall constitute due and
15 sufficient notice to Class Members of the Settlement and shall satisfy the requirements of due process.
16 Nothing else shall be required of or done by the Parties, Class Counsel, or Defendants' Counsel to
17 provide notice of the Settlement.

18 25. Disputes Regarding Workweeks and/or Pay Periods. Class Members will have an
19 opportunity to dispute the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to which they have been credited,
20 as reflected in their respective Class Notices, by submitting a timely and valid Dispute to the
21 Settlement Administrator, by mail, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline. The date of the
22 postmark on the return mailing envelope will be the exclusive means to determine whether a Dispute
23 has been timely submitted. Absent evidence rebutting the accuracy of Defendants' records and data
24 as they pertain to the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to be credited to a disputing Class
25 Member, Defendants' records will be presumed to be correct and determinative of the dispute.
26 However, if a Class Member produces information and/or documents to the contrary, the Settlement
27 Administrator will evaluate the materials submitted by the Class Member and the Settlement
28 Administrator will resolve and determine the number of eligible Workweeks and/or Pay Periods that

the disputing Class Member should be credited with under the Settlement. The Settlement Administrator's decision on such disputes will be final and non-appealable.

26. Requesting Exclusion from the Class Settlement. Any Class Member wishing to be excluded from the Class Settlement must submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion to the Settlement Administrator, by mail, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline. The date of the postmark on the return mailing envelope will be the exclusive means to determine whether a Request for Exclusion has been timely submitted. The Settlement Administrator will certify jointly to Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel the number of timely and valid Requests for Exclusion that are submitted, and also identify the individuals who have submitted a timely and valid Request for Exclusion in a declaration that is to be filed with the Court in advance of the Final Approval Hearing. At no time will any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class Members to request exclusion from the Class Settlement. Any Class Member who submits a Request for Exclusion is prohibited from making any objection to the Class Settlement. Any Class Member who submits a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will not be bound by the Class Settlement and will not be issued an Individual Settlement Payment. Any Class Member who does not affirmatively request exclusion from the Class Settlement by submitting a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will be bound by all of the terms of the Class Settlement, including and not limited to those pertaining to the Released Class Claims, as well as any judgment that may be entered by the Court if it grants Final Approval to the Settlement. Notwithstanding the above, all PAGA Employees will be bound to the PAGA Settlement and will be issued their Individual PAGA Payment, irrespective of whether they submit a Request for Exclusion.

27. Objecting to the Class Settlement. To object to the Class Settlement, Settlement Class Members must submit a timely and complete Notice of Objection to the Settlement Administrator, by mail, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline. The date of the postmark on the return mailing envelope will be the exclusive means to determine whether a Notice of Objection has been timely submitted. The Settlement Administrator will certify jointly to Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel the number of Notices of Objection that are submitted (specifying which ones were timely and complete and which were not), and also attach them to a declaration that is to be filed with the

1 Court in advance of the Final Approval Hearing. At no time will any of the Parties or their counsel
2 seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Settlement Class Members to object to the Class Settlement or
3 appeal from the Final Approval Order and Judgment. Settlement Class Members, individually or
4 through counsel, may also present their objection orally at the Final Approval Hearing, regardless of
5 whether they have submitted a Notice of Objection and without any prior notice. If the Settlement
6 Administrator receives both a Request for Exclusion and a Notice of Objection, the Settlement
7 Administrator will honor the submission that is received first and disregard the other.

8 28. Reports by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator shall provide
9 weekly reports to counsel for the Parties providing: (a) the number of undeliverable and re-mailed
10 Class Notices; (ii) the number of Class Members who have submitted Disputes; (iii) the number of
11 Class Members who have submitted Requests for Exclusion; and (iv) the number of Settlement Class
12 Members who have submitted Notices of Objection. Additionally, the Settlement Administrator will
13 provide to counsel for the Parties any updated reports regarding the administration of the Settlement
14 Agreement as needed or requested, and immediately notify the Parties when it receives a request from
15 an individual or any other entity regarding inclusion in the Class and/or Settlement or regarding a
16 Dispute.

