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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

JUSTIN BROWN, and SHAYNA AMSTER individually, on a representative basis, and on behalf of all others similarly situated; Plaintiffs, vs. JOSHUA'S PEST CONTROL, a California Limited Partnership; MOXIE PEST CONTROL, L.P., an Entity Unknown; MOXIE ADVISORS, LLC, a Utah Limited Liability Company; WALTON HOLDINGS GP, LLC, a Texas Limited Liability Company; MGFLEMING HOLDINGS, INC., a California Corporation; and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive; Defendants.	Case No.: CVRI2402875 *[Assigned to Hon. Harold Hopp, Dept 1, for all purposes]* **DECLARATION OF BRIAN J. MANKIN, ESQ., IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT** Hearing Date: January 8, 2026 Time: 8:30 a.m. Dept.: 1

I, Brian J. Mankin, state and declare:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice before all of the courts of the State of California. I manage the employment department within my firm where I am also a Partner. I represent Plaintiffs in this action and I am thoroughly familiar with and have personal knowledge of all of the facts set forth herein. I submit this declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for

Preliminary Approval of this Class Action Settlement. If called as a witness, I could and would competently testify thereto.

COUNSEL'S EXPERIENCE

2. I have been a member, in good standing, of the State Bar of California since 2001. I am admitted to practice in the United States District Courts for the Central and Southern District of California and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal and have tried cases in various courts in California.

3. I have handled well over 500 employee vs. employer litigation matters during my 23 years in practice. Over the last 18 years, my practice has almost entirely consisted of representing employees, the majority of which has included class action and representative action wage and hour matters. In total, I have handled well over 300 class action and representative action wage/hour cases, and have been appointed by the court as class counsel and have received final court approval and judgment in close to half of those actions to date, and anticipate receiving final approval in many more of those in the future.

4. As part of these settlements and judgments, I have recovered in excess of $250 million in damages for my clients and the class members (who often work as nurses, ambulance drivers, technicians, warehouse workers, truck drivers, sales, professional occupations and countless other trades). At one point, my team and I held the record for the largest known PAGA-only case in California's history - a $12.5 million-dollar court approved settlement, which followed extensive litigation, summary adjudication and writs to the CA Supreme Court against a Fortune 50 company (*Garcia v. Macy's*, San Bernardino Superior Court).

5. I have tried two class and PAGA cases against Fortune 100 companies. I was lead counsel in a PAGA case that my firm tried to the bench in the Orange County Superior Court and received a $425,000 judgment. I was co-counsel in a class action case against Walmart that was tried to the jury in District Court for the Central District, wherein the jury awarded Plaintiffs over $6 million. Following the successful outcome in trial, both cases were appealed.

6. I was named by the LA Times as one "Southern California Leading Lawyers" in the May 2023 issue of Consumer Attorney's of Southern California (a recognition given to 17 employment/labor law attorneys in 2023). Additionally, over the last 6 consecutive years, I have been selected by my peers as a "Super Lawyer" in Employment Litigation, a distinction that only 5% of lawyers receive.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENT

7. Following mediation and subsequent negotiations, Plaintiffs and Defendants (collectively, the "Parties") eventually entered into a Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Release of Claims resolving the wage and hour claims of the putative class (the "Settlement Agreement" or "S.A."), a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

8. The Settlement Agreement seeks to release and discharge Defendants from the claims brought against it in exchange for Defendants' agreement to pay $500,000 on a non-reversionary, non-claims made basis (each Class Member will receive his/her share of the Net Settlement Amount without having to submit a claim form or take any action, except for those who opt-out).

9. Plaintiffs seek to represent a class of all current and former nonexempt (hourly paid) employees employed by Defendant Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., in California during the Class Period of May 24, 2020, through July 29, 2025.

10. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Defendants will not oppose Plaintiffs' Counsel's application for a reasonable award of attorneys' fees not to exceed one-third of the Settlement Amount, litigation expenses not to exceed $30,000, Settlement Administrator Costs of $10,000, PAGA penalties of $20,000 (with 75% to the LWDA and 25% to the Aggrieved Employees on a pro rata basis), and a Service Payment of $10,000 to each Plaintiff. After subtracting these deductions from the Settlement Amount, approximately $253,333.33 will be available to pay individual settlement amounts to approximately 400 Class Members who do not opt-out of the settlement, as follows:

Settlement Amount	**$ 500,000.00**
Attorneys' Fees (1/3)	$ 166,666.67
Litigation Costs (not to exceed)	$ 30,000.00
Administrator Costs	$ 7,000.00
PAGA Penalties	$ 20,000.00
Class Representative Service Award	$ 10,000.00
Net Settlement Amount	**$ 253,333.33**

11. Assuming 400 total Class Members, the average payment will be approximately $633.33 ($253,333.33 / 400). However, the actual payments will be calculated on a pro-rata basis according to the number of Weeks Worked by each Class Member during the Class Period. And each Class Member will receive the Class Notice, explaining the nature of the case, and the process for participating, objecting and opting-out, and advising of his/her estimated settlement payment and the number of Work Weeks he/she is credited with working during the applicable periods. True and correct copies of the Class Notice, Request for Exclusion Form, Objection Form, and Dispute Form are attached hereto as **Exhibits B, C, D**, **and E** respectively.

