

BOKHOUR LAW GROUP, P.C.

Mehrdad Bokhour, Esq. (CA Bar No. 285256)

mehrdad@bokhourlaw.com

1901 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 520

Los Angeles, California 90067

Tel: (310) 975-1493; Fax: (310) 675-0861

FALAKASSA LAW, P.C.

Joshua S. Falakassa, Esq. (CA Bar No. 295045)

josh@falakassalaw.com

1901 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 520

Los Angeles, California 90067

Tel: (818) 456-6168; Fax: (888) 505-0868

Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Putative Class

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

IGNACIO GARATE, on behalf of himself and
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

LINCARE, INC., a Delaware Corporation;
and DOES 1-50, inclusive.

Defendants.

CASE NO.: 37-2024-00026882-CU-OE-CT

Assigned to Hon. Marcella O. McLaughlin

**DECLARATION OF MEHRDAD
BOKHOUR IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR FINAL
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT**

HEARING INFO

Date: September 18, 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Dept.: C-72

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1. I am an attorney at law, duly licensed to practice before all the Courts of the State of California, and I am the principal of Bokhour Law Group, P.C., co-counsel with Joshua Falakassa of Falakassa Law, P.C., as attorney of record for Plaintiff Ignacio Garate and the Settlement Class. As such, I am familiar with the file in this matter, and if called as a witness, I could and would competently testify to the following facts based on my personal knowledge.

2. I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2007. I received my J.D. from Loyola Law School—Los Angeles in 2012 and became a member of the California State Bar in December 2012.

4. I have been a member, in good standing, of the State Bar of California since 2012. I am admitted to practice before all California state courts, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, Eastern District of California, and Southern District of California, and have litigated class action and Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”) representative action cases in various courts in California.

6. As part of these settlements and judgments, I have recovered at least 50 million dollars in damages for my clients and the class members (who often work as essential workers, nurses, technicians, warehouse workers, truck drivers, sales, and countless other trades).

1 7. I was selected as a “Super Lawyer Rising Star” in Employment Litigation from
2 2017 through 2022 and as a “Super Lawyer” in 2023 through 2026. This distinction is reserved
3 for the top 2.5% of lawyers in the practice area. TopVerdicts.com has also recognized me for
4 achieving several of the top wage-and-hour class-action settlements and PAGA actions in
5 California.

6 8. I have attended numerous Continuing Legal Education courses on employee
7 advocacy.

8 9. My firm has the experience, resources, and means necessary to allow us to
9 provide adequate representation to all Settlement Class Members in this Action.

10 10. Currently, my firm is acting as co-counsel in at least twenty-five wage and hour
11 class actions.

12 11. Class Counsel are respected members of the California Bar with strong records
13 of vigorous and effective advocacy for their clients, and they are experienced in handling
14 complex class action litigation. Both Class Counsel and Plaintiff were prepared to litigate the
15 claims in this action, but they strongly and unequivocally support the proposed Settlement as
16 being in the best interest of the Settlement Class based on the circumstances referenced herein.

17 12. In the opinion of Class Counsel, the recovery for each Settlement Class Member
18 is well within the acceptable range for this type of action. This Settlement is also favorable, as
19 the Settlement Class will promptly receive compensation rather than face the uncertainties
20 inherent in further litigation and the years-long wait for this action to be tried. It is also telling
21 that the Settlement Class has overwhelmingly supported the Settlement on the terms set forth
22 in the Settlement Agreement. No Settlement Class Member has objected to the class-wide
23 Settlement obtained in this matter, and no Settlement Class Member requested exclusion. Based
24 on all considerations, this Settlement is highly favorable and is in the best interests of the
25 Settlement Class.

26 13. In sum, all relevant factors support final approval of the Settlement. The parties
27 negotiated at arm's length under the supervision of an experienced and well-respected mediator.
28 Class Counsel also investigated, discovered, and analyzed class claims extensively. Moreover,

1 Class Counsel, experienced class action litigators, strongly believe that this Settlement provides
2 an excellent result for the Settlement Class. Lastly, the fact that no objections were filed
3 requesting denial of final approval and no one requested exclusion from the Settlement weighs
4 strongly in favor of approving the Settlement. For these reasons, this Court should conclude
5 that under the circumstances of this case, the proposed Settlement is fair, adequate, and well
6 within the range of reasonableness.

7 **The Proposed Enhancement Award to Plaintiff as Class Representative is Reasonable**

8 14. Plaintiff and Class Counsel request that the Court finally approve a Class
9 Representative Service Payment of \$10,000 for the time, effort, and risks he undertook in
10 participating in this Action. Because a named plaintiff is an essential ingredient of any class
11 action, a service payment is appropriate to induce individuals to step forward and assume the
12 burdens and obligations of representing the settlement class. In deciding the amount of service
13 payment for a class representative, relevant factors include the actions the plaintiff has taken to
14 protect the interests of the settlement class, the degree to which the settlement class has
15 benefited from those actions, and the amount of time and effort the plaintiff expended in
16 pursuing the action.

17 15. In the instant case, Plaintiff assisted Class Counsel on many occasions with
18 investigating and prosecuting this action. Plaintiff provided many documents and relevant
19 information to Class Counsel, spent numerous hours educating Class Counsel on the inner
20 workings of Defendant's operations and timekeeping practices, and made himself available for
21 mediation. The amount sought for the Class Representative aligns with service payments in
22 similar wage-and-hour class actions. In Class Counsel's experience, service payments in wage
23 and hour actions typically range from \$5,000 to \$40,000. Further, Defendant supports the
24 requested Class Representative Service Payment of \$10,000 to Plaintiff.

25 16. As such, the service payment requested is intended to compensate Plaintiff for
26 his critical role in this case and the substantial time, effort, and risks he undertook to help secure
27 the result obtained on behalf of the Settlement Class. The Class Representative Service Payment
28 requested is well-deserved and warranted.

The Requested Attorneys' Fees and Costs are Fair, Reasonable, and Appropriate

17. Class Counsel's application for an award of Attorneys' Fees in an amount of approximately 33.33% of the Settlement Amount on behalf of the Settlement Class is reasonable and fair. The requested fee falls within the Ninth Circuit's historical range for attorneys' fees, 20% to 40% of a common fund. It is fair compensation for undertaking complex, risky, expensive, and time-consuming litigation on a contingent basis.

18. For Class Counsel, the fees here were wholly contingent in nature, and the case presented far more risk than the usual contingent fee case. The prospect of the enormous costs inherent in class-action litigation and a long battle with the corporate Defendant existed. That prospect has become a reality in trial courts and the Court of Appeal in other wage-and-hour class actions. Class Counsel risked not only a great deal of time but also a great deal of expense to ensure the successful litigation of this action on behalf of all Settlement Class Members. Based upon the foregoing, Class Counsel respectfully requests that the Court award Attorneys' Fees in the amount of \$243,333.33 and costs incurred in the amount of \$30,000.

19. Class Counsel have incurred or reasonably anticipate incurring a combined total of approximately 202 hours in prosecuting this Action through completion of settlement administration. I have incurred or reasonably anticipate incurring 106 hours at my customary hourly rate of \$750. Joshua Falakassa has incurred or reasonably anticipates incurring 96 hours at his customary hourly rate of \$725. These rates are the reasonable and usual rates charged for our services and are consistent with prevailing market rates for attorneys of comparable experience handling complex wage-and-hour class and PAGA litigation.

Attorney	Experience	Hourly Rate	Hours	Total Lodestar
Mehrdad Bokhour	13 years	\$750	106 ¹	\$79,500

¹ Includes an estimated 10 hours of additional work preparing for and attending the hearing (inclusive of finalizing and filing the motion, appearing at the hearing, addressing the Court's questions/concerns, submitting revised documents, responding to class members who are anxious to receive their check, and so on), as well as 10 hours in anticipated work to be performed after the final approval, working with counsel, administrator, and Class Members (which includes up to 1.5 years of case management relating to ensuring timely payment from Defendant, reviewing the calculations, checks are timely mailed, responding to class members questions about the timing of checks/missing checks/lost checks and remailings, working with the administrator regarding uncashed checks and remailings, assisting with the Administrator's declarations regarding payments and uncashed checks, potentially filing an amended judgment, appearing at the final disbursement hearing and/or submitting paperwork related thereto.

