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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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

MICHELLE ACEVES, and GARY
MARTINEZ, as individuals, and on behalf of
all others similarly situated, and as the State of
California's designated proxies under the
Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") on
behalf of the State of California and other
aggrieved employees,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

ATLAS RETAIL SERVICES, INC., a Texas
corporation; and DOES 1 through 50,

Defendants.

Case No. 37-2024-00018584-CU-OE-CTL

*[Assigned for all purposes to the Hon.
Wendy M. Behan, Dept. C-66]*

**DECLARATION OF PAUL K. HAINES
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS'
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND
PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Date: September 18, 2026

Time: 10:15 a.m.

Dept.: C-66

Action Filed: April 19, 2024

Trial Date: None Set

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I, PAUL K. HAINES, declare as follows:

1. I am a shareholder and principal of Haines Law Group, APC, and counsel for the Plaintiff Gary Martinez (“Plaintiff”) and the proposed Settlement Class in the above-captioned matter. I am a member in good standing of the bar of the State of California and am qualified to practice in this Court. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration and could testify competently to them if called upon to do so.

2. I am a 2006 graduate of Pepperdine University School of Law, where I graduated cum laude. During law school, I worked as a law clerk for the appellate firm of Horvitz & Levy, LLP in Encino, California. I also spent a semester in law school working as an extern for the Honorable Edward Rafeedie, District Judge for the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

3. Since graduating from law school, my practice has focused almost exclusively on employment litigation. In September 2007, I began working as an associate attorney at the national law firm of Littler Mendelson P.C., at its Los Angeles office, which according to its website is the “largest U.S.-based law firm exclusively devoted to representing management in all aspects of labor and employment law.” While at Littler Mendelson, I was primarily staffed on wage and hour class actions venued in both state and federal courts, and I also worked on a number of single and multi-plaintiff wage and hour matters as well.

4. During my employment at Littler Mendelson, I played a significant role in the actions that I was staffed on, as I was often the only associate staffed on such cases. In particular, I received a wide-array of wage and hour class action experience performing the following types of tasks: drafting demurrers, motions to strike and/or dismiss; removing actions from state court to federal court; drafting and responding to written discovery; drafting and responding to discovery related motions; arguing discovery related motions; drafting motions to certify or decertify a class; interviewing putative class members and obtaining declarations in support of class certification; drafting oppositions to motions for class certification; drafting motions for decertification following class certification; conducting exposure analyses to assess

1 the strengths and weaknesses of asserted claims, the likelihood of prevailing at class certification
2 and potential damages resulting from such claims; drafting mediation briefs; serving as the
3 primary contact to in-house counsel; deposing named plaintiffs and putative class members;
4 deposing retained expert witnesses; and defending the depositions of corporate witnesses. In
5 short, I played an integral role in all aspects of litigation from the inception of a matter through
6 and beyond class certification. I also supervised the work of several junior attorneys who were
7 staffed on the same wage and hour class actions.

8 5. In June 2011, I voluntarily resigned from Littler Mendelson in order to accept an
9 associate attorney position with the international law firm of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, at
10 its Los Angeles office, where I began working in July 2011. During my employment at Morgan,
11 Lewis & Bockius LLP, I worked exclusively on the defense of wage and hour class and collective
12 actions. For the vast majority of these cases, I was the only associate staffed on the matter, and I
13 performed the same job duties as described in the immediately preceding paragraph. In addition
14 to working on wage and hour class actions, I also worked on a number of “hybrid” actions
15 asserting nationwide wage and hour claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”), as well
16 as California-specific claims under Rule 23 of the Rules of Civil Procedure.

17 6. In July 2012, I transitioned into litigating wage and hour class actions from the
18 Plaintiff’s side, first as a Partner with the law firm of Boren, Osher & Luftman, LLP, and since
19 February 2016, as a Shareholder of the Haines Law Group, APC. Currently, over ninety percent
20 (90%) of my practice is dedicated exclusively to the prosecution of wage and hour class actions,
21 and I am currently responsible for prosecuting over fifty (50) wage and hour class actions filed in
22 both State and Federal courts throughout California. I have been appointed as Class Counsel in
23 hundreds of wage and hour class action settlements in state and federal courts within California.
24 A few examples of the matters in which I have been appointed as Class Counsel, all of which
25 have been granted final approval, include the following: *Sanchez v. Res-Care, Inc.*, Case No.
26 BC526175, California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Hon. John Shepard Wiley, Jr.,
27 presiding; *Prado v. Warehouse Demo Services, Inc.*, Case No. CV14-3170 JFW (Ex), United
28 States District Court, Central District of California, Hon. John F. Walter presiding; *Tesla Motors*