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

12. My office has performed considerable work and diligently investigated and prosecuted this case to a successful conclusion. Our work has resulted in the creation of a significant settlement fund for the benefit of the Class. We efficiently communicated and exchanged information informally with Defense counsel which enabled the parties to successfully settle the case. Because of the risks involved in litigating the case and the contested legal and factual issues, my office believes this settlement to be fair, reasonable, and adequate.

13. After being retained by Plaintiff Brown, we submitted a letter to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") for civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA"), and simultaneously sent a letter to Defendants requesting the production of personnel and timekeeping records to further evaluate his wage and hour claims. The LWDA ultimately declined to assert jurisdiction over the PAGA, thereby giving Plaintiff Brown the right to bring PAGA claims. A true and correct copy of Mr. Brown's LWDA Notice Letter is attached hereto as **Exhibit F.**

14. On May 24, 2024, Plaintiff Brown filed this class action, alleging that Defendants violated various sections of the Labor Code. Then, on August 5, 2024, Plaintiff Brown filed a First Amended Complaint alleging putative class and representative PAGA claims.

15. Defendants retained counsel and immediately began to defend the cases. Plaintiff Brown immediately commenced discovery under the Court's CMO by serving discovery and demanding the names and contact information of the putative class members pursuant to a Belaire Notice. Then, after early discussions among counsel, the Parties agreed to attend private mediation in an effort to avoid a contested class certification process. In preparation for mediation, the Parties informally exchanged documents and information that allowed both sides to calculate the potential damages and evaluate potential risk, including policies and procedures pertaining to the claims, statistics relating to the number of current and former employees, number of shifts, workweeks and pay periods worked and other things, and a sampling of payroll and timekeeping records for Class Members. This information enabled both parties to take a deep dive into the claims. Additionally, during this process, Plaintiffs and their counsel analyzed, researched, and investigated the potential issues, including matters related to the calculation of damages, trial, and appellate issues and risks.

16. On November 12, 2024, the Parties attended private mediation with Steve Serratore, but the matter did not settle. Over the course of the next several months, the Parties engaged in ongoing negotiations and analysis, and ultimately reached this Settlement. As part of the Settlement, the Parties agreed to consolidate Plaintiff Amster's action into Plaintiff Brown's action by stipulating to file a consolidated complaint to add Plaintiff Amster as a plaintiff and to add any claims in Plaintiff's Amster's action that were not already included within Plaintiff Brown's action. After the Court granted the Parties' stipulation, Plaintiffs filed the operative second amended complaint on September 12, 2025.

SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMS AND DEFENSES

17. Plaintiffs alleged numerous wage and hour violations on behalf of the Class. However, Defendants vigorously contested and denied each of Plaintiffs' material allegations on the merits and as to the propriety of a class action or PAGA representative action. Still, Plaintiffs

believed there were several strong claims.

18. For instance, Plaintiffs alleged that Defendants paid the Class on an hourly basis plus additional earned compensation but failed to include this compensation in the regular rate calculations, leading to a failure to pay all required overtime, sick pay, and meal premiums. However, Defendants opposed this regular rate claim, arguing that the payments were properly excluded from the regular rate, and therefore these claims would lose on the merits and as to the propriety of class certification.

19. Plaintiffs also alleged that they and the Class Members were often denied compliant meal and rest breaks due to the nature of the work. However, Defendants argued that they provided and made all mandated meal and rest breaks available to the Class, and any employee who did not take a break did so entirely of their own volition. Thus, Defendants argued that these claims were without merit because, for each violation, a fact-finder would have to determine why a break was noncompliant, because if it was by the employee's choice, no liability attaches to Defendants.

20. Finally, Plaintiffs alleged a variety of other claims (all of which Defendants disputed), such as the failure to reimburse business expenses, failure to timely pay wages each period and upon separation of employment and failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements.

21. Despite the disputed nature of the claims, the Parties concluded that further litigation of the Action would be protracted and expensive, and that it is desirable that the Action be fully and finally settled to limit further risk, expense, and protracted litigation.

CMO COMPLIANCE

22. In accordance with CMO ¶ G, this section will specifically identify and address each CMO requirement. This information was compiled with the assistance of Peter Carlson, who was responsible for preparing the pre-mediation data and calculations, and primarily assisted in the preparation of the *Kullar* analysis. As such, the following is based largely on information and belief, as it was largely prepared with Mr. Carlson's assistance (but I reviewed all of the information).