Joshua Falakassa	12 years	\$725	96	\$69,600
Total Lodestar				\$149,100

20. The ultimate result was far from certain. When the firm took on this case on a contingency fee basis, it agreed to assume responsibility for all litigation costs. In the course of this Action, Class Counsel paid all costs, including filing fees, court costs, research fees, and mediation costs. There was never a guarantee that we would recoup those expenditures.

21. It has been my experience that the benchmark for an attorney's fee award in California state cases is one-third of a common fund. Here, Class Counsel requests 33.33% of the Settlement Amount.

22. The fee is warranted because of the results achieved for the Settlement Class Members, both in terms of the immediate cash settlement and the fact that the Settlement Class Members resoundingly supported the Settlement. Defendant does not oppose this fee request.

23. The following are the itemized litigation costs (actually incurred) for the above-referenced matter:

(1)	LWDA Filing Fee	\$75
(2)	Mediation	\$15,000
(3)	Filing Fees	\$3,437.50
(4)	Service of Process	\$90.20
(5)	Expert Fee	\$12,892.50
	Total	\$31,405

24. Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, however, Class Counsel seeks reimbursement of only \$30,000 in litigation costs because the Settlement caps recoverable costs at that amount, and the Class Notice advised Settlement Class Members that Class Counsel would seek reimbursement of costs not to exceed \$30,000.

25. The LWDA's confirmation of receipt of this settlement and motion for final approval are attached hereto as **Exhibit "A."**

26. A true and correct copy of the Settlement Agreement is attached as **Exhibit "B."**

27. Plaintiff and the Class Members are all individuals who are or were employed by Defendant as non-exempt hourly employees in California between August 12, 2022, and March 4, 2026. The primary claims, which Defendant disputes, involve allegations that the Class Members were not paid all wages owed due to Defendant's timekeeping practices. Additionally,

1 Plaintiff alleges claims for failure to pay all wages, non-compliant meal and rest periods, wage
2 statement violations, waiting time penalties, and associated PAGA penalties.

3 28. The proposed Settlement was the product of arm's length negotiations, including
4 a full day mediation before experienced class action mediator Steve Serratore, Esq.

5 29. Plaintiff and Class Counsel have diligently investigated the claims raised in this
6 litigation and, after taking into account the disputed factual and legal issues involved in this
7 action, the risks attending further prosecution, and the benefits to be received pursuant to the
8 compromise and settlement of the Action as set forth in the Settlement, concluded that the
9 Settlement terms are fair, reasonable, and in the best interest of the Settlement Class.

10 30. As the Settlement Agreement reveals, there is no preferential treatment for any
11 segment of the Settlement Class, as the Settlement is designed to fairly and adequately
12 compensate all Settlement Class Members. Pursuant to California Rules of Court Rule 3.769(b),
13 the parties have disclosed the agreed-upon and proposed Attorneys' Fees, which are well within
14 the range of reasonableness for matters of this nature.

15 31. As set forth at the time of preliminary approval, Class Counsel's investigation into
16 the facts and merits of the wage and hour claims alleged included analyzing substantial amounts
17 of information, correspondence, documents, timekeeping and pay data, policies and procedures,
18 and evidence relating to the class size and the commonality of the claims. During this process,
19 Plaintiff and Class Counsel investigated the potential claims of similarly situated employees and
20 researched Defendant's defenses. Finally, Class Counsel synthesized and analyzed information
21 provided by Defendant as to the total Settlement Class Members, the number of current and
22 former employees, and the number of employees who worked during various time periods and
23 prepared comprehensive damages calculations regarding the wage and hour claims at issue.

24 32. In light of the uncertainties of protracted litigation, this negotiated Settlement
25 reflects the best practicable recovery for the Settlement Class. While the total Settlement amount
26 is, of course, a compromise figure, both parties weighed the potential risks and opportunities,
27 resulting in a fair and equitable Settlement. Based upon detailed data obtained through discovery
28 and information exchanges and factoring in claim certification and liability probabilities, Class

1 Counsel formulated detailed damages models to evaluate the claims in preparation for mediation
2 and reach a realistic and reasonable resolution. Of course, Defendant denies that any damages
3 should be assessed and denies all of the value assessed by Plaintiff.

4 33. Moreover, as further detailed in Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of
5 Class Action Settlement, Defendant strongly disputed the merits of the case and the damages on
6 several grounds.

7 34. The Settlement should be approved, and judgment entered based on the
8 determination that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the
9 Settlement Class.

10 35. In compliance with California Rules of Professional Conduct section 1.5.1,
11 Plaintiff signed a fee split agreement that provides that fees will be allocated between Class
12 Counsel as follows: fifty percent (50%) to the Bokhour Law Group, P.C., and fifty percent (50%)
13 to Falakassa Law, P.C.

14 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of California that the foregoing is
15 true and correct, this 24th day of August 2026, at Los Angeles, California.

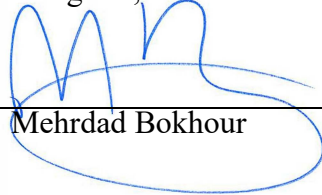
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EXHIBIT “A”

EXHIBIT “B”

CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Plaintiff Ignacio Garate, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, and Defendant Lincare, Inc., and is approved as to form by their respective counsel of record, subject to the terms and conditions hereof and the Court’s approval.

A. Definitions

1. “Action” or “Lawsuit” refers to the case entitled *Garate v. Lincare, Inc.*, Case No. 37-2024-00026882-CU-OE-CTL, pending in San Diego County.

2. “Aggrieved Employees” include all persons who are or were employed by Defendant in California and classified as non-exempt or hourly employees at any time from March 27, 2023, through March 4, 2026, or pursuant to Paragraph 50(b), an alternative date selected by Defendant.

3. “Agreement,” “Settlement Agreement,” “Settlement,” or “Stipulation” shall mean this Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Release of Claims, including any attached Exhibits.

4. “Class Claims” or “Released Class Claims” means all claims arising out of or related to the allegations set forth in the operative Complaint that arose during the Class Period, including claims for: (1) failure to pay minimum and overtime wages in violation of Labor Code sections 204, 510, 1194, 1197, and 1198, and the applicable IWC Wage Order(s); (2) failure to provide compliant rest periods and pay missed rest break premiums in violation of Labor Code section 226.7 and 516, and the applicable IWC Wage Order(s); (3) failure to provide compliant meal periods and pay missed meal period premiums in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512, and the applicable IWC Wage Order(s); (4) failure to pay all sick time in violation of Labor Code section 246 and the applicable IWC Wage Order(s); (5) failure to pay all wages due and owing during employment and at separation in violation of Labor Code sections 201–204; (6) failure to provide complete and accurate wage statements in violation of Labor Code sections 226 and 226.3; (7) failure to reimburse necessary business expenses in violation of Labor Code sections 2802–2804; (8) deceptive, fraudulent, or otherwise unlawful business practices based on

the foregoing in violation of California’s Unfair Competition Law (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 17200–17210); based on the foregoing and predicated upon Labor Code sections 98.6, 201, 202, 203, 204, 206.5, 210, 221, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 246, 248.5, 510, 512(a), 516, 551, 552, 558, 558.1, 1102.5, 1174, 1174.4, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1199, and 2802; and all claims for liquidated damages, penalties, interest, fees, and costs based on the foregoing.

5. “Class Counsel” refers to Mehrdad Bokhour of Bokhour Law Group, P.C. and Joshua Falakassa of Falakassa Law, P.C.

6. “Class Data” means a complete list of all Settlement Class Members that Defendant will diligently and in good faith compile from its records and provide to the Settlement Administrator on one spreadsheet and shall include the Settlement Class Members’ full names; last known addresses; telephone numbers; Social Security Numbers; dates of employment and/or number of Workweeks as non-exempt or hourly employees of Defendant during the Class Period and the PAGA Period for each Settlement Class Member.

7. “Class Period” and “Class Release Period” shall mean August 12, 2022, through March 4, 2026, or pursuant to Paragraph 50(b), an alternative date selected by Defendant. .

8. “Class Representative” or “Plaintiff” refers to Ignacio Garate.

