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ROMAN

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

YADIRA RODRIGUEZ ROMAN, as an
individual and on behalf of all employees
similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

TC CALIFORNIA HOSPITALITY LLC, a
California Limited Liability Company; and
DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 37-2024-00010785-CU-OE-CTL

CLASS ACTION

Assigned for all purposes to Hon. Richard S.
Whitney, Department C-68

**DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF
YADIRA RODRIGUEZ ROMAN IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION
FOR APPROVAL OF CLASS AND PAGA
REPRESENTATIVE ACTION
SETTLEMENT**

Complaint filed: March 7, 2024
Trial Date: Not Assigned

DECLARATION OF YADIRA RODRIGUEZ ROMAN

I, YADIRA RODRIGUEZ ROMAN, declare as follows:

1. I am a named Plaintiff in this case as an employee of the named defendant TC CALIFORNIA HOSPITALITY LLC ("Defendant"). As such, I have personal knowledge of, or am informed and believe, the following facts herein stated. If called as a witness, I could and would testify competently to the following:

JOB DUTIES AND EXPERIENCES

2. I worked for Defendant during the Class Period as an hourly-paid non-exempt employee from May 26, 2021 to December 3, 2023. I was paid on hourly basis and classified as non-exempt from overtime. Throughout my employment, I typically worked 5 days per workweek, and typically in excess of 8 hours in a workday.

3. While working for Defendant, I was required to work off-the-clock without compensation, did not receive all my meal and rest periods and used my personal cellular phone for work related purposes without reimbursement.

DUTIES OF A CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

4. This lawsuit is not an individual lawsuit. It is a proposed class action. I understand that, if approved as a class representative in this matter, I have an obligation to do my best to look out for the interests of other class members, the current and former employees of Defendant who I am seeking to represent. I understand that my obligations to the class exist even when the class is certified solely as part of a class action settlement. It is my understanding that, as one part of this duty to the class, I cannot agree to a settlement to benefit myself to the exclusion of the rest of the class members. I have never asked my attorneys to simply settle this matter at any cost. Rather, I have asked them to obtain the best settlement they could within reason, and I believe that they have attempted to do so.

5. I have been actively involved in this case. I have never asked to be relieved from my role as a proposed class representative. To the contrary, I have made myself available whenever

1 my attorneys wanted to discuss aspects of my employment at Defendant, and I remain committed
2 to seeing this matter through to the end.

3 6. I have conferred with my attorneys about the settlement proposed in this case. I am not
4 an accountant, but I understand the factors and risks that need to be considered when evaluating a
5 settlement. I believe that the Class Action Settlement obtained on behalf of the Class Members is
6 fair and reasonable in view of the issues and risks involved with the case.

7 7. I am asking to be stand-in for other employees of Defendant. Because of that, I
8 cannot quit on the Class, and I cannot put myself and my interests before the Class. I accept these
9 duties and request that I be approved as the class representative for purposes of this Settlement.

10 COMMUNITY OF INTEREST: TYPICALITY AND ADEQUACY

11 8. I was an hourly non-exempt employee of Defendant and was subject to the same pay
12 structure and rules as all the other hourly non-exempt employees of Defendant.

13 9. I am not aware of anything special about me that would raise unique defenses to my
14 claims, as opposed to the claims of the class. I am also not suing for anything unique to me.
15 Rather, my claims are based upon the same facts that relate to the rest of the Class.

16 10. I do not believe that I have any conflicts with Class Members included in this
17 proposed Settlement. I do not have any intention to take any action that would place me in a
18 position that is hostile to other Class Members.

19 SERVICE AS A CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

20 11. I believe if not for my stepping forward and taking on the duties of protecting the
21 interests all aggrieved former and current employees of Defendant, it is likely that the interests of
22 the Class would neither have been prosecuted, nor benefited. To my knowledge, other than the
23 actions encompassed by this proposed Settlement brought by me and another named plaintiff
24 Donald Clevenger, there is no other litigation concerning the claims in this lawsuit nor has
25 Defendant pointed to any.

26 12. I have assumed some long-lasting risk in prosecuting this case. Because it is so
27 easy to search for information online these days, I will face an increased risk that future
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1 employers will discover information about this lawsuit online and have a negative reaction to
2 learning that I sued an employer. This may make it harder for me to obtain future employment or
3 change jobs for a better opportunity.

4 13. I have devoted a substantial amount of my time, both before this lawsuit was filed
5 and also during its litigation, to ensure a fair result for the employee Class. This involved
6 ongoing communication and participation with my Counsel during the course of this case. My
7 participation began with bringing certain issues that are involved in this matter to my Counsel's
8 attention and explaining the factual background that was used to prosecute the claims in this
9 case. For example, I reviewed documents which I already had, I provided relevant documents to
10 my Counsel, and I explained those documents and related facts to my Counsel to assist them in
11 their review during multiple meetings with my attorneys.

12 14. My efforts continued after the suit was filed. For example, I have had many
13 discussions with my attorneys regarding Defendant's wage and hour policies, my claims in this
14 case, litigation strategy, potential witnesses, discovery, updates on how the case was proceeding,
15 and how I could help the case. I also discussed strategy with my attorneys. I remained in regular
16 communication with my attorneys regarding discovery and settlement discussions that the parties
17 had during the course of litigation and mediation. I continued to identify employees and other
18 witnesses to counsel, along with other information as to how they could be of potential use in this
19 matter. I also provided substantial information and documents to my attorneys to assist them in
20 preparing the case.

21 15. After the mediation, a long-form settlement agreement was negotiated, and I
22 reviewed it with my Counsel to ensure that its terms are likewise fair and adequate.

23 16. I believe that the Class Representative Service Payment of \$10,000 for me is fair
24 and reasonable. This enhancement takes into consideration the time, effort, risks, stress, and
25 sacrifice of signing a general release of all claims over just wage and hour claims, as well as the
26 benefit provided to all class members as a result of my involvement in this litigation. In sum, in
27 addition to assuming the risks that go along with being a class representative and named plaintiff
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in litigation, I believe I have also provided well over 25 hours of my time during the course of this litigation to ensure a good outcome for the best interests of the Class. I believe I have been diligent and acted above and beyond that which is expected of a Class Representative throughout all stages of the litigation. I will continue to diligently act as the Class Representative up to and including final approval of the Class Action Settlement.

17. Furthermore, it is my opinion that the enhancement is fair and reasonable because in addition to the many hours spent participating in this case, I accepted the potential risk of being liable for the opposing parties' costs if we were unsuccessful in this lawsuit. My attorneys told me these costs could be tens of thousands of dollars or more based on the extent of formal litigation. I believed in this case and was willing to be a Class Representative Plaintiff knowing the risks involved.

18. Additionally, I signed a general release, so I am not only giving up my wage and hour claims, but I am also giving up all claims beyond wage and hour claims I had against my former employer which other Class Members do not give up.

19. This litigation has also resulted in a valuable benefit to the Class Members who will participate in the monetary payout of this Settlement because of my involvement. As a result of this Settlement, Class Members are receiving thousands of dollars in Settlement checks.

20. I also risk the potential stigma of being a Class Representative in a Class Action labor dispute, which may affect my future employment in this industry. A Google search with my name and Defendant show that I am a Plaintiff in this Class Action case.

21. Based on the time, risk, stress, sacrifice of signing of a general release, and the great outcome of this case, I believe that the requested enhancement for me is fair and reasonable.

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

Executed 4/16/2025 | 11:19 AM PDT

at San Diego, California.


YADIRA RODRIGUEZ ROMAN,
"Declarant"

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