<u>CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(i)</u>

23. Based on information obtained in discovery and through informal discovery before mediation, I estimate that there will be approximately 400 individuals that fall within the Class definition and 250 of those individuals are also PAGA "Aggrieved Employees."

<u>CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(ii), CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(iii), CMO ¶ G(9)(b)</u>

24. The following paragraphs provide the maximum and risk-adjusted value for each claim, and this includes all claims on a class and PAGA basis as required by the CMO.

25. The calculations below are based upon data points obtained through formal and informal discovery, from which Plaintiff's counsel estimated the following through the date of settlement: (1) 350 Class Members, (2) 220 *former* Class Members for purposes of Labor Code § 203, (3) 16,000 workweeks, (4) 72,000 shifts worked, and (4) approximately 3,000 wage statements during the PAGA Period.

Unpaid Wage Claims

26. Plaintiffs' unpaid wage claims were based on the allegation that Defendants paid Plaintiffs and the Class Members on an hourly basis along with nondiscretionary bonuses and other earned compensation. However, Plaintiffs alleged that, on the occasions that a Class Member earned additional compensation and worked overtime during the time period when such compensation was earned, Defendants did not include the compensation in the regular rate (*i.e.*, Defendants only paid overtime at 1.5 times the base rate). Thus, Plaintiffs alleged that this led to a failure to pay all wages owed, including overtime, and sick pay (which is a PAGA-only claim under Labor Code § 246).

27. However, Defendants raised several defenses to this claim, including that these amounts were properly excluded from the regular rate, as they did not qualify as "nondiscretionary" and, thus, did not need to be included within the regular rate and overtime calculations. Additionally, Defendants argued that, even if the claims had merit (which they did not concede), the valuation was small, as only a small percentage of Class Members received additional compensation and overtime in the same workweek.

28. CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(ii): Based on the pre-mediation sampling and an analysis of relevant data, we calculated the maximum potential damages for the unpaid wage claims as $200,000.

29. CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(iii): we calculated the risk-adjusted value of these unpaid wage claims as $108,000. Due to the strength of these claims, and the objective nature of the alleged violations, we only applied a 10% reduction at class certification and a 40% reduction on the merits.

30. CMO ¶ G(9)(b): as for the PAGA penalty claims on these issues, Plaintiffs calculated that these violations occurred in approximately 20% of pay periods, meaning that there were a total of 600 allegedly violative PAGA periods. (3,000 pay periods x 20% violation rate). As such, we estimated the maximum potential PAGA penalty as $60,000. We then applied a merits risk, similar to the above, and further recognized that there were certain factors that reduce the possible value at trial. Specifically, when considering the amount of discretionary reduction to apply against the maximum penalties, we believe the Court would consider that: (a) if this claim succeeded, the Class would already be receiving compensation for the same violations [and would thus apply a smaller penalty because otherwise it is a double penalty], and (b) there were several "good faith" defenses. As a result, we calculated a PAGA risk-adjusted value of $25,000 for these unpaid wage claims.

Meal and Rest Break Claims

31. Plaintiffs also alleged meal and rest break claims against Defendants, and this section provides CMO-compliant information as to the value and basis for such claims.

32. CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(ii): we calculated the maximum potential damages as follows. For the meal period claims, we calculated 32,616 violations (based on 45.3% violation rate) and multiplied that by an average hourly rate of $20.09 (the applicable premium rate under Labor Code § 226.7) to arrive at maximum potential damages of $655,255. For the rest break claims, we calculated 36,000 violations (50% violation rate) and multiplied that by $20.09 to arrive at maximum potential damages of $723,240.

33. CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(iii): we calculated the risk-adjusted value of the meal period claims as $163,813 and for the rest break claim as $180,810. These risk-adjusted figures are based on the numerous defenses and risks attached to such claims. For instance, Defendants raised numerous arguments in response to this claim, including that it maintained fully compliant written policies and specifically authorized the Class Members to take meal and rest breaks, meaning that no one had a reason or cause to miss a break or take a short/late break. Therefore, Defendants asserted that a fact-finder would have to determine for each Class Member whether a break was missed and why, and why a break was noncompliant or nonexistent, because if it was by the employee's choice, no liability attaches to Defendants. These defenses are factored into Plaintiffs' analysis in two ways. First, these issues raise questions regarding whether the meal and rest break claims could be certified, and Plaintiffs placed a 50% risk at the class certification stage for meal periods and a 50% risk for rest breaks. Second, these defenses also go toward the merits given the evidentiary question of proving the number of meal and rest violations. As such, Plaintiffs placed a 50% risk on the merits for meal breaks, and an additional 50% risk on the merits for rest breaks. This returns risk-adjusted values for meal periods of $163,813 [$796,482 x 50% class cert risk x 50% merits risk] and for rest breaks of $180,810 [$723,420 x 50% cert risk x 50% merits risk].