9. “Complaint” refers to the First Amended Complaint filed in the San Diego County Superior Court action entitled *Garate v. Lincare, Inc.*, Case No. 37-2024-00026882-CU-OE-CTL.

10. “Court” means the California Superior Court, County of San Diego, or any Court of competent jurisdiction.

11. “Defendant” refers to Lincare, Inc.

12. “Defendant’s Counsel” or “Defense Counsel” refers to Shiva Shirazi Davoudian and Hider Al-Mashat of Littler Mendelson PC.

13. “Effective Date” means: the date by when both of the following have occurred:
(a) the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement; and
(b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences:
(i) this Agreement has been executed by Plaintiff, Defendants, Class Counsel, and

Defendants' Counsel; (ii) the Court entered a Preliminary Approval Order; (iii) the Class Notice has been sent to the Class Members, providing them notice and opportunity to object to the Settlement, and notice and opportunity to opt out of the Settlement; (iv) notice of this Settlement has been sent to the LWDA; (v) the Court has held a Final Approval Hearing and entered a Final Approval Order and Final Judgment; and (vi) the later of the following events: five (5) court days after the period for filing any appeal, writ, or other appellate proceeding opposing the Final Approval Order or Final Judgment has elapsed without any appeal, writ, or other appellate proceeding having been filed (i.e., 60 plus 5 court days from the date the Court enters Final Approval Order and Final Judgment); or, if any appeal, writ, or other appellate proceeding opposing the Final Approval Order and Judgment has been filed within that timeframe, then five (5) court days after any appeal, writ, or other appellate proceedings opposing the Settlement has finally and conclusively dismissed with no right to pursue further remedies or relief.

14. "Final" means that the Settlement has been granted "Final Approval" by the Court and the "Effective Date" has occurred.

15. "Final Approval" refers to the order of the Court granting final approval of this Settlement Agreement and entering a judgment approving this Settlement on substantially the same terms provided herein or as may be modified by subsequent agreement of the Parties or order of the Court.

16. "Final Settlement Class" and "Final Settlement Class Member" refer to all persons who are or were previously employed by Defendant in California classified as a non-exempt employee during the Class Period, and who do not opt out of the Settlement.

17. "Individual Settlement Amount" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Paragraph 50(d) below.

18. "Net Settlement Amount" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Paragraph 50(c) below.

19. "Notice" means the notice of the proposed class and PAGA settlement and the setting of a Final Approval Hearing that will be sent to the Settlement Class Members.

20. “Notice Response Deadline” is 45 calendar days from the date the Notice is mailed to the Settlement Class Members.

21. “Objecting Settlement Class Member” means a Settlement Class Member, other than Plaintiff, who submits a valid and timely objection to the terms of this Agreement with respect to the Class Claims pursuant to Paragraph 71(a) below.

22. “PAGA” shall refer to the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code Sections 2698-2699.5.

23. “PAGA Claims” or “Released PAGA Claims” means all claims for civil penalties pursuant to the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”), Labor Code §§ 2698–2699.6, that were alleged or reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts, transactions, or allegations set forth in the operative Complaint and/or PAGA Notice to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, arising during the PAGA Period, including claims for: (1) failure to pay minimum and overtime wages in violation of Labor Code sections 204, 510, 1194, 1197, and 1198, and the applicable IWC Wage Order(s); (2) failure to provide compliant rest periods and pay missed rest break premiums in violation of Labor Code section 226.7 and 516, and the applicable IWC Wage Order(s); (3) failure to provide compliant meal periods and pay missed meal period premiums in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512, and the applicable IWC Wage Order(s); (4) failure to pay all sick time in violation of Labor Code section 246 and the applicable IWC Wage Order(s); (5) failure to pay all wages due and owing during employment and at separation in violation of Labor Code sections 201–204; (6) failure to provide complete and accurate wage statements in violation of Labor Code sections 226 and 226.3; and (7) failure to reimburse necessary business expenses in violation of Labor Code sections 2802–2804, and all claims for PAGA penalties predicated upon Labor Code sections 98.6, 201, 202, 203, 204, 206.5, 210, 221, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 246, 248.5, 510, 512(a), 516, 551, 552, 558, 558.1, 1102.5, 1174, 1174.4, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1199, and 2802.

24. “PAGA Notice” shall refer to the March 27, 2024 notice sent by Plaintiff, by and through counsel, to the LWDA and Defendant, providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section

2699.3, subd. (a).

25. “PAGA Period” and “PAGA Release Period” shall mean March 27, 2023, through March 4, 2026, or pursuant to Paragraph 50(b), an alternative date selected by Defendant.

26. “Participating Class Member” means any and all Settlement Class Members who do not opt out of the settlement of the Class Claims by timely submitting valid Requests for Exclusion.

27. “Parties” or “Settling Parties” means Plaintiff, the Settlement Class Members, the Aggrieved Employees, and Defendant, collectively.

28. “Preliminary Approval Date” means the date the Court preliminarily approves the Settlement Agreement and the exhibits thereto and enters the Preliminary Approval Order.

29. “Preliminary Approval Order” means the judicial Order to be entered by the Court, upon the application or motion of the Plaintiff, preliminarily approving this Settlement and providing for the issuance of the Notice to the Settlement Class Members, an opportunity to opt out of settlement of the Class Claims, an opportunity to submit timely objections to the terms of this Settlement related to the Class Claims, and setting a hearing on the fairness of the terms of Settlement, including approval of attorneys’ fees and costs.

30. “QSF” means the Qualified Settlement Fund set up by the Settlement Administrator for the benefit of the Final Settlement Class, and from which the settlement payments shall be made, and which is intended to be a fund that qualifies under Internal Revenue Code Section 468.

31. “Release” shall mean the release and discharge of the Class Claims by Plaintiff and all of the Participating Class Members and the release and discharge of the PAGA Claims by Plaintiff and all of the Aggrieved Employees.

32. “Released Parties” shall refer to Lincare, Inc., and all its subsidiaries, affiliates, parent companies, shareholders, predecessors, successors, and assigns, and each of their respective agents, officers, employees, directors, owners, attorneys, insurers, and reinsurers.

33. “Request for Exclusion” shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Paragraph 71(a) below.

34. “Service Payment” or “Service Award” means the amounts approved by the Court to be paid to the Class Representative in addition to their Individual Settlement Amounts as Participating Class Members.

35. “Settlement Administration Costs” means the actual and direct fees and expenses reasonably incurred by the Settlement Administrator for administering this Settlement, including, but not limited to, printing, distributing, and tracking documents for this Settlement, tax reporting, due diligence, reporting and remittance obligations, distributing the Settlement Amount, and providing necessary reports and declarations, as requested by the Parties. The Settlement Administration Costs shall be paid from the Settlement Amount.

36. “Settlement Administrator” means and refers to ILYM Group, Inc., which will provide the Notice to the Class Members and perform all duties relating to the administration of the Settlement as described in this Agreement, including, but not limited to, printing, distributing, and tracking documents for this Settlement, tax reporting, distributing the Settlement Amount, and providing necessary reports and declarations, as requested by the Parties. The Settlement Administration Costs shall be paid from the Settlement Amount, including, if necessary, any such costs in excess of the amount represented by the Settlement Administrator as being the maximum costs necessary to administer the Settlement.

37. “Settlement Amount” or “Gross Settlement Amount” shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Paragraph 50(a) below.

38. “Settlement Class Member” or “Class Member” refers to individual members of the Settlement Class.

39. “Settlement Class” and “Settlement Class Members” refer to all persons who are or were employed by Defendant in California and classified as non-exempt employees during the Class Period, excluding any individuals who previously executed a severance agreement with Defendant that included a general release of claims.

40. “Workweeks” for each Settlement Class Member and Aggrieved Employee means any workweek during the Class Period and/or the PAGA Period, as applicable, in which the Settlement Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee was employed by Defendant as a non-

1 exempt employee in California and worked at least one shift during the workweek for or on behalf
2 of Defendant for which a prior release of claims has not been signed. Workweeks will be
3 calculated based on the Defendant's business records. This information shall be treated as
4 confidential. Workweeks of Non-Participating Class Members will not be included in the total
5 number of Workweeks that are reported to the Settlement Administrator to calculate and distribute
6 Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members. The number of full workweeks
7 that a Participating Class Member was on a leave of absence, sick time, or vacation during the
8 Class Period shall be excluded from the total number of Workweeks.