17 29. Defendants' Right to Rescind. If more than ten percent (10%) of the Class Members
18 submit timely and valid Requests for Exclusion, Defendants may elect to rescind the Settlement
19 Agreement. Defendants must exercise this right of rescission in writing that is provided to Class
20 Counsel within fourteen (14) calendar days of the Settlement Administrator notifying the Parties of
21 the number of Class Members who have submitted timely and valid Requests for Exclusion following
22 the Response Deadline. If Defendants exercise this option, Defendants shall pay any costs of
23 settlement administration owed to the Settlement Administrator incurred up to that date.

24 30. Certification of Completion. Upon completion of administration of the Settlement, the
25 Settlement Administrator will provide a written declaration under oath to certify such completion to
26 the Court and counsel for all Parties.

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1 31. Duties of the Parties with Respect to Obtaining Final Approval of the Settlement. After
2 the Response Deadline, a Final Approval Hearing will be conducted to determine whether Final
3 Approval of the Settlement should be granted, along with the amounts properly payable for: (a)
4 Individual Settlement Shares; (b) Individual PAGA Payments; (c) LWDA Payment; (d) Attorneys'
5 Fees and Costs; (e) Enhancement Payment; and (f) Settlement Administration Costs. The Final
6 Approval Hearing will not be held earlier than thirty (30) calendar days after the Response Deadline.
7 Plaintiff and Class Counsel will be responsible for drafting the motion seeking Final Approval of the
8 Settlement. Class Counsel will provide Defendants' Counsel a draft of the final approval motion
9 before filing it with the Court. By way of said motion, Plaintiff will apply for the entry of the Final
10 Approval Order and Judgment, which will provide for, in substantial part, the following:

- 11 a. Approval of the Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate, and directing
12 consummation of its terms and provisions;
- 13 b. Certification of the Settlement Class;
- 14 c. Approval of the application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Class Counsel;
- 15 d. Approval of the application for Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff;
- 16 e. Directing Defendants to fund all amounts due under the Settlement Agreement
17 and ordered by the Court; and
- 18 f. Entering judgment in the Action, while maintaining continuing jurisdiction, in
19 conformity with California Rules of Court 3.769 and the Settlement Agreement.

20 32. Funding of the Gross Settlement Amount. No later than January 5, 2026, Defendants
21 will deposit the Gross Settlement Amount (\$1,850,000) into a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF")
22 within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.468B-1, *et seq.*, to be established by the
23 Settlement Administrator. Defendants shall also provide all information necessary for the Settlement
24 Administrator to calculate necessary payroll taxes including its official name, 8-digit state
25 unemployment insurance tax ID number, and other information requested by the Settlement
26 Administrator. Any funds necessary to fund the Employer's Taxes shall be funded within five (5)
27 calendar days after the Effective Date.

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1 33. Distribution of the Gross Settlement Amount. Within five (5) business days after the
2 QSF is fully funded and the Employer's Taxes is funded, the Settlement Administrator will issue the
3 Individual Settlement Payments to the Settlement Class Members, the Individual PAGA Payments to
4 the PAGA Employees, the LWDA Payment to the LWDA, the Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff, the
5 Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Class Counsel, and the Settlement Administration Costs to itself. The
6 Settlement Administrator shall also set aside the Employer Taxes and all employee-side payroll taxes,
7 contributions, and withholding, and timely forward these to the appropriate government authorities.