34. CMO ¶ G(9)(b): as for the PAGA penalty claims on these issues, Plaintiffs calculated the maximum potential PAGA penalty at trial as $220,500 for meal periods (73.5% pay period violation rate) and $225,000 for rest breaks (75% pay period violation rate), based on $100 for each violation. But these claims faced the same merits and evidentiary risks discussed above, so we applied a 50% risk on the merits for each claim. Then we also assumed that the Court, when considering what discretionary reduction to apply, would give credit to Defendants' attempt to enact and apply a compliant written meal and rest period policy. And, as a result, we estimated that the Court would apply a discretionary reduction of 80%, leading to risk-adjusted PAGA values of $22,050 for meal periods and $22,500 for rest breaks.

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Business Expense Claims

35. Plaintiffs alleged that they and the Class Members often had to use personal cell phones to perform their work for Defendants, without reimbursement.

36. CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(ii): Plaintiffs valued this claim at an estimated $80,000 (based on this violation occurring in 50% of workweeks and $10 unreimbursed expenses per week).

37. CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(iii): Defendants raised many strong defenses to this claim, primarily focused on the argument that the Class Members were not required to use personal cell phones. Defendants also argued against possible certification of this claim by arguing a lack of manageability since analysis of this claim would require highly individualized testimony from Class Members about whether they had to use personal cell phones and why they did so (because if it was not "required" or "necessary" then it does not lead to liability). Further, even if the claim was certified, Defendants would argue that there was an evidentiary issue in proving the amount of expenses that were not reimbursed. As a result, for this claim, Plaintiffs placed a 40% risk at class certification and another 40% on the merits, leading to a risk-adjusted value of $28,800.

38. CMO ¶ G(9)(b): as for the PAGA penalty claims on these issues, Plaintiffs calculated the maximum potential PAGA penalty at trial as $150,000 based on a 50% violation rate for the 3,000 pay periods multiplied by $100. However, we applied the same 40% merits risk and, even though there is no requirement for "knowing and intentional" under PAGA, we assumed that the Court would apply a discretionary reduction of 90% based on Defendants' likely argument (if liability was found) that they were already liable for damages to the Class for the overarching violations that triggered the violations. Thus, the total risk-adjusted PAGA penalties for these violations are $7,500.

Wage Statement Claims

39. Plaintiffs alleged that Defendants subjected the Class to "derivative" wage statement violations that arise because of the failure to accurately state all wages owed (and other items) because of the unpaid wage and meal/rest violations above.

40. CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(ii): based on the formula under Labor Code § 226(e) ($50 for initial violation and $100 for subsequent violations and a cap of $4,000 per employee), we

calculated the maximum class wage statement penalties as $287,500.

41. CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(iii): we calculated the risk-adjusted value of the class wage statement claims as $86,250. This analysis incorporated Defendants' arguments and defenses from above, and also accounted for the fact that the violations were "derivative" as opposed to "direct" wage statement violations (*i.e.*, because these claims were entirely derivative of the claims above, they only had merit if the claims for unpaid wages or meal/rest breaks were successful). Moreover, Defendants argued that "derivative" violations cannot trigger liability under § 226 and, even if there was a "technical" violation, Plaintiffs would be unable to prove the required "knowing and intentional" and "injury" elements. Based on these facts and defenses, we placed a 40% risk at class certification (in line with the claims on which the derivative wage statement claim was based) and estimated another 50% risk on the merits, leading to a risk-adjusted value for the claims of $86,250 [$1,500,000 x 40% cert risk x 50% merits risk].

42. CMO ¶ G(9)(b): as for the PAGA penalty claims on these issues, Plaintiffs calculated the maximum potential PAGA penalty at trial as $300,000 for wage statement claims based on a 100% violation rate for the 3,000 wage statements issued during the period multiplied by $100. However, like above, the risk-adjusted value must consider the difference between the direct and derivative claims. Thus, we applied the same 50% merits risk and, even though there is no requirement for "knowing and intentional" under PAGA, we assumed that the Court would apply a discretionary reduction of 80% based on Defendants' likely argument (if liability was found) that they were already liable for damages to the Class and for PAGA penalties for the overarching violations that triggered the derivative wage statement violations. Thus, the total risk-adjusted PAGA penalties for wage statement violations are $30,000.

Waiting Time Penalty Claims

43. Plaintiffs' claim for failure to timely pay final wages (and for waiting time penalties under Labor Code § 203) was entirely derivative of the claims above (*e.g.*, because Defendants failed to pay all wages and premiums owed, Defendants did not timely pay all final wages owed because there are still amounts due and payable).

44. CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(ii): we calculated the maximum potential value of this claim as $1,060,752 based on 220 *former* employees who were paid $160.72 per day, based on 8 hours per day at $20.09 per hour. Thus, the waiting time penalties are calculated as (220 employees x $160.72 daily pay x 30-day penalty = $1,060,752).

45. CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(iii): we calculated the risk-adjusted value of the waiting time penalty claim as $568,620. The valuation had to account for the fact that this claim was derivative of the unpaid wage and meal/rest break claims and, if those claims failed at certification or on the merits, there would be no waiting time penalties owed, so the same risks for those claims applied to this claim. Furthermore, even if the unpaid wage and/or meal/rest claims succeeded at certification and on the merits, Plaintiffs would have to prove that the violations (if any existed) were "willful" under the meaning of Labor Code § 203. And, here, Defendants argued there was no "willful" violation since they had compliant written policies and any deviations therefrom were inadvertent and unintentional. Additionally, argued that they had a "good faith" defense that prevents imposition of the waiting time penalties. As a result of this analysis, Plaintiff's counsel applied a 30% risk at class certification and a 40% risk on the merits, setting a risk-adjusted value of $445,515.

46. CMO ¶ G(9)(b): as for the PAGA penalty claims, Plaintiffs calculated the maximum potential PAGA penalty at trial as $15,000 based on 150 violations multiplied by $100. But we had to incorporate the same risks as above (50% on the merits) and also assumed that, given Defendants' good faith attempts at compliance with California law, that the Court would also apply a 50% discretionary reduction in PAGA penalties, setting the risk-adjusted PAGA penalty value at $3,750.

Failure to Timely Pay Wages Each Period

47. This claim is pursued on a PAGA basis (the remedy for a violation is enforceable either through PAGA or the Labor Commissioner); thus, the analysis here focuses on PAGA.

48. CMO ¶ G(9)(b): Plaintiffs calculated the maximum potential PAGA penalty at trial as $225,000 for Labor Code § 204 claims based on a 75% violation rate for the 3,000 wage statements issued during the period multiplied by $100. This claim is based on the allegation that

Defendants did not pay all wages and wage premiums (for meal/rest violations) timely each period, which violated Labor Code § 204. However, because these claims were entirely derivative of the claims above, they only had merit if the claims for unpaid wages or meal/rest breaks were successful. And, as such, we had applied a 40% risk on the merits to align with the merits risk of the claims above. Additionally, we assumed that the Court would apply a discretionary reduction of 90% based on Defendants' likely argument (if liability was found) that PAGA penalties for § 204 violations should be greatly reduced because these are "derivative" and were already liable for damages to the Class and for PAGA penalties for the overarching violations. Thus, the risk-adjusted PAGA penalties under § 204 are $13,500.

Collective Maximum and Risk-Adjusted Class Damages/Penalties and PAGA Penalties

CMO ¶¶ G(3)(a)(ii)(C), CMO G(3)(a)(iii)(C), and CMO ¶ G(9)(b)(iii and iv)

49. The table below provides the total sums (for all claims) of the maximum and risk-adjusted class damages and penalties and the total maximum and risk-adjusted PAGA penalties.

Claim	***Class Values***		***PAGA Values***	
	Maximum	Risk-Adjusted	Maximum	Risk-Adjusted
Unpaid Wages	$200,000	$108,000	$60,000	$25,000
Meal Periods	$655,255	$163,813	$220,500	$22,050
Rest Breaks	$723,240	$180,810	$225,000	$22,500
Business Expenses	$80,000	$28,800	$150,000	$7,500
Wage Statement	$287,500	$86,250	$300,000	$30,000
Waiting Time Penalties	$1,060,752	$445,515	$15,000	$3,750
Labor Code § 204	n/a	n/a	$225,000	$13,500
Totals	**$3,006,747**	**$1,013,188**	**$1,195,500**	**$124,300**

CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(iv)

50. Based on an assumed Net Settlement Amount of $253,333.33, and an estimated 400 Class Members, the average payment will be $633.33. However, the actual amounts payable to the Class will be based on a guaranteed minimum payment plus an allocation based on each individual's weeks worked compared to the total Class weeks worked. While we cannot generate an exact "range of recoveries" right now since the Class Data will not be provided to

the Settlement Administrator until after Preliminary Approval, I can provide reasonable estimates of the high and low payments as follows.

51. Based on our analysis, we estimate that there 400 Class Members participating in the Settlement, who will reach receive a share of the settlement based on weeks worked. Based on an estimate 17,500 workweeks during this period, we can assume an average per-workweek value of $14.47 ($253,333.33 / 17,500). Thus, on the low end, a Class Member that worked only 2 weeks during the Class Period will receive $28.94 ($14.47 x 2). And, at the high end, a Class Member that worked for the entire Class Period (270 calendar weeks) will receive an estimated high payment of $.,906.90 ($14.47 x 270).

52. Given that these are only preliminary estimates, the Settlement Administrator will fill in the average, high, and low payments in the Class Notice (if necessary) after Preliminary Approval and after calculating those figures from the Class Data.