1 *Wage and Hour Litigation*, JCCP 4792, California Superior Court, Santa Clara County, Hon.
2 Peter H. Kirwan presiding; *Bower v. Cycle Gear, Inc.*, Case No. CV14-2712 HSG, United States
3 District Court, Northern District of California, Hon. Haywood S. Gilliam, Jr. presiding;
4 *Longstreth v. PAQ, Inc., dba Food 4 Less*, Case No. 15CV-0206, California Superior Court,
5 County of San Luis Obispo, Hon. Charles S. Crandall presiding; *Nunez v. CompuCom Systems,*
6 *Inc.*, Case No. BC618385, California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Hon. John Shepard
7 Wiley, Jr. presiding; *Mansilla v. Haeco Americas Line Services, LLC, et al*, Case No. BC615310,
8 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Hon. Elihu M. Berle presiding; *Leverage,*
9 *et al v. Traeger Pellet Grills, LLC, et al*, Case No. 4:16-cv-00784-KAW, United States District
10 Court, Northern District of California, Hon. Kandis A. Westmore presiding.

11 7. I have also moved to certify and have received an order certifying a class action
12 and/or conditionally certifying a collective action, in the following cases:

- 13 • *Medeiros v. Vortex Financial Management Inc.*, Case No. 30-2013-00644741-CU-OE-
14 CXC, California Superior Court, County of Orange, Honorable Judge Gail A. Andler,
15 presiding (certifying a class of employees who were misclassified as independent
16 contractors);
- 17 • *Javine v. San Luis Ambulance Service, Inc.*, Case No. CV13-07480 BRO (SSx), United
18 States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge Beverly Reid
19 O'Connell, presiding (conditionally certifying an unpaid FLSA overtime wage class);
- 20 • *Prado v. Warehouse Demo Services, Inc.*, Case No. CV14-3170 JFW (Ex), United States
21 District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge John F. Walter, presiding
22 (certifying a rest period violation class and conditionally certifying an FLSA unpaid
23 overtime wage class);
- 24 • *Bower v. Cycle Gear, Inc.*, Case No. CV14-2712 HSG, United States District Court,
25 Northern District of California, Honorable Judge Haywood S. Gilliam, Jr., presiding
26 (conditionally certifying an unpaid FLSA overtime wage class);
- 27 • *Vega v. Weatherford U.S., Limited Partnership*, Case No. CV14-1790-JLT, United States
28 District Court, Eastern District of California, Honorable Jennifer L. Thurston, presiding

(conditionally certifying an unpaid FLSA overtime wage class);

- *Galvan v. AMVAC Chemical Corporation*, Case No. 30-2014-00716103-CU-OE-CXC, California Superior Court, County of Orange, Honorable Judge William Claster, presiding (certifying unpaid overtime wage class and waiting time penalty class);
- *Camacho v. Residential Fire Systems, Inc.*, Case No. 30-2015-775372-CU-OE-CXC, California Superior Court, County of Orange, Honorable Glenda Sanders, presiding (certifying piece rate pay plan classes, expense reimbursement class, wage statement class, and waiting time penalties class);
- *Ontiveros v. Safelite Fulfillment, Inc., et al*, Case No. CV 15-7118-DMG (RAOx), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Dolly M. Gee presiding (certifying six classes of employees for rest period violations, wage statement violations, meal period violations, and overtime and double-time violations);
- *Vazquez, et al v. Kraft Heinz Foods Company*, Case No. 16-cv-2749-WQH-BLM, United States District Court, Southern District of California, Honorable William Q. Hayes presiding (certifying six classes of employees for unpaid wages, meal period violations, wage statement violations, and waiting time penalties);
- *Caudle, et al. v. Sprint/United Management Company, et al.* Case No. C 17-06874-WHA, United States District Court, Northern District of California, Honorable William H. Alsup presiding (certifying three classes of employees for unlawful wage deduction violations, wage statement violations, and waiting time violations);
- *Staublein v. Wells Fargo Bank*, No. CIVDS1712267, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Honorable David S. Cohn presiding (certifying wage statement class);
- *Perez v. Sunbelt Rentals, Inc.* Case No. 37-2018-00026405-CU-OE-CTL, California Superior Court, County of San Diego, Honorable Eddie C. Sturgeon presiding (certifying class of employees for wage statement violations);
- *Bowlin-Burdick, et al v. Life Care Centers of America, Inc.*, Case No. BC657139, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Honorable Maren E. Nelson presiding (certifying four classes for meal period violations, rest period violations, wage statement violations, and