8 34. Settlement Checks. The Settlement Administrator will be responsible for undertaking
9 appropriate deductions, required tax reporting, and issuing the Individual Settlement Payments by way
10 of check to the Settlement Class Members and the Individual PAGA Payments by way of check to the
11 PAGA Employees in accordance with this Settlement Agreement. When issuing payments, the
12 Settlement Administrator may combine the Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA
13 Payment into one check if the intended recipient for both payments is one individual. Settlement Class
14 Members and PAGA Employees are not required to submit a claim to be issued an Individual
15 Settlement Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment. Each Individual Settlement Payment and
16 Individual PAGA Payment check will be valid and negotiable for one hundred and eighty (180)
17 calendar days from the date the checks are issued, and thereafter, shall be canceled. Any funds
18 associated with such canceled checks shall be distributed by the Settlement Administrator to the State
19 of California's Unclaimed Property Division in the name of the Settlement Class Member and/or
20 PAGA Employee. The Parties agree that this disposition results in no "unpaid residue" under
21 California Civil Procedure Code § 384, as the entire Net Settlement Amount will be paid out to
22 Settlement Class Members, whether or not they cash their settlement checks. Therefore, Defendants
23 will not be required to pay any interest on such amounts. The Settlement Administrator shall undertake
24 amended and/or supplemental tax filings and reporting required under applicable local, state, and
25 federal tax laws that are necessitated due to the cancelation of any Individual Settlement Payment
26 and/or Individual PAGA Payment checks. Settlement Class Members whose Individual Settlement
27 Payment checks are canceled shall, nevertheless, be bound by the Class Settlement, and PAGA
28 Employees whose Individual PAGA Payment checks are canceled shall, nevertheless, be bound by the
PAGA Settlement.

1 35. Class Settlement Release. Upon the Effective Date and full funding of the Gross
2 Settlement Amount, Plaintiff and all Settlement Class Members will be deemed to have fully, finally,
3 and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties of all
4 Released Class Claims.

5 36. PAGA Settlement Release. Upon the Effective Date and full funding of the Gross
6 Settlement Amount, Plaintiff and the LWDA with respect to the PAGA Employees shall be deemed
7 to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the
8 Released Parties of all Released PAGA Claims.

9 37. Plaintiff's General Release. Upon the Effective Date, Plaintiff, individually and on his
10 own behalf, will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised,
11 relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties from any and all claims, debts, liabilities, demands,
12 obligations, guarantees, costs, expenses, attorneys' fees, damages, or causes of action of any kind or
13 nature whatsoever, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, asserted or unasserted, which
14 Plaintiff, at any time of execution of this Settlement Agreement, had or claimed to have or may have,
15 including but not limited to any and all claims arising out of, relating to, or resulting from his
16 employment and/or separation of employment with the Released Parties. It is agreed that this is a
17 general release and is to be broadly construed as a release of all claims, provided that, notwithstanding
18 the foregoing, this Paragraph expressly does not include a release of any claims that cannot be released
19 hereunder by law. Plaintiff understands and expressly agrees that this Settlement Agreement extends
20 to claims that he has against Defendants, of whatever nature and kind, known or unknown, suspected
21 or unsuspected, vested or contingent, past, present, or future, arising from or attributable to an incident
22 or event, occurring in whole or in part, on or before the execution of this Settlement Agreement. Any
23 and all rights granted under any state or federal law or regulation limiting the effect of this Settlement
24 Agreement, including the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, ARE HEREBY
25 EXPRESSLY WAIVED. Section 1542 of the California Civil Code reads as follows:

26 **A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR**
27 **OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER**
28 **FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM**

1 **OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH**
2 **THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.**

3 38. Final Approval Order and Judgment. The Parties shall provide the Settlement
4 Administrator with a copy of the Final Approval Order and Judgment once it is entered by the Court,
5 and the Settlement Administrator shall post the Final Approval Order and Judgment on its website for
6 sixty (60) calendar days. No individualized notice of the Final Approval Order and Judgment to the
7 Class will be required.