9 **B. General Terms**

10 41. On March 27, 2024, Plaintiff filed a putative wage and hour class action in the San
11 Diego County Superior Court against Defendant. Plaintiff's class action alleged that Defendant
12 failed to pay all minimum and overtime wages, failed to provide compliant rest periods and pay
13 missed rest break premiums, failed to provide compliant meal periods and pay missed meal period
14 premiums, failed to pay all sick time, failed to pay all wages due and owing during employment
15 and at separation, failed to provide complete and accurate wage statements, , failed to reimburse
16 necessary business expenses, and engaged in unfair competition (Class Action). On April 29,
17 2024, Defendant removed the action to the United States District Court for the Southern District
18 of California and, thereafter, on May 24, 2024, filed its Motion to Compel Arbitration, Case No.
19 3:24-cv-0768-CAB-MSB, which was denied by the USDC on September 10, 2024. On October
20 10, 2024, Defendant appealed the order denying Defendant's Motion to Compel Arbitration to
21 the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Case No. 24-6238 (hereinafter the
22 "Appeal"). As a result of the Appeal, the Class Action was automatically stayed on November
23 14, 2024.

24 42. On June 3, 2024, Plaintiff filed this separate complaint asserting a claim for civil
25 penalties pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-
26 2024-00026882-CU-OE-CTL (PAGA Action).

27 43. The Parties have agreed to stipulate to stay the Class Action, and the Appeal, and
28 to amend the complaint in the PAGA Action to include the allegations asserted in the Class Action

for purposes of obtaining Court approval of this Settlement in the PAGA Action.

44. Defendant denies all of Plaintiff's claims and allegations, denies any liability whatsoever, and further contends that the Action is not suitable for class certification and/or representative treatment.

45. The Class Representative believes he can proceed with his class, and the representative claims that the Action is meritorious and that class certification is appropriate.

46. The Parties have thoroughly investigated the facts of the Action. This includes conducting an extensive exchange of informal discovery, including Defendant's written policies and practices, and producing payroll and timekeeping records for Settlement Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. Class Counsel is both knowledgeable about and has done extensive research with respect to the applicable law and potential defenses to the claims of the Settlement Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. Class Counsel has diligently investigated the Class Members' claims against Defendant. Based on the foregoing data and their own independent investigation and evaluation, Class Counsel is of the opinion that the settlement with Defendant for the consideration and on the terms outlined in this Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interest of the Settlement Class Members and Aggrieved Employees in light of all known facts and circumstances, including the risk of significant delay and uncertainty associated with litigation, various defenses asserted by Defendant, and numerous potential appellate issues.

47. On December 4, 2025, the Parties participated in a full-day mediation before Steve Serratore, Esq., a highly experienced class action mediator. Following the mediation and the issuance of a mediator's proposal, the Parties reached a settlement.

48. The Parties agree that neither the Parties' Settlement, this Agreement, nor the acts to be performed or judgments to be entered pursuant to the terms of the Settlement and Agreement shall be construed as an admission by Defendant of any wrongdoing or violation of any statute or law or liability on the claims or allegations in the Action.

49. Stipulation for Class Certification and Representative Treatment. For settlement purposes only, Defendant will stipulate that the Settlement Class Members described herein who

do not Request Exclusion from the Settlement Class may be conditionally certified as a settlement class and that the Aggrieved Employees are appropriate for representative treatment for settlement purposes. This stipulation to certification and representative treatment is in no way an admission that class action certification and/or representative treatment is proper and shall not be admissible in this or any other action except for enforcing this Agreement.

C. Terms of Settlement

50. The financial terms of the Settlement are as follows:

(a) Settlement Amount: The Parties agree to settle this Action for Seven Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$730,000) (“the Settlement Amount”). The Settlement Amount is the maximum amount that will be paid by the Defendant and includes Individual Settlement Amounts, attorneys’ fees of Class Counsel, costs and expenses, the Service Payment to the Class Representative, all Settlement Administration Costs, and payment to the Labor Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) for PAGA penalties. Defendant shall separately pay the employer’s share of applicable payroll taxes.

(b) The settlement is based on Defendant's estimate that, as of the mediation date, Settlement Class members worked approximately 35,000 workweeks during the Class Period. If the final total number of workweeks for Settlement Class Members at the close of the Class Period exceeds 38,500, which is 10% above the estimate, Defendant may elect either of the following:

- End the Class Period on the date that the total workweeks equal 38,500 total workweeks; or
- Increase the Gross Settlement Amount in the exact proportionate amount as to any additional workweeks above 38,500 workweeks.
- Defendant shall notify Class Counsel in writing of its election within ten business days after receiving the final workweek count. Any election under this paragraph, and any resulting adjustment to the Gross Settlement Amount or Class Period, shall be disclosed in the motion for preliminary approval and shall be subject to Court approval.

(c) Net Settlement Amount: The “Net Settlement Amount” is defined as the Settlement Amount less attorneys’ fees and litigation costs as approved and awarded by the Court, the Service Payments to Class Representative as approved and awarded by the Court, the Settlement Administration Costs, as approved and awarded by the Court, and the Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) allocated to payment for PAGA Penalties as described in Paragraph 50(i) below. If the Court reduces the attorneys’ fees and litigation costs or Service Awards, Settlement Administration Costs, or increases or decreases the amount allocated to PAGA penalties, the Net Settlement Sum shall be increased or decreased accordingly. Any Court order awarding less than these allocations of the Settlement Amount shall not be grounds to rescind the Settlement Agreement or otherwise void the Settlement.

(d) Individual Settlement Amounts for the Settlement Class: The Settlement Administrator will use the Class Data provided by Defendant to calculate each Participating Class Member’s and Aggrieved Employee’s Individual Settlement Amounts based on the following formula:

i. PAGA Amount: \$20,000 of the Gross Settlement Amount has been designated to the PAGA claims. Twenty-five percent (25%) or \$5,000 shall be paid to Aggrieved Employees. Each Aggrieved Employee shall receive a portion of the \$5,000 proportionate to the number of Workweeks by the Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period compared to the total number of Workweeks by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period. Aggrieved Employees shall have their settlement amount for the Released PAGA claims paid one hundred percent (100%) as civil penalties for which no taxes will be withheld and for which the Settlement Administrator will issue a Form 1099.

ii. Class Amount: The Net Settlement Amount shall be allocated to each Participating Class Member based on their proportionate Workweeks during the Class Period. This is determined by multiplying the Net Settlement Amount by a fraction, the numerator of which is the Participating Class Member’s total Workweeks during the Class Period, and the denominator of which is the total Workweeks by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period. If there are any timely submitted Requests for Exclusion, the Settlement Administrator

1 shall proportionately increase the Individual Settlement Amounts for each Participating Class
2 Member so that the amount distributed to Participating Class Members equals 100% of the Net
3 Settlement Amount allocated toward Released Class Claims.

4 (e) Allocation of Individual Settlement Amounts: The Individual Settlement Amounts
5 will be allocated for tax purposes based on the allegations in the Action as follows: ten percent
6 (10%) will be paid as wages subject to withholding of all applicable local, state, and federal taxes;
7 and ninety percent (90%) will be paid as interest and as civil penalties (pursuant to, e.g., California
8 Labor Code sections 203, 226) from which no taxes will be withheld. The Settlement
9 Administrator will compute and issue to each Participating Class Member an Internal Revenue
10 Service Form W-2 and comparable state forms concerning the wage allocation and a Form 1099
11 concerning the civil penalties and interest allocations.

12 (f) Service Payments to Class Representative: The amount awarded to the Class
13 Representative as Service Payments will be set by the Court in its discretion, not to exceed
14 \$10,000. Defendant agrees not to oppose this request. The Service Payments to Class
15 Representative will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administrator
16 will issue to the Class Representative an IRS Form 1099 in connection with this payment. Plaintiff
17 shall be solely and legally responsible for paying any and all applicable taxes on this payment.
18 The Parties agree that any amount awarded by the Court as the Service Payments to Plaintiff less
19 than the requested amount shall not be a basis for Plaintiff or Class Counsel to void this
20 Stipulation. Should the Court approve a lesser amount for the Service Payments, the difference
21 shall be added to the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed to the Participating Class Members.
22 In the event of any appeal of the amount of the service awards (if any) approved by the Court, if,
23 after the exhaustion of any such appellate review, additional amounts not awarded to the Class
24 Representative shall be added to the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed to the Participating
25 Class Members.