<u>CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(v)</u>

53. From the data and analysis conducted prior to mediation, derived through both formal and informal discovery, I estimate the following recoveries by the Aggrieved Employees. First, given that we estimate 250 Aggrieved Employees, those individuals will receive an estimated average share of $20 ($5,000 / 250). Then, based on an estimated 3,000 Pay Periods during the PAGA Period, we estimate the value of each PAGA Workweek as $1.67 ($5,000 / 20,000; if an Aggrieved Employee worked only 2 weeks in the PAGA Period, the low payment would be $3.33 and, if an Aggrieved Employee worked the maximum biweekly periods during the PAGA Period (57), then the maximum PAGA payment will be $95.

<u>CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(vi)</u>

54. My office conducted substantial informal discovery to investigate the size of the class and strength of the claims. Specifically, in preparation for mediation, we demanded and received informal discovery, including documents and information that allowed us calculate the potential damages and evaluate potential risk, including policies and procedures pertaining to the claims, statistics relating to the number of current and former employees, number of shifts, pay periods worked and other things, and a sampling of payroll and time records for Class Members.

CMO ¶ G(3)(a)(vii)

55. I am not aware of any other class, representative, or collective action in this or any other court that asserts claims similar to those asserted in this action or behalf of a class or group of individuals, some or all of whom would also be members of this Class. I have also made reasonable inquiry of other members of my firm and my co-counsel's firm and none of the other attorneys are aware of any such similar actions.

CMO ¶ G(3)(c)(i)

56. The Court, at CMO ¶ G(C)(i), states that it "believes that redistribution of the value of uncashed settlement check(s) to those class members who have cashed their checks will better serve the public interest and the interest of the class than distribution in the manner otherwise prescribed by [CCP § 384(b)]" (*i.e.*, payments to a *cy pres*).

57. Here, the Parties are not sending the value of uncashed checks to a *cy pres*. Instead, any uncashed checks will be sent to the California State Controller in the name of the Class Member (or Aggrieved Employee). Thus, those funds are – and always will be – paid to and available for collection by the Class Member (or Aggrieved Employee) at any point in the future. This does not fall under the umbrella of CCP § 384(b), as that section only relates to payment of residue to "nonprofit organizations or foundations to support projects that will benefit the class or similarly situated persons, or that promote the law consistent with the objectives and purposes of the underlying cause of action, to child advocacy programs, or to nonprofit organizations providing civil legal services to the indigent."

58. I do not believe there is a need for the Parties to "explain[] the factual basis for the disagreement" with the Court's proposed method of redistributing funds, because the Court's proposal is, by its plain language, only applicable in lieu of a *cy pres* (not where the uncashed funds are still paid to the Class Member, essentially held in trust by the State Controller).

59. However, in an abundance of caution and to prevent a delay, I want to explain why we do not want to redistribute uncashed checks to class members that did cash checks.

60. First, the process to carry out the Court's proposed redistribution is not as simple as it sounds. Under the CMO's proposed method, after 180 days have passed, the uncashed

funds would be redistributed to Class Members that cashed their checks. That step, on a standalone basis, is not concerning. However, that is nowhere near the end of the process. Indeed, after the second checks are issued, there will be another batch of checks that go uncashed, as there always are in these class actions. What, then, happens to the funds from the uncashed second checks? Are those amounts redistributed again? And to whom? Should the third round of checks only go to those who cashed the first and second checks? Regardless of the answer to these questions, the problem will continue because some of the third checks will likely go uncashed as well, meaning that this process can repeat over and over – each time with a 180-day check cashing period.

61. Second, the Court's proposal to redistribute uncashed checks to class members is also problematic because it will greatly increase the cost of settlement administration. After all, the administrator will have to keep banking and taxing accounts open for a much longer period, possibly for multiple years, and will have to issue multiple tax forms with each new payment. But how much extra will the Administrator charge to be exact? And how many additional checks will be mailed a second and third time? How will this be priced? And once the court has approved a specific amount of money for the Settlement Administrator, who will pay for the increased costs, and who will be responsible for ensuring that the increased costs are fair, reasonable and adequate - because after all, this entire process is occurring after the Court has entered judgment.

<u>CMO ¶ G(3)(d)</u>

62. In accordance with CMO ¶ G(3)(d), we requested bids from four different settlement administrators, which resulted in the following bids: CPT Group ($12,000), Xpand ($10,000), Phoenix ($10,000) and ILYM ($10,850). Phoenix Settlement Administrators was the lowest bid, so the Parties agreed to retain Phoenix Settlement Administrators based on its all-in (fixed) fee to administer the settlement for $10,000. The concurrently filed Declaration of Michael Moore of Phoenix Settlement Administrators covers the other information required in CMO ¶ G(3)(d)(ii).

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<u>CMO ¶ G(9)(b)</u>

63. The paragraphs above provide the information requested in CMO ¶ G(9)(b)(i-iv); this section addresses the remaining requests under CMO ¶ G(9)(b)(v-viii).

