

Blake R. Jones (SBN 211221)
blake@blakejones.law
BLAKE JONES LAW, PC
355 South Grand Avenue
Suite 2450 - #2052
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Tel: (323) 576-3221

Attorneys for Plaintiff

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

ROCHA, OSCAR, an individual, on behalf of
himself and all others similarly situated;

Plaintiff,

v.

PENDRY WEST HOLLYWOOD, LLC a
Delaware limited liability company; and
DOES 1 through 10, inclusive;

Defendants.

CASE NO.: 24STCV03351

**[PROPOSED] ORDER RE MOTION FOR
APPROVAL OF PAGA SETTLEMENT**

[Filed Concurrently with Motion for
Approval/P&As, and Decs. of Blake R. Jones
and Administrator]

Hon. Lawrence P. Riff
Dept. 7

Date: March 19, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m.

FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

03/19/2025

David W. Stryker, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

By: A. Morales Deputy

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0

6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28

3
4
5
6
7
8
9
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210
211
212
213
214
215
216
217
218
219
220
221
222
223
224
225
226
227
228
229
230
231
232
233
234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277
278
279
280
281
282
283
284
285
286
287
288
289
290
291
292
293
294
295
296
297
298
299
300
301
302
303
304
305
306
307
308
309
310
311
312
313
314
315
316
317
318
319
320
321
322
323
324
325
326
327
328
329
330
331
332
333
334
335
336
337
338
339
340
341
342
343
344
345
346
347
348
349
350
351
352
353
354
355
356
357
358
359
360
361
362
363
364
365
366
367
368
369
370
371
372
373
374
375
376
377
378
379
380
381
382
383
384
385
386
387
388
389
390
391
392
393
394
395
396
397
398
399
400
401
402
403
404
405
406
407
408
409
410
411
412
413
414
415
416
417
418
419
420
421
422
423
424
425
426
427
428
429
430
431
432
433
434
435
436
437
438
439
440
441
442
443
444
445
446
447
448
449
450
451
452
453
454
455
456
457
458
459
460
461
462
463
464
465
466
467
468
469
470
471
472
473
474
475
476
477
478
479
480
481
482
483
484
485
486
487
488
489
490
491
492
493
494
495
496
497
498
499
500
501
502
503
504
505
506
507
508
509
510
511
512
513
514
515
516
517
518
519
520
521
522
523
524
525
526
527
528
529
530
531
532
533
534
535
536
537
538
539
540
541
542
543
544
545
546
547
548
549
550
551
552
553
554
555
556
557
558
559
560
561
562
563
564
565
566
567
568
569
570
571
572
573
574
575
576
577
578
579
580
581
582
583
584
585
586
587
588
589
590
591
592
593
594
595
596
597
598
599
600
601
602
603
604
605
606
607
608
609
610
611
612
613
614
615
616
617
618
619
620
621
622
623
624
625
626
627
628
629
630
631
632
633
634
635
636
637
638
639
640
641
642
643
644
645
646
647
648
649
650
651
652
653
654
655
656
657
658
659
660
661
662
663
664
665
666
667
668
669
670
671
672
673
674
675
676
677
678
679
680
681
682
683
684
685
686
687
688
689
690
691
692
693
694
695
696
697
698
699
700
701
702
703
704
705
706
707
708
709
710
711
712
713
714
715
716
717
718
719
720
721
722
723
724
725
726
727
728
729
730
731
732
733
734
735
736
737
738
739
740
741
742
743
744
745
746
747
748
749
750
751
752
753
754
755
756
757
758
759
760
761
762
763
764
765
766
767
768
769
770
771
772
773
774
775
776
777
778
779
780
781
782
783
784
785
786
787
788
789
790
791
792
793
794
795
796
797
798
799
800
801
802
803
804
805
806
807
808
809
810
811
812
813
814
815
816
817
818
819
820
821
822
823
824
825
826
827
828
829
830
831
832
833
834
835
836
837
838
839
840
841
842
843
844
845
846
847
848
849
850
851
852
853
854
855
856
857
858

28

6. The Notice of PAGA settlement, attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**, fairly and adequately describes the Action, the terms of the Settlement, and is the best notice practicable under the circumstances. The Administrator shall also include a certified Spanish translation of the Notice of PAGA Settlement to the Aggrieved Employees.