8 39. Continued Jurisdiction. After entry of the judgment pursuant to the Settlement, the
9 Court will have continuing jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 3.769 of the California Rules of Court and
10 Section 664.6 of the California Code of Civil Procedure, for purposes of addressing: (a) the
11 interpretation and enforcement of the terms of the Settlement, (b) settlement administration matters,
12 and (c) such post-judgment matters as may be appropriate under court rules or as set forth in this
13 Settlement Agreement.

14 40. Effects of Termination or Rescission of Settlement. Termination or rescission of the
15 Settlement Agreement shall have the following effects:

16 a. The Settlement Agreement shall be void and shall have no force or effect, and
17 no Party shall be bound by any of its terms;

18 b. In the event the Settlement Agreement is terminated, all funds held in trust by
19 the Settlement Administrator shall be returned to the Defendants within ten (10) calendar days after
20 the termination and upon the request by counsel for Defendants. Defendants shall have no obligation
21 to make any payments to any Party, Class Member, or attorney, except that the terminating Party shall
22 pay the Settlement Administrator for services rendered up to the date the Settlement Administrator is
23 notified that the Settlement has been terminated;

24 c. The Preliminary Approval Order, Final Approval Order and Judgment,
25 including any order certifying the Class, shall be vacated;

26 d. The Settlement Agreement and all negotiations, statements, and proceedings
27 relating thereto shall be without prejudice to the rights of any of the Parties, all of whom shall be
28 restored to their respective positions in the Action prior to the execution of the Settlement Agreement;

1 e. Neither this Settlement Agreement, nor any ancillary documents, actions,
2 statements, or filings in furtherance of the Settlement (including all matters associated with the
3 mediation) shall be admissible or offered into evidence in the Action or any other action for any
4 purpose whatsoever; and

5 f. Any documents generated to bring the Settlement into effect, will be null and
6 void, and any order or judgment entered by the Court in furtherance of this Settlement Agreement will
7 likewise be treated as void from the beginning.

8 41. No Prior Assignments. The Parties and their counsel represent, covenant, and warrant
9 that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign,
10 transfer, or encumber to any person or entity any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause
11 of action or right herein released and discharged.

12 42. Exhibits Incorporated by Reference. The terms of this Settlement include the terms set
13 forth in any attached exhibits, which are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein.
14 Any exhibits to this Settlement Agreement are an integral part of the Settlement.

15 43. Entire Agreement. This Settlement Agreement and any attached exhibits constitute the
16 entirety of the Parties' agreement relating to the settlement and transaction completed thereby, and all
17 prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, representations, and statements, whether oral
18 or written and whether by a Party or such Party's legal counsel, are merged herein. No other prior or
19 contemporaneous written or oral agreements may be deemed binding on the Parties. The Parties
20 expressly recognize California Civil Code § 1625 and California Code of Civil Procedure § 1856(a),
21 which provide that a written agreement is to be construed according to its terms and may not be varied
22 or contradicted by extrinsic evidence, and the Parties agree that no such extrinsic oral or written
23 representations or terms will modify, vary, or contradict the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

24 44. Interim Stay of Proceedings. The Parties agree to hold in abeyance all proceedings in
25 the Action (including with respect to California Code of Civil Procedure § 583.310), except such
26 proceedings necessary to implement and complete this Settlement Agreement, pending the Final
27 Approval Hearing to be conducted by the Court.

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1 45. Amendment or Modification. Prior to the filing of the motion for preliminary approval
2 of the Settlement, the Parties may not amend or modify any provision of this Settlement Agreement
3 except by written agreement signed by counsel for all Parties. After the filing of the motion for
4 preliminary approval of the Settlement, the Parties may not amend or modify any provision of this
5 Settlement Agreement except by written agreement signed by counsel for all the Parties and subject
6 to Court approval. A waiver or amendment of any provision of this Settlement Agreement will not
7 constitute a waiver of any other provision.