26 (g) Class Counsel's Attorneys' Fees and Costs: Defendant agrees not to oppose a
27 request by Class Counsel to the Court for an award of attorneys' fees of one-third (33.33%) of
28 the Settlement Amount, plus reasonable litigation costs not to exceed \$30,000 ("Attorneys' Fees

and Costs Award"). For purposes of this Settlement, Defendant agrees not to oppose any contention by Class Counsel that attorneys' fees should be based on the common fund theory. The Attorneys' Fees and Costs Award shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, and except for this award, Defendant shall have no further obligation to pay any attorneys' fees, costs, or expenses to Class Counsel. Should the Court approve a lesser amount than is sought by Class Counsel, the difference shall be added to the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed to the Participating Class Members. Any Court order awarding less than the amount sought by Class Counsel shall not be grounds to rescind the Settlement Agreement or otherwise void the Settlement. In the event of any appeal of the amount of the awards of attorneys' fees and costs (if any) approved by the Court, final funding and administration of the portion of the attorneys' fees and/or costs award in dispute will be segregated and stayed pending the exhaustion of appellate review. If, after the exhaustion of any such appellate review, additional amounts not awarded as attorneys' fees and costs shall be added to the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed to the Participating Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees. The Settlement Administrator shall issue to Class Counsel an IRS Form 1099 reflecting the amount of attorneys' fees and costs awarded by the Court. Class Counsel agrees that any allocation of fees between or among Class Counsel and any other attorney representing or claiming to represent the Class Members shall be the sole responsibility of Class Counsel.

(h) Settlement Administration Costs: The fees and other charges of the Settlement Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, not to exceed \$8,000, subject to Court approval, unless approved by all Parties and the Court.

(i) PAGA Penalties: The Parties agree that \$20,000 is allocated to PAGA Penalties and will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, subject to Court approval. Of this amount, \$15,000 (75%) shall be paid to the LWDA in satisfaction of Plaintiff's claims for civil penalties under the PAGA, and \$5,000 (25%) will be included in the Individual Settlement Amounts, payable to the Aggrieved Employees as set forth in Paragraph 50(d).

(j) Tax Liability: Class Counsel, Defendant, and Defendant' Counsel make no representations as to the tax treatment or legal effect of Settlement Amounts called for hereunder,

1 and Plaintiff and the Settlement Class Members are not relying on any statement or representation
2 by Class Counsel, Defendant, or Defendant' Counsel in this regard. Plaintiff and Final Settlement
3 Class Members understand and agree that they will be solely responsible for paying any taxes and
4 penalties assessed on their respective Settlement Amounts described herein. Income tax
5 withholding will also be made pursuant to applicable federal, state, and/or local withholding codes
6 or regulations. Forms W-2 and/or Forms 1099 will be distributed at times and in the manner
7 required by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code") and consistent with this Agreement.
8 If the Code, the regulations promulgated thereunder, or other applicable tax law are changed after
9 the date of this Agreement, the processes set forth in this Section may be modified to bring
10 Defendant into compliance with any such changes.

11 51. "Non-Reversionary" Settlement. This is a "non-reversionary" settlement. Under
12 no circumstances will any portion of the Settlement Amount revert to Defendant. Final Settlement
13 Class Members will not have to make a claim to receive an Individual Settlement Amount. In the
14 form of Individual Settlement Amounts, Distributions will be made directly to each Final
15 Settlement Class Member. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for accurately and
16 timely reporting any remittance obligations with respect to unclaimed funds as a result of a Final
17 Settlement Class Member not cashing an Individual Settlement Amount by the check-cashing
18 deadline, as set forth herein.

19 52. Class Counsel and Plaintiff believe that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and
20 adequate and will so represent the same to the Court.

21 **D. Release by Plaintiff and the Final Settlement Class**

22 53. Upon the Effective Date of this Settlement, Plaintiff and each Participating Class
23 Member, for themselves and their respective spouses, domestic partners, marital community,
24 children, estates, trusts, attorneys, heirs, successors, beneficiaries, devisees, legatees, executors,
25 administrators, trustees, conservators, guardians, assigns, and Representative, will forever
26 completely release and discharge the Released Parties from the Released Class Claims for the
27 Class Release Period.

28 54. Each Participating Class Member will be deemed to have made the foregoing

Release as if by manually signing it.

55. Upon the Effective Date of this Settlement, Plaintiff and the LWDA will forever completely release and discharge the Released Parties from the Released PAGA Claims for the PAGA Release Period.

56. Plaintiff and the LWDA will be deemed to have made the foregoing Release as if by manually signing it.

57. Plaintiff and Defendant intend that the Settlement described in this Agreement will release and preclude any claim, whether by lawsuit, administrative claim or action, arbitration, demand, or other action of any kind, by each and all of the Participating Class Members to obtain a recovery based on, arising out of, and/or related to any and all of the Released Class Claims. The Settlement Class Members shall be notified in the Notice. This paragraph does not apply to any Settlement Class Member who timely and validly opts out of the Settlement for purposes of Class Claims.

58. Plaintiff and Defendant intend that the Settlement described in this Agreement will release and preclude any claim, whether by lawsuit, administrative claim or action, arbitration, demand, or other action of any kind, by each and all of the Aggrieved Employees and the LWDA to obtain a recovery based on, arising out of, and/or related to any and all of the Released PAGA Claims. The Aggrieved Employees and the LWDA shall be notified in the Notice.

59. Class Representative, on behalf of themselves and the Participating Settlement Class Members, acknowledge and agree that the claims for unpaid minimum and overtime wages, noncompliant rest periods and unpaid missed rest break premiums, noncompliant meal periods and unpaid missed meal period premiums, unpaid sick time, unpaid wages due and owing during employment and at separation of employment, unreimbursed expenses, inaccurate wage statements, and unlawful business practices in the Action, are disputed and that the payments set forth herein constitute payment of all sums allegedly due to them. Class Representative, on behalf of themselves and the Participating Settlement Class Members, acknowledge and agree that California Labor Code Section 206.5 does not apply to the Parties hereto. Section 206.5 provides in pertinent part as follows:

An employer shall not require the execution of any release of any claim or right on account of wages due, or to become due, or made as an advance on wages to be earned unless payment of those wages has been made.

E. General Release by Plaintiff

60. With the exception of Plaintiff's claims that cannot be released as matter of law, such as claims for workers' compensation, and in addition to Class Representative release of the Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims, as discussed in Paragraphs 53 and 55 above, Class Representative does hereby, for himself and for his respective spouses, domestic partners, marital community, children, estates, trusts, attorneys, heirs, successors, beneficiaries, devisees, legatees, executors, administrators, trustees, conservators, guardians, assigns, and Representative, forever completely release and discharge the Released Parties from any and all charges, complaints, claims, liabilities, obligations, promises, agreements, contracts, controversies, damages, actions, causes of action, suits, rights, demands, costs, losses, debts, and expenses (including for back wages, statutory penalties, civil penalties, liquidated damages, exemplary damages, interest, attorneys' fees, and costs) of any nature whatsoever, from the beginning of time through the execution of this Settlement Agreement, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, concealed or hidden, including but not limited to all claims arising out of, based upon, or relating to Class Representative' employment with Defendant or the remuneration for or termination of such employment (collectively, the "Class Representative' Claims").

61. Class Representative expressly waives and relinquishes all rights and benefits afforded by Section 1542 of the Civil Code of the State of California, understanding and acknowledging the significance of the waiver of Section 1542. Section 1542 of the Civil Code of the State of California states:

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.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1542, and for the purpose of implementing a full and complete release and discharge of all parties, Class Representative and Class Counsel expressly acknowledge that this Settlement Agreement is intended to include in its effect, without limitation, all claims that Class Representative knew of, as well as all claims that they do not know or suspect to exist in their favor against the Released Parties, or any of them, for the time period from the beginning of time to the execution of this Settlement Agreement, and that this Settlement Agreement contemplates the extinguishment of any such Class Representative's claims.