7. The Court further orders, adjudges, and decrees the following release of claims upon the Effective Date set forth in the Agreement:

(a) Plaintiff's Release. Plaintiff and his, her, or their respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys (including PAGA Counsel), heirs, administrators, successors and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all PAGA claims, transactions or occurrences prior to the date of this Settlement, known or unknown, including, but not limited to: all PAGA claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained in the Operative Complaint, or the PAGA Notice ("Plaintiff's Release"). Plaintiff's Release does not extend to his individual wage and hour claims, any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time or based on occurrences outside the PAGA Period. Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff's Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff's discovery of them.

(b) Release by Aggrieved Employees. All Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint, and the PAGA Notice, including, but not limited to any and all claims arising out of or relating to any alleged failure to pay provide sick pay; failure to pay service charges/gratuities; failure to provide time off under the West Hollywood Minimum Wage Ordinance; failure to pay minimum wages and overtime; failure to provide meal periods; failure to

1 provide rest periods; failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; and unlawful
2 competition/unlawful business practices.

3 (c) Release by PAGA Counsel. PAGA Counsel release on behalf of their present and former
4 attorneys, employees, agents, successors and assigns the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA
5 Fees incurred in connection with the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Period facts stated in the
6 Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice.

7 8. The Court approves the Goss Settlement Amount (\$285,000.00), as well as the
8 components of the Gross Settlement Amount, including the Individual PAGA Payments
9 (\$42,511.12) and the LWDA PAGA Payment (\$127,533.37), including the methodology for
10 calculating these amounts.

11 9. The Court approves Simpluris as the Administrator and approves its costs and fees
12 not to exceed \$4,000.00.

13 10. The Court approves the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment of \$94,990.50 and PAGA
14 Counsel Litigation Expense Payment of \$15,965.01, finding that the attorney's fees and costs are
15 reasonable and warranted.

16 12. The checks for the Individual PAGA Payments shall be negotiable for 180 days after
17 they are issued. Any funds remaining from uncashed checks for the Individual PAGA Payments
18 shall be disbursed to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the
19 respective Aggrieved Employees.

20 13. The Administrator shall administer the Agreement pursuant to its terms.

21 14. The Court retains jurisdiction over this Action for the purposes of supervising,
22 administering, interpreting and enforcing the Agreement.

23 15. Plaintiff shall submit a copy of this Order to the LWDA within 10 days of the date
24 of this Order.

25 16. The Agreement is not an admission by Defendant or Released Parties defined above,
26 nor is this Order a finding of the validity of any allegations or of any wrongdoing by Defendant or
27 Released Parties. Neither this Order, the Settlement, nor any document referred to herein, nor any
28

1 action taken to carry out the Agreement, may be construed as, or may be used as an admission of
2 any fault, wrongdoing, omission, concession, or liability whatsoever by or against Defendant or
3 Released Parties.

4
5 Dated: March 19, 2025



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samantha Jessner", is written over a horizontal line.

Samantha Jessner / Judge

Hon. ~~Lawence P. Riff~~

EXHIBIT 1

PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between plaintiff Oscar Rocha (“Plaintiff”) and defendant Pendry West Hollywood, LLC (“Defendant”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendant collectively as “Parties,” or individually as “Party.”