8 46. Authorization to Enter into Settlement Agreement. Counsel for all Parties warrant and
9 represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Settlement
10 Agreement and to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant
11 to this Settlement Agreement to effectuate its terms and to execute any other documents required to
12 effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement. The Parties warrant that they understand and have
13 full authority to enter into this Settlement Agreement, and further intend that this Settlement
14 Agreement will be fully enforceable and binding on all Parties, and agree that it will be admissible
15 and subject to disclosure in any proceeding to enforce its terms, notwithstanding any mediation
16 confidentiality provisions that otherwise might apply under state or federal law.

17 47. Signatories. It is agreed that because the members of the Class are so numerous, it is
18 impossible or impractical to have each Settlement Class Member or PAGA Employee execute this
19 Settlement Agreement. The Class Notice will advise all Class Members of the binding nature of the
20 Class Settlement as to the Settlement Class Members and the binding nature of the PAGA Settlement
21 as to the PAGA Employees, and the releases provided for by this Settlement Agreement shall have
22 the same force and effect as if this Settlement Agreement were executed by each Settlement Class
23 Member and PAGA Employee.

24 48. Binding on Successors and Assigns. This Settlement Agreement will be binding upon,
25 and inure to the benefit of, the successors or assigns of the Parties hereto, as previously defined.

26 49. California Law Governs. All terms of this Settlement Agreement and attached exhibits
27 hereto will be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of California.

28 50. Execution and Counterparts. This Settlement Agreement is subject only to the
execution of all Parties. However, this Settlement Agreement may be executed in one or more
counterparts. All executed counterparts and each of them, including facsimile, electronic, and scanned

1 copies of the signature page, will be deemed to be one and the same instrument.

2 51. Acknowledgement that the Settlement is Fair and Reasonable. The Parties believe this
3 Settlement Agreement is a fair, adequate, and reasonable settlement of the Action and have arrived at
4 this Settlement after arm's length negotiations and in the context of adversarial litigation, taking into
5 account all relevant factors, present and potential. The Parties further acknowledge that they are each
6 represented by competent counsel and that they have had an opportunity to consult with their counsel
7 regarding the fairness and reasonableness of this Settlement Agreement. In addition, if necessary to
8 obtain approval of the Settlement, the Mediator may execute a declaration supporting the Settlement
9 and the reasonableness of the Settlement and the Court may, in its discretion, contact the Mediator to
10 discuss the Settlement and whether or not the Settlement is objectively fair and reasonable.

11 52. Invalidity of Any Provision. Before declaring any provision of this Settlement
12 Agreement invalid, the Court will first attempt to construe the provision as valid to the fullest extent
13 possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of this Settlement
14 Agreement valid and enforceable.

15 53. Plaintiff's Cooperation. Plaintiff agrees to sign this Settlement Agreement and, by
16 signing this Settlement Agreement, is hereby bound by the terms herein and agrees to fully cooperate
17 to implement the Settlement.

18 54. Non-Admission of Liability. The Parties enter into this Settlement Agreement to
19 resolve the dispute that has arisen between them and to avoid the burden, expense, and risk of
20 continued litigation. In entering into this Settlement Agreement, Defendants do not admit, and
21 specifically deny, they have violated any federal, state, or local law; violated any regulations or
22 guidelines promulgated pursuant to any statute or any other applicable laws, regulations, or legal
23 requirements; breached any contract; violated or breached any duty; engaged in any misrepresentation
24 or deception; or engaged in any other unlawful conduct with respect to its employees. Neither this
25 Settlement Agreement, nor any of its terms or provisions, nor any of the negotiations connected with
26 it, shall be construed as an admission or concession by Defendants of any such violations or failures
27 to comply with any applicable law. Except as necessary in a proceeding to enforce the terms of this
28 Settlement Agreement, this Settlement Agreement and its terms and provisions shall not be offered or

1 received as evidence in any action or proceeding to establish any liability or admission on the part of
2 Defendants or to establish the existence of any condition constituting a violation of, or a non-
3 compliance with, federal, state, local or other applicable law.

