

Manny Starr (319778)
manny@frontierlawcenter.com

Mike Rachmann (309770)
mike@frontierlawcenter.com

FRONTIER LAW CENTER
6200 Canoga Ave., Suite 470
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
Telephone: (818) 914-3433
Facsimile: (818) 914-3433

Attorneys for Plaintiff
Daniel Octave Chowyuk

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

DANIEL OCTAVE CHOWYUK, individually
and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

GOLDEN WEST PACKAGING GROUP, LLC;
and DOES 1 through 100,

Defendant.

Case No. 24CV005976

**DECLARATION OF DANIEL OCTAVE
CHOWYUK IN SUPPORT OF MOTION
FOR APPROVAL OF PAGA
SETTLEMENT**

Action filed: March 28, 2024

I, Daniel Octave Chowyuk, declare as follows:

1. I am the plaintiff, and the following is based upon my own personal knowledge. If called to testify, I could and would competently testify thereto.

2. I was employed by Golden West Packaging Group, LLC (“Defendant”) from May 16, 2022, to July 25, 2023, as a Clamp Operator.

3. I initiated my first contact with Frontier Law Center on September 13, 2023. Thereafter, I retained Frontier Law Center to represent me against Defendant for wage and hour and wrongful termination claims. I spoke to the lawyers at Frontier Law Center and their staff regularly through the past two years.

1 4. I understand that the lawsuit alleges Defendant violated meal and rest break laws. I also
2 understood that the lawsuit alleged that Defendant is liable for wage statement and waiting time
3 penalties. Finally, I understand that the lawsuit also sought penalties under the Private Attorneys
4 General Act.

5 5. While I was employed by Defendant, my meal breaks were consistently late due to
6 understaffing, insufficient scheduling, and Defendant's requirement that employees wait to be
7 relieved before taking a break. Due to this policy and management's inadequate training, I also
8 missed rest breaks entirely. I was not paid for my missed breaks.

9 6. I believed that the policies about which I complained were the same for all Defendant's
10 hourly employees. I was able to provide documents and to review documents that were produced in
11 this action including personnel files, pay records, and logbooks. I believe that the documents that I
12 provided to my counsel as well as documents produced by Defendant verify that Defendant was not
13 properly paying me or other hourly employees. I assisted in all aspects of this litigation, including
14 providing information to my attorneys to help them draft informal and formal discovery requests,
15 and attending telephonic conferences in preparation for mediation. I reviewed documents provided
16 to me by my attorneys and spent numerous hours in discussions about this matter with my attorneys
17 at the Frontier Law Center.

18 7. I have spent approximately 30 hours on this case since my initial contact with the lawyers on
19 this matter over two years ago.

20 8. I made myself available for the mediation on September 3, 2025. I was involved in the
21 settlement negotiations and discussions. I gave my authorization to negotiate, and the parties settled
22 at mediation under the guidance of mediator the Honorable Judge Leo Papas (Ret.).

23 9. I am an adequate representative of the hourly employees. My interests are the same as the
24 other hourly employees, as all employees in the PAGA group were subject to the same policies and
25 procedures at issue in the suit. I also believe my attorneys competently represented the PAGA
26 group. I have always been prepared and willing to remain PAGA representative through trial in this
27 matter, if necessary.
28

1 10. I also understood that I was acting on behalf of the aggrieved employees and the State of
2 California.

3 11. I believe that the PAGA Action Settlement in the gross amount of \$175,000 obtained on
4 behalf of the group of 74 aggrieved employees is excellent in view of the complex and varied issues
5 involved with the case. I took into consideration the strength and weakness of the various claims for
6 all employees and along with my attorneys agreed to the settlement. I was prepared to sit for PAGA
7 trial if necessary.

8 12. I accepted the potential risk of being liable for the opposing parties' costs if we were
9 unsuccessful in this lawsuit. I have accepted the stigma of being PAGA representative in a PAGA
10 labor dispute which could affect my future employability.

11 13. Furthermore, it is my opinion that my request for a PAGA representative enhancement in the
12 amount of \$5,000 is fair, reasonable, and adequate. I had legitimate fear that my participation as the
13 lead and sole Plaintiff in this PAGA representative action could result in future issues should I try to
14 work in the same industry. I accepted the potential risk of being liable for the opposing parties' costs
15 if we were unsuccessful in this lawsuit.

16 14. I support my attorneys' request for fees as I believe the fee request of 35% of the gross
17 settlement amount of \$175,000, or \$61,250, to be fair and reasonable.

18 15. I also believe that the attorneys' cost request of \$12,000, which does not include Settlement
19 Administration Costs, is reasonable in light of the excellent work and favorable result my attorneys
20 achieved for the aggrieved employees. I believe that the attorneys' costs incurred to date from the
21 lawyers retained to represent me and the aggrieved employees are reasonable and necessarily
22 incurred to prosecute this action and achieve this excellent result, including the costs of the
23 mediator. I believe that my attorneys have worked hard to keep costs low and were able to
24 successfully conduct formal and informal discovery to resolve the case.

25 16. Therefore I respectfully request the court to approve the PAGA settlement.
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27 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing
28 is true and correct.

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DATE: 12/9/2025

DocuSigned by:
Daniel Chowyuk
Daniel Octave Chowyuk