1. DEFINITIONS.

- 1.1 “Action” means the Plaintiff’s lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned *Rocha v. Pendry West Hollywood, LLC*, Case No. 24STCV03351 initiated on February 6, 2024, and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles.
- 1.2 “Administrator” means Simpluris, Inc., the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.
- 1.3 “Administration Expenses Payment” means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s “not to exceed” bid submitted to the Court in connection with approval of this Settlement.
- 1.4 “Aggrieved Employee” means a person employed by Defendant in California and classified as a non-exempt employee who worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5 “Aggrieved Employee Data” means Aggrieved Employee identifying information in Defendant’s possession including the Aggrieved Employee’s name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number and number of PAGA Pay Periods.
- 1.6 “Aggrieved Employee Address Search” means the Administrator’s investigation and search for current Aggrieved Employee mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address database, skip traces and direct contact by the Administrator with Aggrieved Employees.
- 1.7 “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.
- 1.8 “Defense Counsel” means Paul Hastings LLP.
- 1.9 “Effective Date” means the date by when both of the following have occurred: (a) the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Approving the PAGA Settlement and (b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (a) the day the Court enters Judgment.
- 1.10 “Gross Settlement Amount” means \$285,000 which is the total amount

Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement except and unless as otherwise provided in Paragraph 9 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administrator's Expenses Payment.

- 1.11 "Individual PAGA Payment" means the Aggrieved Employee's pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of Pay Periods the Aggrieved Employee worked during the PAGA Period.
- 1.12 "Judgment" means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.
- 1.13 "LWDA" means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.14 "LWDA PAGA Payment" means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.15 "Net Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Aggrieved Employees as Individual PAGA Payments.
- 1.16 "PAGA Counsel" means BLAKE JONES LAW, PC, the attorneys representing the Plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.17 "PAGA Counsel Fees Payment" and "PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment" mean the amounts allocated to PAGA Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action.
- 1.18 "PAGA Pay Period" means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Period.
- 1.19 "PAGA Period" means the period from December 12, 2022 – October 30, 2024.
- 1.20 "PAGA" means the Private Attorneys General Act (Lab. Code, § 2698. et seq.).
- 1.21 "PAGA Notice" means Plaintiff's December 12, 2023 letter to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subdivision (a).
- 1.22 "PAGA Penalties" means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees and the 75% to LWDA in settlement of PAGA claims.
- 1.23 "Plaintiff" means Oscar Rocha, the named plaintiff in the Action.

- 1.24 “Approval Order” means the proposed Court Order Granting Approval of PAGA Settlement.
- 1.25 “Released PAGA Claims” means the claims being released by the Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel and as described in Paragraph 5 below.
- 1.26 “Released Parties” means Defendant and each of its former and present directors, officers, shareholders, owners, members, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, subsidiaries, and affiliates.
- 1.27 “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.28 “Defendant” means Defendant Pendry West Hollywood, LLC.

2. RECITALS.

On February 6, 2024, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a putative Class Action Complaint against Defendant, asserting wage and hour claims against Defendant. On March 28, 2024, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint asserting an additional claim for Violations of the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code § 26988 et seq). The First Amended Complaint is the operative complaint in the Action (the “Operative Complaint”). Defendant denies the allegations in the Operative Complaint, denies any failure to comply with the laws identified in the Operative Complaint, and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged.

- 2.1 Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subdivision (a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.
- 2.2 Plaintiff subsequently discovered that Plaintiff and the putative Class members signed arbitrations agreements with class action waivers that precluded Plaintiff from pursuing the Class claims asserted in the action. Consequently, Plaintiff shall dismiss the putative Class Claims without prejudice as part of this Agreement.
- 2.3 On July 26, 2024, the Parties attended a full day mediation with the Hon. Jeff Winikow retired. The case did not resolve at that time, but Judge Winikow continued to remain involved, and a resolution of the Action was eventually reached through a mediator’s proposal.
- 2.4 Prior to negotiating the Settlement, Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery Plaintiff’s personnel file, wage statements and timecards, an approximate 20% random sampling of the Aggrieved Employees’ timecards and wage statements, copies of Defendant’s Employee Handbook, and all written policies of Defendant related to wages, hours, timekeeping, and payroll.
- 2.5 The Parties, PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or

affected by the Settlement.

3. MONETARY TERMS.

3.1 Gross Settlement Amount. Except and unless as otherwise provided by Paragraph 9 below, Defendant promises to pay \$285,000 and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 6.1 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant.