64. <u>CMO ¶ G(9)(b)(v)</u>: I'd first like to point out that a finding of "knowing and intentional" is not necessary under claims for PAGA penalties; that is a required element of wage statement violations (on a class, not PAGA, basis) under Labor Code § 226(e). However, with that said, we believe there is an argument that Defendants' unpaid wage claims would not be found "knowing and intentional" (for purposes of Labor Code § 203, for instance). Additionally, we believed that Defendant had a good argument that the derivative wage statement violations were not "knowing and intentional."

65. <u>CMO ¶ G(9)(b)(vi)</u>: If this action proceeded to trial, Defendants would have argued for a discretionary reduction in PAGA penalties because the assessment of significant PAGA penalties would be "unjust, arbitrary and oppressive, or confiscatory" in light of "the facts and circumstances of [this] case." *See* Labor Code § 2699(h). Defendants' reliance on several Labor Code exemptions presents a "mistake of law" fact pattern, and similar cases have applied large reductions in PAGA penalties in such situations. *See, e.g.*, *Cotter v. Lyft, Inc*. (N.D. Cal. 2016) 193 F.Supp.3d 1030, 1037 (97.5% reduction in PAGA penalties "appropriate" based on the "unjust, arbitrary and oppressive, or confiscatory" factors because (i) the employer did not "deliberately evad[e] a clear obligation to provide legally required pay and benefits to employees," (ii) the employer did not "negligently fail to learn about its obligations under the wage and hour laws," and (iii) the employer's obligations were "genuinely unclear" because "there is no straight answer to the question").

66. <u>CMO ¶ G(9)(b)(vii)</u>: The parties only reached settlement and the agreed-upon PAGA penalties after extensive informal discovery and arms-length negotiation between the parties and through an experienced mediator. Notably, Defendants raised many defenses which, if accepted by the Court, could result in a significant reduction of penalties, or the elimination of penalties altogether through dispositive motions. As such, an assessment of penalties greater than those agreed-upon would be unjust at this stage because this settlement reflects an informed,

fundamentally fair, and reasonable settlement of the PAGA claims herein based on the unique facts, defenses, and risks in this case.

67. CMO ¶ G(9)(b)(viii): the sections above show that the amount of the agreed-upon penalties is fair.

THE SETTLEMENT IS FAIR, JUST, AND REASONABLE

68. The settlement was the product of extensive arm's length negotiations, facilitated by an experienced mediator and then continuing with ongoing negotiations for many months after mediation. Though cordial and professional, the settlement negotiations were adversarial and non-collusive in nature. The settlement reached is the product of substantial effort by the parties and their counsel. Although we believed that there was a possibility of certifying the claims, we recognized the potential risk, expense, and complexity posed by litigation, such as unfavorable decisions on class certification, summary judgment, at trial and/or on the damages awarded, and/or on an appeal that can take several more years to litigate.

69. The settlement will result in a fair payment to each class member based on the number of weeks worked. Plaintiffs, my firm and my co-counsel have diligently investigated the claims and defenses on behalf of the Class Members and worked to achieve a resolution of the claims to maximize the recovery by avoiding further expenditure of attorneys' fees and costs. After evaluating the significant risks attendant with further litigation described above and weighing them against the benefits of a known compromise and settlement as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, settlement on the terms agreed to is believed to be in the best interest of Plaintiffs and the Class, and is a fair and reasonable resolution of the claims alleged.

70. My firm and my co-counsel brought to bear a great deal of experience in negotiating the settlement of this case. We engaged in the necessary discovery and investigation, making it possible to exercise informed judgment throughout the settlement process, including significant document review (*e.g.*, documents pertaining to Defendants' policies and procedures, personnel documents, among others), and conducted an extensive analysis of the detailed class-wide data provided by Defendants.

71. Based on my experience in other cases, including wage and hour matters, I believe I am qualified to evaluate the class claims and viability of defenses in this class action. In this case, the recovery for each class member is reasonable, fair, and adequate, and this settlement is in the best interests of the class. The settlement provides each class member with compensation for the alleged violations when viewed in relation to the costs and risks inherent in obtaining class certification and proceeding to trial.

72. My firm, as well as defense counsel, fully endorse the terms and conditions of the settlement as set forth in the abovementioned Settlement Agreement.

73. Of course, the settlement amount represents a compromise figure, taking into account the various risks surrounding class certification and the merits of Defendants' asserted defense. Nevertheless, the settlement provides for fair and adequate payments to the class members, with no reversion to Defendants.

PLAINTIFFS' REQUESTED ENHANCEMENT PAYMENT

74. Plaintiffs seek an enhancement payment of $10,000 each for their service to the Class. Plaintiffs came forward and brought this case in an effort to effectuate a policy and practice change that benefitted all other Class Members (and to recover unpaid wages and other damages). They ultimately succeeded despite significant risk.

