

Electronically Received 07/22/2026 01:16 PM

HAINES LAW GROUP, APC
Paul K. Haines (SBN 248226)
phaines@haineslawgroup.com
Sean M. Blakely (SBN 264384)
sblakely@haineslawgroup.com
Liam A. Hall (SBN 358204)
llhall@haineslawgroup.com
2155 Campus Drive, Suite 180
El Segundo, California 90245
Tel: (424) 292-2350
Fax: (424) 292-2355

Attorneys for Plaintiff

FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

08/28/2026

David W. Slayton, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

By: G. Hall Deputy

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

MARICELA MORALES VIDAL, as an
individual and on behalf of all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SZNW HOSPITALITY LLC, a California
limited liability company; SHEN ZHEN
NEW WORLD II, LLC, a California limited
liability company; and DOES 1 through 100,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 24STCV03495

*[Assigned to the Hon. Laura Seigle, Dept.
SSC-17]*

**~~[PROPOSED]~~ JUDGMENT AND ORDER
GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION
FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT OF
CLAIMS BROUGHT UNDER THE
PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL
ACT, REASONABLE ATTORNEYS'
FEES, COSTS, AND PAGA
REPRESENTATIVE ENHANCEMENT
PAYMENT**

Date: August 28, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Dept.: SSC-17

Complaint filed: February 9, 2024

Trial Date: None Set

1 This matter came on regularly for hearing before this Court on August 28, 2026, at 9:00
2 a.m. Having considered the Parties' PAGA Settlement Agreement ("Settlement");¹ the
3 documents and evidence presented in support thereof; and recognizing the disputed factual and
4 legal issues involved in this case; the risks of further prosecution, the substantial benefits to be
5 received by the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees pursuant to the Settlement; and
6 the fair, reasonable, and adequate nature of the settlement obtained as a result of good faith arm's-
7 length negotiations between the parties, the Court hereby makes a final ruling that the Settlement
8 is approved pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(1). Good cause appearing therefore, the Court
9 hereby GRANTS Plaintiff Maricela Morales Vidal's ("Plaintiff") Motion for Approval of
10 Settlement of Claims Brought Under the Private Attorneys General Act ("Motion") and ORDERS
11 as follows:

12 1. The "Aggrieved Employees" consist of all current and former non-exempt
13 employees of Defendant SZNW Hospitality LLC and Defendant Shen Zhen New World II, LLC
14 (collectively referred to as "Defendants") who worked in the State of California between February
15 9, 2023 and May 9, 2026 (the "PAGA Period").

16 2. The California Labor Workforce and Development Agency ("LWDA") has been
17 provided notice of the Settlement in accordance with PAGA, California Labor Code § 2699(1)(2),
18 (1)(4). In particular, on the date Plaintiff filed a Motion seeking approval of the Settlement with
19 the Court, Plaintiff submitted to the LWDA a notice of the Settlement enclosing a copy of the
20 Settlement Agreement. Plaintiff's notice of the Settlement to the LWDA complied with the notice
21 requirements of PAGA.

22 3. The Court hereby approves the settlement as set forth in the Settlement as fair,
23 reasonable, and adequate, and directs the parties to effectuate the Settlement according to its
24 terms.

25 4. The Court orders that Defendants shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount of
26 \$475,000.00 by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than thirty (30) calendar days

27 ¹ All terms used in this Order shall have the same meaning as that assigned to them in the PAGA
28 Settlement Agreement, attached as Exhibit 1 to the Declaration of Sean M. Blakely submitted
concurrently with the Motion.

1 after the Effective Date.

2 5. The Court hereby approves, as to form and content, the proposed Explanatory
3 Letter submitted by the parties and included as Exhibit A to the Settlement.

4 6. The Court hereby appoints ILYM Group, Inc. as the Settlement Administrator.

5 7. Within fifteen (15) calendar days of the Effective Date, Defendants shall provide
6 the Settlement Administrator with the Aggrieved Employee Data, which shall include Aggrieved
7 Employee's name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number and number of PAGA
8 Pay Periods.