3.2 Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Final Approval:

3.2.1 To PAGA Counsel: A PAGA Counsel Fees Payment of not more than 33.33%, which is currently estimated to be \$94,990.50 and PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$15,965.01. Defendant will not oppose requests for Court approval of these payments provided that they do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiff and/or PAGA Counsel will file an application or motion for PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Litigation Expenses Payment. If the Court approves a PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and/or a PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to PAGA Counsel or any other Plaintiff's Counsel arising from any claim to any portion any PAGA Counsel Fee Payment and/or PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. PAGA Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds Defendant harmless, and indemnifies Defendant, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these Payments.

3.2.2 To the Administrator: An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed \$4,000.00 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the Administration Expenses are less or the Court approves payment less than \$4,000.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.

3.2.3 To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties in the amount of \$170,044.49 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% (\$127,533.37) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (\$42,511.12) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.

3.2.3.1 The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a)

dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalties by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Period Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

- 3.2.3.2 If the Court approves PAGA Penalties of less than the amount requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

4. SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.

- 4.1 Aggrieved Employee Pay Periods. Based on a review of Defendant's records to date, the Parties estimated at mediation and for the purposes of the mediator's proposal that Aggrieved Employees worked 11,400 pay periods during the PAGA Period.
- 4.2 Aggrieved Employee Data. Within 15 days after the Effective Date, Defendant will simultaneously deliver the Aggrieved Employee Data to the Administrator in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Aggrieved Employees' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Aggrieved Employee Data in confidence, use the Aggrieved Employee Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose and restrict access to the Aggrieved Employee Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Aggrieved Employee Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify PAGA Counsel if it discovers that the Aggrieved Employee Data omitted employee identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Aggrieved Employee Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendant must send the Aggrieved Employee Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Aggrieved Employee Data.
- 4.3 Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than 14 days after the Effective Date.
- 4.4 Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within 14 days after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, the PAGA Counsel Fee Payment, and the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. Disbursement of the PAGA Counsel Fee Payment and the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment shall not precede disbursement of Individual PAGA Payments.
- 4.4.1 The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Aggrieved Employees via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (not less than 180 days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided. The Administrator will cancel all

checks not cashed by the void date. Before mailing any checks, the Settlement Administrator must update the recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.

4.4.2 The Administrator must conduct an Aggrieved Employee Address Search for all Aggrieved Employees whose checks are returned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within 7 days of receiving a returned check, the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Aggrieved Employee Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to deliver checks to Aggrieved Employees whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Aggrieved Employee whose original check was lost or misplaced, requested by the Aggrieved Employee prior to the void date.

4.4.3 For any Aggrieved Employee whose Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Aggrieved Employee.

4.4.4 The payment of Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendant to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to the Aggrieved Employees (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses) beyond those specified in this Agreement.

5. RELEASES OF CLAIMS. Effective on the date when Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

5.1 Plaintiff's Release. Plaintiff and his, her, or their respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys (including PAGA Counsel), heirs, administrators, successors and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all PAGA claims, transactions or occurrences prior to the date of this Settlement, known or unknown, including, but not limited to: all PAGA claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained in the Operative Complaint, or the PAGA Notice ("Plaintiff's Release"). Plaintiff's Release does not extend to his individual wage and hour claims, any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time or based on occurrences outside the PAGA Period. Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff's Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff's discovery of them.

5.1.1 Plaintiff's Waiver of Rights Under Civil Code Section 1542. For purposes of Plaintiff's Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions,

rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, and that if known by him or her would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or Released Party.

5.2 Release by Aggrieved Employees:

All Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint, and the PAGA Notice, including, but not limited to any and all claims arising out of or relating to any alleged failure to provide sick pay; failure to pay service charges/gratuities; failure to provide time off under the West Hollywood Minimum Wage Ordinance; failure to pay minimum wages and overtime; failure to provide meal periods; failure to provide rest periods; failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; and unlawful competition/unlawful business practices.

5.3 Release by PAGA Counsel:

PAGA Counsel release on behalf of their present and former attorneys, employees, agents, successors and assigns the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA Fees incurred in connection with the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice.