F. Interim Stay of Proceedings

62. Pending completion of all prerequisites necessary to effectuate this Settlement, the Parties agree, subject to Court approval, to a stay of all proceedings in the Action except such as are necessary to effectuate the Settlement, including amending the Complaint.

G. Notice Process

63. Appointment of Settlement Administrator. The Parties have agreed to the appointment of the Settlement Administrator to perform the duties of a settlement administrator, including mailing the Notice, using standard devices to obtain forwarding addresses, independently reviewing and verifying documentation associated with any claims or opt-out requests, resolving any disputes regarding the calculation or application of the formula for determining the Individual Settlement Amounts, drafting and mailing the settlement checks to Final Settlement Class Members, issuing Forms W-2 and 1099, computing and reporting to taxing authorities, due diligence, reporting and remittance obligations, and performing such other tasks as set forth herein or as the Parties mutually agree or that the Court orders.

64. Disputes Regarding Settlement Administration. Any and all disputes relating to the administration of the Settlement by the Settlement Administrator (except for disputes regarding Class Data) shall be referred to the Court, if necessary, which will have continuing jurisdiction over the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement until Plaintiff and Defendant notify the Court that all payments and obligations contemplated by this Settlement

Agreement have been fully carried out. Before presenting any issue to the Court, counsel for the Parties will confer in good faith to resolve the dispute without the necessity of Court intervention. The Settlement Administrator shall also be responsible for issuing to Plaintiff, Final Settlement Class Members, and Class Counsel any Forms W-2, Forms 1099, or other Tax Forms as may be required by law for all amounts paid pursuant to this Agreement. The Settlement Administrator shall also be responsible for setting up all necessary tax accounts and forwarding all payroll taxes and penalties to the appropriate government authorities.

65. Class Data. Within fourteen (14) days after the Preliminary Approval Order entry, Defendant shall provide the Class Data to the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will check the Class Members' addresses against those on file with the U.S. Postal Service's National Change of Address List. The Class Data provided to the Settlement Administrator will not be provided to Class Counsel, and it will remain confidential; it shall be used solely to administer the Settlement, and it will not be used or disclosed to anyone except as required by applicable tax authorities, pursuant to Defendant' express written consent, or by order of the Court.

66. Notice. The Notice, as approved by the Court, shall be sent by the Settlement Administrator to the Settlement Class Members by first-class mail, in English, within fourteen (14) calendar days following the Settlement Administrator's receipt of the Class Data. The Settlement Administrator shall use standard devices, including a skip trace, to obtain forwarding addresses of Settlement Class Members if any notices are returned.

67. Returned Notices. The Settlement Administrator will take steps to ensure that the Notice is received by all Settlement Class Members, including using the National Change of Address Database maintained by the United States Postal Service to review the accuracy of and, if possible, update mailing addresses. Notices will be re-mailed to any Settlement Class Member for whom an updated address is located within ten (10) calendar days following the Settlement Administrator's learning of the failed mailing and receipt of the updated address. The Notice shall be identical to the original Notice, except that it shall notify the Settlement Class Member that the exclusion (opt-out) request or objection must be returned by the later of the Notice Response

Deadline or fifteen (15) days after remailing the Notice.

68. Presumption Regarding Receipt of Notice. It will be conclusively presumed that if an envelope has not been returned within thirty (30) days of the mailing, the Settlement Class Member received the Notice.

69. Disputes Regarding Class Data. Settlement Class Members are deemed to participate in the Settlement unless they opt out. The Notice will inform Settlement Class Members of their estimated Individual Settlement Amount, the number of Workweeks during the Class Period, and the PAGA Period. Settlement Class Members may dispute their Workweeks if they believe they were employed more workweeks in the Class Period in California than the Defendant's records show by timely submitting evidence to the Settlement Administrator. Defendant's records will be presumed determinative absent reliable evidence to rebut the Defendant's records, but the Settlement Administrator will evaluate the evidence submitted by the Settlement Class Member and provide the evidence submitted to the Class Counsel and Defense Counsel who agree to meet and confer in good faith about the evidence to determine the Class Member's actual number of Workweeks and estimated Individual Settlement Amount. If Class Counsel and Defense Counsel cannot agree, they agree to submit the dispute to the Court to render a final decision. Settlement Class Members will have until the Notice Response Deadline to dispute Workweeks, object, or opt out, unless extended by the Court. If the Settlement Administrator increases the number of Workweeks for any Settlement Class Member, then the Settlement Administrator will recalculate the Participating Class Members' Individual Settlement Amounts; accordingly, in no event will Defendant be required to increase the Gross Settlement Amount.

70. Declaration of Due Diligence. The Settlement Administrator shall provide counsel for the Parties, at least fourteen (14) days before the final approval hearing, a declaration of due diligence and proof of mailing with regard to the mailing of the Notice.

71. Settlement Class Members' Rights. Each Settlement Class Member will be fully advised of the Settlement, the ability to object to the provisions in the Settlement related to the Class Claims, and the ability to opt out or request exclusion from the Class Claims provisions of

1 the Settlement. The Notice will inform the Settlement Class Members of the Court-established
2 deadlines for filing objections or requesting exclusion from the Class Claims provisions of the
3 Settlement in accordance with the following guidelines:

4 (a) Requests for Exclusion from Participating Settlement Class. Any
5 Settlement Class Member, other than Plaintiff, may request to be excluded from the Participating
6 Settlement Class by submitting a “Request for Exclusion” to the Settlement Administrator,
7 postmarked on or before the Notice Response Deadline. The Request for Exclusion should be
8 stated in words to this effect:

9 I WISH TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE SETTLEMENT CLASS IN
10 THE GARATE V. LINCARE, INC. LAWSUIT. I UNDERSTAND
11 THAT IF I ASK TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE SETTLEMENT
12 CLASS, I WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY MONEY FROM THE
13 SETTLEMENT OF THE CLASS CLAIMS IN THIS LAWSUIT AND
14 WILL NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE
15 SETTLEMENT.

16 Any Request for Exclusion must include the full name, address, telephone number, last
17 four digits of the social security number or date of birth, and signature of the Settlement Class
18 Member requesting exclusion. The Request for Exclusion must be returned by mail to the
19 Settlement Administrator at the specified address. Any such Request must be made in accordance
20 with the terms set forth in the Notice. A Request for Exclusion will be timely only if postmarked
21 by the Notice Response Deadline unless the Parties agree in writing. Any Settlement Class
22 Member who timely requests exclusion in compliance with these requirements: (i) will not have
23 any rights under this Agreement with respect to the Class Claims, including the right to object,
24 appeal, or comment on the Settlement; (ii) will not be entitled to receive any payments under this
25 Agreement with respect to Class Claims; and (iii) will not be bound by this Agreement, or the
26 Judgment, with respect to the Class Claims.

27 (b) Binding Effect on Final Settlement Class Members. All Final Settlement
28 Class Members who do not exclude themselves in compliance with the procedures set forth above,
will: (i) be deemed to be Final Settlement Class Members for all purposes under this Agreement;
(ii) will be bound by the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Judgment, and the releases

1 set forth herein; and (iii) except as otherwise provided herein, will be deemed to have waived all
2 objections and oppositions to the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the Settlement.

3 (c) Objections to Settlement of Class Claims. Any Final Settlement Class
4 Member, other than Plaintiff, may object to the terms of this Agreement with respect to the Class
5 Claims and may appear at the Final Approval Hearing and object whether or not they have filed
6 a written objection as outlined herein. To object, a Final Settlement Class Member shall inform
7 the Settlement Administrator, in writing, of his/her/their objection, which must be postmarked by
8 the Notice Response Deadline at the address set forth in the Notice. Such objection shall include
9 the full name, address, telephone number, dates of employment with Defendant of the objecting
10 Final Settlement Class Member, the case name and number, the basis for the objection. The
11 Settlement Administrator shall provide objections, if any, to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel
12 within three (3) days of receipt, and the Settlement Administrator shall attach the same to its
13 declaration of due diligence filed with the Court before the Final Approval Hearing. Any Final
14 Class Member who files an objection remains eligible to receive monetary compensation from
15 the Settlement. Plaintiff and Defendant shall not be responsible for any fees, costs, or expenses
16 incurred by any Class Member and/or their counsel related to any objections to the Settlement.
17 Submitting an objection does not preserve the right to appeal a final judgment. Rather, the right
18 to appeal is preserved by becoming a party of record by timely and properly intervening or filing
19 a motion to vacate the judgment under Code of Civil Procedure section 663. Settlement Class
20 Members and Aggrieved Employees may not object to or opt out of the Settlement with respect
21 to the PAGA Claims.