9 8. Within fourteen (14) calendar days of the Settlement being fully funded, the
10 Settlement Administrator shall issue Individual PAGA Payments to the Aggrieved Employees,
11 payment to the LWDA, payment to Plaintiff's Counsel for Plaintiff's Counsel's Court-approved
12 attorneys' fees and litigation costs and expenses, payment to Plaintiff for the Court-approved
13 PAGA representative enhancement payment, and payment to the Settlement Administrator for
14 Court-approved Settlement administration costs incurred in connection with the Settlement.

15 9. The Court orders that the Settlement Administrator shall be paid up to \$6,250.00
16 for all of its work done and to be done until the completion of this matter and finds that sum
17 appropriate.

18 10. The Court finds that attorneys' fees in the amount of one-third of the Gross
19 Settlement Amount, \$158,333.33, for Plaintiff's Counsel, and reimbursement of litigation costs
20 of \$12,700.60 to Plaintiff's Counsel, are fair, reasonable, and adequate, and orders the Settlement
21 Administrator to distribute these payments to Plaintiff's Counsel as provided for in the Settlement
22 Agreement.

23 11. The Court finds that the requested PAGA representative enhancement payment of
24 \$5,000.00 to Plaintiff is fair, adequate, and reasonable in recognition of the unique contributions
25 she made and the risks she undertook, on behalf of the Aggrieved Employees and the State of
26 California, and orders that the Settlement Administrator distribute this payment to Plaintiff as
27 provided for in the Settlement Agreement.

28 12. The Court finds that the amount of \$219,537.05, representing 75% of the Net

1 Settlement Amount, allocated as PAGA civil penalties under the Settlement, to be paid to the
2 LWDA as provided for by the Settlement, is fair, adequate, and reasonable, and orders that
3 payment be made to the LWDA in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement. The
4 Court further finds that the amount of \$73,179.02, representing 25% of the Net Settlement
5 Amount, allocated as PAGA civil penalties under the Settlement, to be paid to the Aggrieved
6 Employees (i.e., Individual PAGA Payments) as provided for by the Settlement, is fair, adequate,
7 and reasonable, and orders that payment be made to Aggrieved Employees on a *pro rata* basis in
8 accordance with the terms of the Settlement and this Order.

9 13. Checks for Individual PAGA Payments sent to Aggrieved Employees shall be
10 valid for 180 days after issuance. Funds remaining from any checks for Individual PAGA
11 Payments uncashed for more than 180 days after issuance, shall be sent to the California
12 Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Aggrieved Employee.

13 14. The Court approves the scope of the release as set forth in the Settlement.
14 Following entry of this Judgment and Order and the Gross Settlement Amount being fully funded,
15 all Aggrieved Employees, including Plaintiff, are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and
16 their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators,
17 successors and assigns, Defendants and each of their former and present parents, subsidiaries,
18 affiliates, investors, partners, owners, related organizations, predecessors or successors, and all
19 agents, employees, officers, directors, shareholders, members, managers, holding companies,
20 insurers, assigns, attorneys thereof ("Released Parties") from all claims for PAGA penalties that
21 were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in
22 the Operative Complaint, and the PAGA Notices including failing to pay minimum wages, failing
23 to pay overtime wages, failing to provide meal periods, failing to permit rest breaks, failing to
24 reimburse business expenses, failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements, violating the
25 Business and Professions Code Sections 17200, et seq., and California Labor Code Sections 204,
26 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198,
27 2800, and 2802.
28

1 15. Plaintiff is directed to submit a copy of this Order and entry of judgment to the
2 LWDA within ten (10) calendar days of the date of this Order and entry of judgment.

3 16. Plaintiff shall file a declaration confirming the final distribution of funds on or
4 before September 1, 2027. The Court sets a non-appearance case review on September 8,
5 2027 at 8:30 a.m.

6 **IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED.**

7
8 Dated: 08/28/2026



By: _____

Laura Seigle

Honorable Laura Seigle
Judge of the Superior Court
Laura A. Seigle / Judge