1 waiting time penalties);

- 2 • *McDonald, et al. v. Sierra Pacific Industries*, Case No. 191133, Shasta County Superior
3 Court, Hon. Tamara L. Wood (certifying eight classes for meal period violations, rest
4 period violations, unpaid wages, unreimbursed business expenses, wage statement
5 violations, and waiting time penalties);
- 6 • *Danica N. Keich, et al. v. U.S. Healthworks, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 37-2017-00015343-CU-
7 OE-CTL, San Diego County Superior Court, Honorable Eddie C. Sturgeon, presiding
8 (certifying classes for rest period violations, meal period violations, on-call pay violations,
9 wage statement violations, and waiting time violations);
- 10 • *George Gomez v. The Bedrock Company*, Case No. CIVDS1824255, San Bernardino
11 County Superior Court, Honorable David Cohn, presiding (certifying claims for unpaid
12 overtime and minimum wage violations, meal period violations, rest period violations,
13 wage statement violations, and waiting time penalties); and
- 14 • *Aurora Gatica v. Valley Ag, Inc. et al.*, Case No. 19CECG03018, Fresno County Superior
15 Court, Honorable Tyler D. Tharpe, presiding (certifying claims for meal period violations,
16 rest period violations, wage statement violations, and waiting time penalties).

17 8. In 2015, 2016, and 2017, Thomson Reuters recognized me as a Top Young
18 Attorney in Southern California in the annual Rising Stars Edition of Super Lawyer. This is an
19 honor awarded to no more than two-and-a-half percent of attorneys under the age of forty in
20 Southern California each year. In 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, Thomson Reuters recognized me
21 as a “Super Lawyer” in the annual Super Lawyer magazine, an honor awarded to no more than
22 five percent of all attorneys in Southern California each year.

23 9. In approximately 2018, I was selected to be a member of the Los Angeles Superior
24 Court, Complex Civil Department Ad Hoc Wage and Hour Committee, which was chaired by the
25 Honorable Judge Amy D. Hogue and Honorable Judge David S. Cunningham. The committee
26 was comprised of 8 plaintiff’s attorneys and 8 defense attorneys, and was consulted for
27 recommendations regarding wage and hour class action cases, including preparing model class
28 action and PAGA action settlement agreements which are now publicly available at

1 <http://www.lacourt.org/forms/all>.

2 10. In April 2019, I served as trial counsel for the Plaintiff in the matter of *Calhoun v.*
3 *Aqua Tech Water Management Inc.*, Case No. BS169815, Los Angeles County Superior Court,
4 Honorable Theresa M. Traber presiding, which was an individual wage-and-hour case that
5 resulted in a six-figure verdict in favor of Plaintiff.

6 11. In March 2023, my firm served as trial counsel for the plaintiff and aggrieved
7 employees in the matter of *Abraham Taduran v. James R. Glidewell, Dental Ceramics, Inc. dba*
8 *Glidewell Laboratories*, Case No. 30-2017-00934037-CU-OE-CXC, Orange County Superior
9 Court, Honorable William Claster presiding, which was a case brought under the Private
10 Attorneys General Act, Labor Code §§ 2698 *et seq.*, and resulted in a six-figure verdict in favor
11 of the aggrieved employees.

12 12. As counsel for Plaintiff and the proposed Settlement Class, I have been intimately
13 involved in every aspect of this case, and I believe that the proposed Settlement is a favorable
14 result for the Settlement Class. The details of the work completed in this case by me and the other
15 attorneys in my firm are set forth in the declaration of Sean M. Blakely filed concurrently
16 herewith.

17 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
18 foregoing is true and correct. Executed on August 24, 2026, at El Segundo, California.

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21 Paul K. Haines
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