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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

BENJAMIN GONZALEZ, individually, on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

EDGES ELECTRICAL GROUP LLC, a
California limited liability company; and DOES
1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: RG21110791

CLASS & REPRESENTATIVE ACTION

[Assigned for all purposes to: Hon. Somnath
Raj Chatterjee, Dept. 21]

**DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF
BENJAMIN GONZALEZ IN SUPPORT
OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR FINAL
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND
PAGA SETTLEMENT**

I, Benjamin Gonzalez, declare as follows:

1. I am an adult resident of the State of California, and, if called as a witness in this action, I would testify truthfully to the matters described in this declaration. All of the matters described in this declaration are within my personal knowledge, except those matters that are stated to be upon information and belief. As to such matters, I believe them to be true.

2. I make this declaration entirely of my own free will and choice. I have not been promised any benefit for doing so, and I have not been pressured into giving this declaration. Before signing this declaration, I was given the opportunity to review it, make changes, and verify the accuracy of its contents.

3. I am a former employee of Defendant Edges Electrical Group LLC (“Defendant”). I worked for Defendant from approximately November 2022 to January 2024 as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee. During my employment, I experienced many of the same policies and practices challenged in this case and was able to provide information to my attorneys regarding the wage-and-hour issues alleged in the Class Action Complaint and the Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”) Notice sent to Defendant and the Labor & Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”). Based on my experiences and discussions with my attorneys, I agreed to serve as a class representative to help address these issues on behalf of other employees.

4. After learning more about the case and discussing my experiences with counsel, I agreed to serve as a class representative because I believed the lawsuit could help address issues affecting many employees. I pursued this lawsuit because I discovered that I was not being correctly compensated for all of the time that I worked, and I was not given the opportunity to take all of my meal and rest breaks.

5. By originating this lawsuit as one of the named class representatives, I wanted to see a future where Defendant’s policies better protected the working conditions of my co-workers.

6. I understood that it was my duty as a class representative to represent the best interest of the class, understand the claims in the lawsuit, aid my attorneys in their understanding of the facts, and stay up to date on the progress of the case.

7. I have dedicated a significant amount of my personal time and energy to this lawsuit as a class representative. As detailed more fully below, I have spent approximately 20 hours assisting with this case. I communicated with my attorneys about my experiences working for Defendant, answered their questions regarding the policies and practices at issue, and helped provide information relevant to the claims being pursued on behalf of the class.

8. From the initiation of this lawsuit until now, I have spent a lot of time on the phone with my attorneys to get updates about the case and provide them with information.

9. When I would speak with my attorneys, my attorneys and I would discuss my experience as an hourly-paid employee working for Defendant and we were able to identify various instances where I was not paid correctly.

10. Throughout the case, I spent many hours looking for documents in my possession that were related to my employment to send over to my attorneys, including when I first contacted my attorneys before the mediation took place. Additionally, I spent time reviewing various legal documents for my case, including the retainer and settlement agreement and discussed certain terms with my attorneys.

11. Further, I made sure to keep my schedule free on the day that mediation took place so that my attorneys could direct any question or issues towards me.

12. I believe the settlement that was reached is one that is fair and reasonable, and I would recommend that the Court approve it. I am happy that I was able to recover some money through this settlement for myself and all the class members.

13. Making the decision to join this lawsuit was a difficult one; I was concerned by the potential negative attention that I would cause for myself as a result of this public lawsuit. I was afraid that my name would be attached to a public record reflecting that I filed a lawsuit against my former employer. Ultimately, I felt that something needed to be done to recover for some of the losses that me and other class members experienced.

14. I also understand that there was financial risk in bringing this lawsuit. For example, I knew that if I was not successful in this lawsuit that I could potentially be responsible for Defendant's attorneys' fees and costs.

15. I understand that the settlement agreement provides a service payment to me of up to \$7,500.00. I believe this amount is fair compensation for my time and effort on this case, for helping to prosecute this case, and the risks with respect to my future employment. In addition, the settlement requires that I enter into a general release, which I understand is broader than the release that will bind other class members. I am receiving no compensation additional to that provided for in the settlement.

16. Based on my involvement in this case and the benefits that will be provided to other employees, I believe participating in this lawsuit was the right decision. I wanted to help address the issues that affected me and other employees and ensure that workers are treated fairly. I am pleased that this settlement provides compensation to employees and resolves the claims in this case.

17. I reviewed and signed the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Class Notice in fully and my attorneys answered all the questions I had. I believe the settlement terms and allocations are fair, adequate, and reasonable given the strength of the class claims and Defendant's defenses.

18. I have no conflict of interest with any class member or the Settlement Administrator, Apex Class Action Administration.

19. I am not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the settlement.

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

Executed on 3/17/2026, at Stockton, California.

Signed by:

F43FCF0477AA447...
 Benjamin Gonzalez