22 (d) Failure to Object. Any Settlement Class Member who desires to object
23 with respect to the Class Claims but fails to submit a written objection timely waives any right to
24 object and will be foreclosed from making any objection to this Settlement. Any Settlement Class
25 Member who does not timely and properly become a party of record by intervening or filing a
26 motion to vacate the judgment waives any and all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including
27 all rights to any post-judgment proceeding and appellate proceeding, such as a motion to vacate
28 judgment, motion for new trial, a motion under California Code of Civil Procedure section 473,

and extraordinary writs.

(e) Responses to Objections. Counsel for the Parties may file a response to any objections submitted by Objecting Settlement Class Members at least five (5) court days before the date of the Final Approval Hearing.

72. Settlement Class Members will have until the Notice Response Deadline to object or submit a Request for Exclusion to the Settlement Administrator by U.S. Mail. The Settlement Administrator shall disclose jointly to Class Counsel and Defendant's counsel what objections or Requests for Exclusion were timely submitted every week and upon the request of Class Counsel or Defense Counsel.

73. Funding of the Settlement Amount. Defendant shall make a one-time deposit into the QSF of the Settlement Amount, as described in Paragraph 50(a), that is necessary to make all payments required under this Settlement within sixty plus five court days after entry of judgment, and Defendant shall separately pay its share of employer payroll taxes as calculated and directed by the Settlement Administrator.

74. Qualified Settlement Fund. The Qualified Settlement Fund shall be established at a federally insured bank acceptable to the Defendant and the Settlement Administrator.

75. Distribution of Funds. No later than fourteen (14) calendar days after the deposit of the payment into the QSF, the Settlement Administrator will mail the payments to the Participating Class Members, the payment for the attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel, any Service Payment to the Class Representative, the payment to the LWDA for PAGA penalties, and will pay itself the Settlement Administration Costs.

76. Deadline for Cashing Settlement Checks. Final Settlement Class Members shall have 180 calendar days after mailing by the Settlement Administrator to cash their settlement checks. If any Final Settlement Class Member's check is not cashed within that period, the check will be void, and a stop payment will be issued. All unclaimed funds shall escheat to the California State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund. The Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims will be binding upon all Final Settlement Class Members and Aggrieved Employees who do not cash their checks within the 180-day period. If any settlement check is returned to the

Settlement Administrator within 180 days of mailing, the Settlement Administrator will, within five (5) business days of receipt of the returned settlement check, perform a skip trace to locate the individual. If a new address is located by these means, the Administrator will have ten (10) business days to re-issue the check and notify Defense Counsel and Class Counsel that a re-issued check has been sent. Neither the Defendant, defense counsel, Class Counsel, Plaintiff, nor settlement administrator will have any liability for lost or stolen settlement checks, forged signatures on settlement checks, or unauthorized negotiation of settlement checks. Without limiting the foregoing, in the event that a Final Settlement Class Member or Aggrieved Employees notifies the Settlement Administrator that they believe that a settlement check has been lost or stolen, the Settlement Administrator shall immediately stop payment on such check. If the check-in question has not been negotiated before the stop payment order is issued, the Settlement Administrator will issue a replacement check.

77. No person shall have any claim against Defendant, Defendant's Counsel, Plaintiff, Class Counsel, or the Settlement Administrator based on mailings, distributions, payments, or reports made in accordance with or pursuant to this Agreement. This provision does not, however, prevent a Party from seeking enforcement of this Agreement.

78. Without prejudice to any other remedies, the Settlement Administrator shall agree to be responsible for any breach of its obligations (whether committed by the Settlement Administrator or its agents) and to indemnify and hold the Parties and their counsel harmless from and against all liabilities, claims, causes of action, costs and expenses (including legal fees and expenses) arising out of any breach committed by the Settlement Administrator or its agents.

H. Duties of the Parties Prior to the Court's Approval

79. Upon completion of the execution of this Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff will move the Court for Preliminary Approval of this Settlement and entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, that will accomplish the following:

(a) Scheduling the Final Approval Hearing on the issue of whether this Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate as to the Class Members and a hearing on fees, costs, and the Service Payment;

- (b) Approving as to form and content of the proposed Notice;
- (c) Directing the mailing of the Notice by first-class mail to the Settlement Class Members;
- (d) Preliminarily approving this Settlement; and
- (e) Preliminarily certifying the class for purposes of this Settlement.

Plaintiff's counsel shall provide a draft of the motion for preliminary approval of the settlement to Defendant's counsel for review and comment prior to filing it. Good faith efforts will be made to have the preliminary approval hearing within 60 days of execution of this Settlement Agreement.

80. Reallocation of Settlement Proceeds. In the event the Court fails, on its first hearing, to approve this Agreement because the amount of the PAGA penalties is not adequate, then the Parties shall cooperate in good faith to reallocate the total settlement proceeds within this Agreement, to try to achieve Final Approval of the Agreement upon any subsequent Court hearings.

I. Duties of the Parties Following Court's Final Approval

81. In connection with the Final Approval Hearing provided for in this Settlement Agreement, Class Counsel shall submit a proposed Final Approval Order:

- (a) Approving the Settlement, adjudging the terms thereof to be fair, reasonable, and adequate, and directing consummation of its terms and provisions;
- (b) Approving Class Counsel's application for an award of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses, the Service Payment to the Class Representative, and the payment to the Settlement Administrator for costs of administering the settlement; and
- (c) Entering judgment approving the settlement, thereby permanently barring all Participating Class Members from prosecuting any Released Class Claims against any of the Released Parties and permanently barring all Aggrieved Employees and the LWDA from prosecuting any Released PAGA Claims against any of the Released Parties.

J. Voiding the Agreement

82. If the Court fails or refuses to issue the Final Approval Order or fails to approve

any material condition of this Settlement Agreement that affects a fundamental change of the Settlement, the entire Settlement Agreement shall be rendered voidable and unenforceable as to all Parties herein at the option of either Party. Reduction of the amount of attorney's fees and/or costs sought or Class Representative awards sought shall not be considered a failure to approve a material condition.

83. If three percent (3%) or more of the Settlement Class Members timely submit a Request for Exclusion, Defendant shall have the option of terminating or modifying this Agreement without prejudice to its pre-settlement positions and defenses in the Action. If Defendant exercises such option under this paragraph, it shall be relieved of any obligation to pay the Settlement Amount or any other obligations from the Settlement by giving notice to Plaintiff's Counsel and the Settlement Administrator within ten (10) days of being notified by the Settlement Administrator of a 3% or greater opt-out rate. In such an event, the Parties shall be restored to their respective positions in all respects as though the contemplated settlement never occurred. In the event of such termination, no party may use the fact that the Parties agreed to settle or the terms provided herein as an admission, as evidence, or for any other purpose, including, without limitation, to prove any liability or the amount of any sum allegedly owed by any Party. All parties and counsel shall not encourage opt-outs or objections to this Agreement. The parties agree not to solicit opt-outs, directly or indirectly, through any means.

84. If the Settlement is voided or fails for any reason, Plaintiff and Defendant will have no further obligations under the Settlement, including any obligation by Defendant to pay the Settlement Amount or any amounts that otherwise would have been owed under this Settlement.

85. If the Settlement is voided or fails for any reason, any costs incurred by the Settlement Administrator shall be borne equally by Defendant and Plaintiff unless otherwise specified in this Agreement.

K. Other Terms

86. Full and Complete Defense. Any Released Party may plead this Agreement as a full and complete defense to and may be used as the basis for an injunction against any action,

1 suit, or other proceeding that has been or may be instituted, prosecuted, or attempted, asserting
2 any Released Claim.

3 87. Waiver. The waiver by one Party of any breach of this Agreement by another Party
4 shall not be deemed a waiver of any other prior or subsequent breach of this Agreement.