4 55. Captions. The captions and paragraph numbers in this Settlement Agreement are
5 inserted for the reader's convenience, and in no way define, limit, construe, or describe the scope or
6 intent of the provisions of this Settlement Agreement.

7 56. Mutual Preparation. The Parties have had a full opportunity to negotiate the terms and
8 conditions of this Settlement Agreement. Accordingly, this Settlement Agreement will not be
9 construed more strictly against one Party than another merely by virtue of the fact that it may have
10 been prepared by counsel for one of the Parties, it being recognized that, because of the arms-length
11 negotiations between the Parties, all Parties have contributed equally to the preparation of this
12 Settlement Agreement.

13 57. Representation By Counsel. The Parties acknowledge that they have been represented
14 by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Settlement Agreement, and
15 that this Settlement Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel, and
16 reviewed in full.

17 58. All Terms Subject to Final Court Approval. All amounts and procedures described in
18 this Settlement Agreement herein will be subject to final Court approval.

19 59. Notices. All notices, demands, and other communications to be provided concerning
20 the Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third
21 business day after mailing by First Class U.S. Mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed
22 as follows:

23 To Plaintiff and Class Counsel:

24 Jonathan M. Genish

25 jgenish@blackstonepc.com

26 Miriam L. Schimmel

27 mschimmel@blackstonepc.com

28 Joana Fang

jfang@blackstonepc.com

Alexandra Rose

arose@blackstonepc.com

Jared C. Osborne

Tel: (310) 622-4278 / Fax: (855) 786-6356

Tel: (415) 986-5900 / Fax: (415) 986-8054

may seek the assistance of the Mediator and then the Court to resolve such disagreement.

IT IS SO AGREED.

FIRST AMENDED JOINT STIPULATION OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT

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2 **BLACKSTONE LAW, APC**
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13 San Francisco, California 94111
14 Tel: (415) 986-5900 / Fax: (415) 986-8054

15 60. Cooperation and Execution of Necessary Documents. All Parties and their counsel will
16 cooperate with each other in good faith and use their best efforts to implement the Settlement,
17 including and not limited to, executing all documents to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate
18 the terms of this Settlement Agreement. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or
19 content of any document needed to implement the Settlement Agreement, or on any supplemental
20 provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement, the Parties
21 may seek the assistance of the Mediator and then the Court to resolve such disagreement.

22 **IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Parties hereto knowingly and voluntarily executed this First
23 Amended Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement between Plaintiff and Defendants:
24 **IT IS SO AGREED.**

25 **PLAINTIFF CONNOR BROWN**

26 Dated: _____

Plaintiff Connor Brown

**DEFENDANT BI-RITE MANAGEMENT
SERVICES LLC**

27 Dated: 11/12/2025

28 

Brianne Gagnon
Co-Chief Executive Officer
On behalf of Defendant Bi-Rite Management
Services LLC

**DEFENDANT BI-RITE MARKET, INC. dba
BI-RITE FAMILY OF BUSINESSES**

Dated: 11/12/2025



Brianne Gagnon
Co-Chief Executive Officer
On behalf of Defendant Bi-Rite Market, Inc., dba
Bi-Rite Family of Businesses

DEFENDANT BI-RITE CREAMERY, INC.

Dated: 11/12/2025



Brianne Gagnon
Co-Chief Executive Officer
On behalf of Defendant Bi-Rite Creamery, Inc.

**DEFENDANT BI-RITE CATERING, LLC
dba BI-RITE CATERING & COMMISSARY
KITCHEN**

Dated: 11/12/2025



Brianne Gagnon
Co-Chief Executive Officer
On behalf of Defendant Bi-Rite Catering LLC,
dba Bi-Rite Catering & Commissary Kitchen

DEFENDANT BI-RITE DIVIS, INC.

Dated: 11/12/2025



Brianne Gagnon
Co-Chief Executive Officer
On behalf of Defendant Bi-Rite Divis, Inc.

