

John G. Yslas (SBN 187324)
john.yslas@wilshirelawfirm.com
Diego Aviles (SBN 315533)
diego.aviles@wilshirelawfirm.com
Harry Erganyan (SBN 333091)
harry.erganyan@wilshirelawfirm.com
Mariam Nazaretyan (SBN 334154)
mariam.nazaretyan@wilshirelawfirm.com
Courtney M. Miller (SBN 327850)
courtney.miller@wilshirelawfirm.com
WILSHIRE LAW FIRM, PLC
660 S. Figueroa Street, Sky Lobby
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Telephone: (213) 381-9988
Facsimile: (213) 381-9989

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

JACOB FILLMORE, individually, and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

INTER-STAT, INC. dba INTER-STAT
COOPERATIVE, INC., a California
corporation; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 23CV009170

*[Assigned for All Purposes to the Hon. Lauri
A. Damrell, Dept. 8B]*

**DECLARATION OF EZELL GARDNER
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS'
MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION AND PAGA
SETTLEMENT**

Final Approval Hearing:

Date: September 4, 2026

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Dept.: 8B

Action Filed: September 27, 2023

DECLARATION OF EZELL GARDNER

I, Ezell Gardener, 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 Inter-Stat, Inc. ("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 a named plaintiff, I am the face of the litigation. Additionally, the class notice that was mailed in this case was sent to approximately 425 current and former employees of Defendant. The notice informed all these employees that I filed a class and representative action

against Defendant. Exposing myself to this kind of publicity creates a risk for my future career prospects, since current and former employees of Defendant may move to different companies within the cannabis industry or may know people at other companies within the cannabis industry who may not want to hire someone who sued his employer.

Amount of Time and Effort Spent and Duration of the Litigation

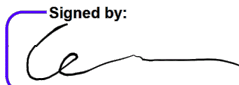
6. I have spent a substantial amount of time and effort on this litigation. My work on this case has included, among other things, searching for documents related to my employment with Defendant, discussing my experiences working for Defendant, keeping in regular contact with my attorneys regarding the status of the case, helping my attorneys prepare for mediation, being on-call for my attorneys on the day of mediation in case questions or concerns arose during mediation, and participating in settlement discussions. After mediation, I remained actively involved by reviewing the settlement papers and contacting my counsel for updates. I estimate that since I retained my counsel in February 2025, I have spent approximately 15 hours on the activities described above. And I estimate that I will spend an additional 1-3 hours assisting my attorneys through the approval process and staying up to date with the case through disbursement of the settlement checks.

Personal Benefit Received as a Result of the Litigation

7. Absent the requested service payment, the personal benefit I will receive is the same as all other employees who were not named plaintiffs. But unlike the other employees, I have signed a general release for Defendant. The other employees who are not named plaintiffs are only releasing the wage and hour claims asserted in the lawsuit.

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

Executed on 8/13/2026, at Sacramento, California.

Signed by:

 C8366679087042E...
 Ezell Gardner