5 88. Parties' Authority. The signatories hereto represent that they are fully authorized
6 to enter into this Settlement Agreement and bind the Parties hereto to the terms and conditions
7 hereof.

8 89. Mutual Full Cooperation. The Parties agree to fully cooperate with each other to
9 accomplish the terms of this Settlement Agreement, including but not limited to the execution of
10 such documents and to take such other action as may reasonably be necessary to implement the
11 terms of this Settlement Agreement. The Parties to this Settlement Agreement shall use their best
12 efforts, including all efforts contemplated by this Settlement Agreement and any other efforts that
13 may become necessary by order of the Court or otherwise, to effectuate this Settlement
14 Agreement and the terms set forth herein. As soon as practicable after executing this Settlement
15 Agreement, Class Counsel shall, with the assistance and cooperation of Defendant and
16 Defendant' Counsel, take all necessary steps to secure the Court's preliminary and final approval
17 of the settlement and the final entry of judgment.

18 90. No Prior Assignments. The Parties hereto represent, covenant, and warrant that
19 they have not, directly or indirectly, assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign,
20 transfer, or encumber to any person or entity any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action,
21 cause of action, or rights released and discharged by this Settlement Agreement.

22 91. No Admission. Defendant denies any and all liability to Plaintiff and/or any
23 Settlement Class Member or Aggrieved Employee under PAGA in this Action as to any and all
24 causes of action that were asserted, or that might have been asserted in this Action. Nonetheless,
25 Defendant wishes to settle and compromise the matters at issue in the Complaint to avoid further
26 substantial expense and the inconvenience and distraction of protracted and burdensome
27 litigation. Defendant also has taken into account the uncertainty and risks inherent in litigation,
28 and without conceding any infirmity in the defenses that they have asserted or could assert against

Plaintiff, has determined that it is desirable and beneficial that Plaintiff's claims be settled in the manner and upon the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement.

92. Inadmissibility of Agreement. Whether or not the Court issues the Final Approval Order, nothing contained herein, nor the consummation of this Settlement Agreement, is to be construed or deemed an admission of liability, culpability, negligence, or wrongdoing on the part of Defendant or any of the other Released Parties. Each of the Parties hereto has entered into this Settlement Agreement with the intention of avoiding further disputes and litigation with the attendant inconvenience and expenses. This Settlement Agreement is a settlement document, and it, along with all related documents such as the notices and motions for preliminary and final approval, shall, pursuant to California Evidence Code section 1152 and/or Federal Rule of Evidence 408, be inadmissible in evidence in any proceeding, except an action or proceeding to approve the settlement, interpret or enforce this Settlement Agreement and/or for Defendant to support a defense of *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, release, or other theory of claim or issue preclusion or similar defense.

93. The stipulation for class certification as part of this Settlement Agreement is for settlement purposes only, and if, for any reason, the settlement is not approved, the stipulation will be of no force or effect.

94. Notices. Unless otherwise specifically provided herein, all notices, demands, or other communications given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed:

To the Settlement Class Members and Aggrieved Employees:

Mehrdad Bokhour <i>mehrdad@bokhourlaw.com</i> 1901 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 520 Los Angeles, California 90067 Tel: (310) 975-1493; Fax: (310) 675-0861	Joshua Falakassa <i>josh@falakassalaw.com</i> 1901 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 520 Los Angeles, California 90067 Tel: (818) 456-6168; Fax: (888) 505-0868
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To Defendant:

Shiva Shirazi Davoudian
sdavoudian@littler.com
 Hider Al-Mashat
HALMashat@littler.com
 LITTLER MENDELSON P.C.
 2049 Century Park East, 5th Floor
 Los Angeles, California 90067
 Telephone: (310) 553-0308
 Facsimile: (800) 715-1330

95. Construction. The Parties hereto agree that the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement are the result of lengthy, intensive negotiations between the Parties and that this Settlement Agreement shall not be construed in favor of or against any Party because of the extent to which any Party or their counsel participated in the drafting of this Settlement Agreement. Plaintiff and Defendant expressly waive the common-law and statutory rule of construction that ambiguities should be construed against the drafter of an agreement and further agree, covenant, and represent that the language in all parts of this Agreement shall be in all cases construed as a whole, according to its fair meaning.

96. Captions and Interpretations. Paragraph titles or captions contained herein are inserted as a matter of convenience and for reference and in no way define, limit, extend, or describe the scope of this Settlement Agreement or any provision hereof. Each term of this Settlement Agreement is contractual and not merely a recital.

97. Modification. This Settlement Agreement may not be changed, altered, or modified except in writing and signed by the Parties hereto and approved by the Court. This Settlement Agreement may not be discharged except by performance in accordance with its terms or by writing signed by all of the Parties hereto.

98. Dispute Resolution. Prior to instituting legal action to enforce the provisions of this Agreement or to declare rights and/or obligations under this Agreement, a Party shall provide written notice to the other Party and allow an opportunity to cure the alleged deficiencies, and Plaintiff and Defendant agree to seek the help of the mediator identified in this Agreement to resolve any dispute they are unable to resolve informally. During this period, the Parties shall

1 bear their attorneys' fees and costs. This provision shall not apply to any legal action or other
2 proceeding instituted by any person or entity other than Plaintiff or Defendant.

3 99. Court Retains Jurisdiction. The Parties agree that upon the entry of judgment of
4 dismissal pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, that, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure
5 section 664.6, the Court shall retain exclusive and continuing equity jurisdiction of this Action
6 over all Parties to interpret, enforce, and effectuate the terms, conditions, intents, and obligations
7 of this Agreement.

8 100. Enforceability. Pursuant to California Evidence Code section 1123(a) and (b), this
9 Agreement is intended by the Parties to be and shall be, enforceable, binding, and admissible in
10 a court of law.

11 101. Choice of Law. This Settlement Agreement shall be governed by and construed,
12 enforced, and administered in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without regard
13 to its conflicts-of-law rules.

14 102. Integration Clause. This Settlement Agreement contains the entire agreement
15 between the Parties relating to the settlement and transaction contemplated hereby, and all prior
16 or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, representations, and statements, whether oral
17 or written and whether by a Party or such Party's legal counsel, are merged herein. No rights
18 hereunder may be waived except in writing.

19 103. Binding On Assigns. This Settlement Agreement shall be binding upon and inure
20 to the benefit of the Parties hereto and their respective heirs, trustees, executors, administrators,
21 successors, and assigns.

22 104. Signatures of all class members are unnecessary to be Binding. It is agreed that
23 because the members of the Settlement Class are numerous, it is impossible or impractical to have
24 each Final Class Member execute this Settlement Agreement. The Notice will advise all
25 Settlement Class Members of the binding nature of the releases provided herein, and such shall
26 have the same force and effect as if each Final Settlement Class Member executed this Settlement
27 Agreement.

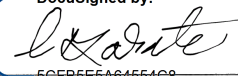
28 105. Counterparts. This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts, and

when each Party has signed and delivered at least one such counterpart, each counterpart shall be deemed an original and, when taken together with other signed counterparts, shall constitute one fully signed Settlement Agreement, which shall be binding upon and effective as to all Parties. Electronic signatures shall have the same force and effect as an original.

APPROVAL AND EXECUTION BY PARTIES:

Dated: 3/24/2026

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE:

DocuSigned by:

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Ignacio Garate

Dated: 03-20-26

DEFENDANT:

LINCARE, INC.


By: Jeff Bauman

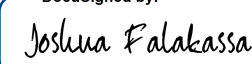
Its: CEO

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CLASS COUNSEL

Dated: 3/23/2026

FALAKASSA LAW, P.C.

DocuSigned by:

15A628B2C5A149C...

Joshua Falakassa
Attorneys for Plaintiff

1 Dated: 3/23/2026

BOKHOUR LAW GROUP, P.C.

Signed by:

MEHRDAD BOKHOUR

D8D3643F271940F...

Mehrdad Bokhour
Attorneys for Plaintiff

6 Dated: March 20, 2026

DEFENDANT' COUNSEL:

LITTLER MENDELSON, PC

Shiva Shirazi Davoudian

Shiva Shirazi Davoudian
Attorneys for Defendant, Lincare, Inc.