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

BLACKSTONE LAW, APC

Dated: _____

Alexandra Rose
*Attorneys for Plaintiff Connor Brown
and Proposed Class Counsel*

**GORDON REES SCULLY MANSUKHANI,
LLP**

**DEFENDANT BI-RITE MARKET, INC. dba
BI-RITE FAMILY OF BUSINESSES**

Dated: _____

Brienne Gagnon
Co-Chief Executive Officer
On behalf of Defendant Bi-Rite Market, Inc., dba
Bi-Rite Family of Businesses

DEFENDANT BI-RITE CREAMERY, INC.

Dated: _____

Brienne Gagnon
Co-Chief Executive Officer
On behalf of Defendant Bi-Rite Creamery, Inc.

**DEFENDANT BI-RITE CATERING, LLC
dba BI-RITE CATERING & COMMISSARY
KITCHEN**

Dated: _____

Brienne Gagnon
Co-Chief Executive Officer
On behalf of Defendant Bi-Rite Catering LLC,
dba Bi-Rite Catering & Commissary Kitchen

DEFENDANT BI-RITE DIVIS, INC.

Dated: _____

Brienne Gagnon
Co-Chief Executive Officer
On behalf of Defendant Bi-Rite Divis, Inc.

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

BLACKSTONE LAW, APC

Dated: 11/13/2025



Alexandra Rose
Attorneys for Plaintiff Connor Brown
and Proposed Class Counsel

**GORDON REES SCULLY MANSUKHANI,
LLP**

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Dated: November 13, 2025



Mollie M. Burks
Sat Sang S. Khalsa

Attorneys for Defendants Bi-Rite Management
Services LLC, Bi-Rite Market, Inc. dba Bi-Rite
Family of Businesses, Bi-Rite Creamery, Inc.,
Bi-Rite Catering, LLC dba Bi-Rite Catering &
Commissary Kitchen, and Bi-Rite Divis, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE
(CCP 1010.6 & CRC 2.251)

I, Sean Kane, a Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court of the County of San Francisco, certify that I am not a party to the within action.

On March 12, 2026, I electronically served the attached document via File & ServeXpress on the recipients designated on the Transaction Receipt located on the File & ServeXpress website.

Dated: March 12, 2026

Brandon E. Riley, Court Executive Officer

By: _____


Sean Kane, Deputy Clerk

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Karina Hernandez, certify and declare as follows:

I am over eighteen years of age and not a party to the within action; my business address is 8383 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 745, Beverly Hills, California 90211. On March 13, 2026, I served a copy of the following document(s):

• **NOTICE OF ENTRY OF JUDGMENT OR ORDER**

on the interested parties as follows:

MOLLIE M. BURKS
SAT SANG S. KHALSA
DANA L. BURCH
**GORDON REES SCULLY
MANSUKHANI, LLP**
315 Pacific Avenue
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Attorneys for Defendants BI-RITE
MANAGEMENT SERVICES LLC; BI-
RITE MARKET, INC. dba BI-RITE
FAMILY OF BUSINESSES; BI-RITE
CREAMERY, INC.; BI-RITE
CATERING, LLC dba BI-RITE
CATERING & COMMISSARY KITCHEN;
and BI-RITE DIVIS, INC.

☒ **BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE (FILE & SERVE XPRESS):** I caused said document(s) to be sent to the addressee(s) listed above via File & Serve Xpress. I did not receive any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

State of California, Labor & Workforce Development Agency

Web URL:

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/Private-Attorneys-General-Act/Private-Attorneys-General-Act.html>

☒ **BY ONLINE SUBMISSION:** The above-referenced documents were transmitted to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency through the online system established for the submission of notices and documents, in conformity with California Labor Code section 2699(I). I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

1 ☒ **STATE:** I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California
2 that the above is true and correct.

3 Executed on March 13, 2026 at Beverly Hills, California.

4 /s/ Karina Hernandez
5 Karina Hernandez