6. MOTION OR APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT. The Parties agree to jointly prepare and file an application or motion for approval of this Settlement.

- 6.1 Plaintiff's Responsibilities. Plaintiff will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all documents necessary for obtaining approval of this Settlement under Labor Code section 2699, subdivision (f)(2)) including (i) a draft proposed Order Granting Approval of PAGA Settlement; (ii) a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its "not to exceed" bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve; competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Aggrieved Employee Data; amounts of insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Aggrieved Employees or the LWDA; and the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiff, PAGA Counsel or Defense Counsel; (iii) a signed declaration from PAGA Counsel firm attesting to its timely transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (initial notice of violations (Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a)), Operative Complaint (Lab. Code, §2699, subd. (l)(1)), this Agreement (Lab. Code, § 2699, subd. (l)(2)); (iv) a redlined version of the

parties' Agreement showing all modifications made to the Model Agreement ready for filing with the Court; and (v) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Aggrieved Employees and/or the Administrator. In their Declarations, Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel shall aver that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.

- 6.2 Responsibilities of PAGA Counsel. PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the application or motion for approval of this Settlement no later than 30 days after the full execution of this Agreement and, if necessary, obtaining a prompt hearing date for the motion and appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the motion. PAGA Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Preliminary Approval to the Administrator.
- 6.3 Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed application or motion for approval of this Settlement and/or the supporting declarations and documents, PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does not grant the motion for approval of this Settlement or conditions its approval on any material change to this Agreement, PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.
- 6.4 In connection with Plaintiff's Motion to Approve the PAGA settlement, Plaintiff will dismiss the putative Class Claims without prejudice, such that the only remaining claim is the PAGA claims.

7. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

- 7.1 Selection of Administrator. The Parties have jointly selected Simpluris, Inc., to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, Simpluris, Inc., agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for payment of Administration Expenses. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.
- 7.2 Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports state and federal tax authorities.
- 7.3 Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1.
- 7.4 Administrator Duties. The Administrator has a duty to perform or observe all tasks to

be performed or observed by the Administrator contained in this Agreement or otherwise.

8. AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE SIZE ESTIMATES

Based on a review of Defendant's records to date, the Parties estimated at mediation and for the purposes of the mediator's proposal that Aggrieved Employees worked 11,400 pay periods during the PAGA Period.

9. CONTINUING JURISDICTION OF THE COURT. The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing settlement administration matters and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.

9.1 Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, the Parties, their respective counsel waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If another party appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.

10. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

10.1 No Admission of Liability or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by Defendant that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that Defendant has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendant's defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree that representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If for any reason the Court does not approve this Settlement, Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiff reserves the right to contest Defendant's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement and Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation (except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement).

10.2 Integrated Agreement. Upon execution by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement together with its attached exhibits shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement, superseding any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants or inducements made to or by any Party.

- 10.3 Attorney Authorization. PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff and Defendant, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.
- 10.4 Cooperation. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts, in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying the Settlement Agreement, submitting supplemental evidence and supplementing points and authorities as requested by the Court. In the event the Parties are unable to agree upon the form or content of any document necessary to implement the Settlement, or on any modification of the Agreement that may become necessary to implement the Settlement, the Parties will seek the assistance of a mediator and/or the Court for resolution.
- 10.5 No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered or purported to assign, transfer or encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.
- 10.6 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, PAGA Counsel, Defendant nor Defense Counsel are providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.
- 10.7 Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.
- 10.8 Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 10.9 Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the state of California, without regard to conflict of law principles.
- 10.10 Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.
- 10.11 Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made and orders entered during Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.

10.12 Use and Return of Aggrieved Employee Data. Information provided to PAGA Counsel pursuant to Evidence Code section 1152, and all copies and summaries of the PAGA Data provided to PAGA Counsel by Defendant in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute or California Rules of Court rule. Not later than 90 days after the Administrator discharges its obligation to pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy all paper and electronic versions of Aggrieved Employee Data received from Defendant unless, prior to the Administrator's payment of all Settlement Funds, Defendant makes a written request to PAGA Counsel for the return, rather than the destruction, of Aggrieved Employee Data.

10.13 Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.

10.14 Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to "days" in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.

10.15 Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff:

Oscar Rocha
C/o Blake R. Jones
BLAKE JONES LAW, PC
355 South Grand Avenue
Suite 2450 - #2052
Los Angeles, CA 90071

To Defendant:

Pendry West Hollywood, LLC
C/o Chris Jalian
PAUL HASTINGS LLP
515 South Flower St.
25th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071

10.16 Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and

each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

10.17 Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under Code of Civil Procedure section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

Oscar Rocha

Pendry West Hollywood, LLC

By: _____



Date: November __, 2024

Date: December 6, 2024

BLAKE JONES LAW, PC

PAUL HASTINGS LLP

By: _____
Blake R. Jones
Attorney for Plaintiff Oscar Rocha

By: _____
Chris A. Jalian
Attorney for Defendant Pendry West
Hollywood, LLC

each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

10.17 Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under Code of Civil Procedure section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.


Oscar Rocha (Nov 30, 2024 12:17 PST)

Oscar Rocha

Pendry West Hollywood, LLC

By: _____

Date: November 30, 2024

Date: December 6, 2024

BLAKE JONES LAW, PC

PAUL HASTINGS LLP

By: 

Blake R. Jones
Attorney for Plaintiff Oscar Rocha

By: _____
Chris A. Jalian
Attorney for Defendant Pendry West
Hollywood, LLC

EXHIBIT 2

NOTICE OF PAGA SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS

Rocha v. Pendry West Hollywood, LLC
Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles,
Case No. 24STCV03351

You are receiving this Notice because you are entitled to money as a result of a court approved settlement in the above-captioned action (the “Lawsuit”).

What is this case about?

In the Lawsuit, Plaintiff Rocha asserted representative claims against Defendant Pendry West Hollywood, LLC, on behalf of all non-exempt employees who were employed by Defendant as a non-exempt employee at any time from December 12, 2022 – October 30, 2024 (“PAGA Period”). Plaintiff alleges claims for civil penalties pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act and the California Labor Code, based on the alleged: (1) failure to pay minimum wages, (2) failure to pay overtime, (3) failure to provide meal periods, (4) failure to provide rest periods, (5) failure to provide accurate wage statements, (6) failure to timely pay wages during employment), and (7) failure to maintain accurate records. Defendant denies each of Plaintiff’s claims and contentions alleged by Plaintiff in the Lawsuit, asserts that Plaintiff is not entitled to any relief, and maintains that it has fully complied with the law.

The Court has not made any determination as to whether or not Defendant has violated the Labor Code. This Notice is not an expression by the Court as to the merits of the Lawsuit.

What are the terms of the Settlement?

Plaintiff and Defendant reached a settlement which was reviewed and approved by the Court. Defendant’s records show that you were employed by Defendant in a covered position during the PAGA Period. Accordingly, you are entitled to an Individual Settlement Payment based on your percentage share of pay periods during the PAGA Period. According to Defendant’s records, you worked <<No. of Pay Periods>> pay periods during the PAGA Period. The total amount of pay periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period is <<Total Number of Pay Periods in PAGA Period>>. Each individual PAGA payment was calculated on a pro rata basis (i.e., proportional) based on the number of pay periods worked by Each Aggrieved Employee in the PAGA Pay Period divided by the total number of pay periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees.

Your Individual PAGA payment is <<Check Amount>>. Please be advised that your settlement check is negotiable for 180 days. If you fail to cash or deposit your check before this deadline, the fund shall be disbursed to the California Controller’s Unclaimed Property Fund in your name.

What should I do now?

You are automatically included in this Settlement. You may immediately deposit your enclosed settlement check and need not take any further action at this time.

Settlement Administrator

The Settlement Administrator is Simpluris, Inc. Should you have questions, you may contact the Settlement Administrator toll-free at _____. Please notify the Settlement Administrator in the event your address has changed.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT ABOUT THIS NOTICE.