75. Plaintiff Brown provided invaluable assistance to my office and the Class in this case, including providing factual background; reviewing the litigation documents; providing information and documents about Defendants' policies and practices; participating in phone calls to discuss litigation and settlement strategy; making herself available throughout the litigation to assist with analyzing the claims and defenses; helping Class Counsel prepare for the mediation; making herself available for a full-day mediation, and reviewing the settlement documents. Plaintiff agreed to participate in this case with no guarantee of personal benefit.

76. The Class Representatives also assumed significant risk in bringing this litigation—namely, had they lost, they would have been ordered to pay Defendants' costs. And, as part of the negotiations, Plaintiffs put the interests of the class ahead of his interests and agreed to a general release as part of the settlement (whereas the Class will only release the

claims alleged).

ADEQUACY OF COUNSEL AND THE PROVISIONAL REASONABLENESS OF THE REQUESTED FEES AND COSTS

77. As set forth above, I have handled over 300 class and representative actions, have been appointed as class counsel and have successfully resolved over half of those cases, and many others remain pending and will successfully resolve in the future.

78. When this case was taken on a contingency fee basis, with my firm agreeing to assume responsibility for all litigation costs, the ultimate result was far from certain. In the course of this litigation, my firm paid all costs including filing fees, court costs, research fees, and mediation costs. There was never a guarantee that we would recoup those expenditures.

79. It is my experience that attorney fee awards of one-third of a common fund settlement is the standard in California. In this case, my firm agreed to seek one-third of the Settlement Amount for attorneys' fees. Defendants do not oppose this fee request. The fee is further warranted because it is within the range of reasonableness typically awarded in class actions. The litigation costs are reasonably capped at $30,000 and will be based on the actual amount of costs incurred at the time of final approval.

SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR

80. The Parties request that the Court appoint Phoenix Settlement Administrators as the Settlement Administrator. In accordance with CMO ¶ G(3)(d), we requested bids from four different settlement administrators, which resulted in the following bids: CPT Group ($12,000), Xpand ($10,000), Phoenix ($10,000) and ILYM ($10,850). Based on its low bid, the Parties agreed to retain Phoenix Settlement Administrators based on its all-in (fixed) fee to administer the settlement for $10,000. The concurrently filed Declaration of Michael Moore of Phoenix Settlement Administrators covers the other information required in CMO ¶ G(3)(d)(ii).

SUBMISSION TO THE LWDA

81. Plaintiffs have concurrently submitted the settlement and all moving papers to the LWDA in accordance with Labor Code § 2699(l)(2). The proof of submission is attached hereto as **Exhibit G.**

EXHIBITS AND CONCLUSION

82. A true and correct copy of the Settlement Agreement is attached as **Exhibit A**,

83. The proposed Class Notice is attached as **Exhibit B**.

84. The proposed Request for Exclusion Form is attached as **Exhibit C**.

85. The proposed Objection Form is attached as **Exhibit D**.

86. The proposed Dispute Form is attached as **Exhibit E.**

87. A true and correct copy of the notice letter we submitted on behalf of Plaintiff Brown to the LWDA is attached as **Exhibit F**.

88. The LWDA's confirmation of receipt of this Motion and Declarations is attached hereto as **Exhibit G.**

89. Counsel has carefully reviewed both the terms and the terminology of the order and the accompanying forms (notice, objection form and exclusion form) to confirm that the various documents are internally consistent, consistent with each other, and consistent with the settlement agreement.

90. For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the Court grant preliminary approval of the settlement as being fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the class, as well as preliminarily approve the requested attorneys' fees, costs, and enhancement payment to the Class Representatives.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on December 15, 2025, at Riverside, California.

By: ______________________
Brian J. Mankin, Esq.

EXHIBIT “A”

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

JUSTIN BROWN, and SHAYNA AMSTER individually, on a representative basis, and on behalf of all others similarly situated; Plaintiffs, vs. JOSHUA'S PEST CONTROL, a California Limited Partnership; MOXIE PEST CONTROL, L.P., an Entity Unknown; MOXIE ADVISORS, LLC, a Utah Limited Liability Company; WALTON HOLDINGS GP, LLC, a Texas Limited Liability Company; MGFLEMING HOLDINGS, INC., a California Corporation; and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive; Defendants.	Case No.: CVRI2402875 *[Assigned to Hon. Harold Hopp, Dept 1, for all purposes]* **CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS**

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs, on a representative basis and on behalf of all others similarly situated

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Release of Claims is entered into by and between Plaintiffs Justin Brown and Shayna Amster ("Plaintiffs"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, and on behalf of the State of California, and Defendants Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., Moxie Pest Control, L.P., Moxie Advisors, LLC, Walton Holdings GP, LLC, and MGFleming Holdings, Inc. ("Defendants"), and is approved by their respective counsel of record, subject to the terms and conditions hereof and the Court's approval.

A. Definitions

1. "Action" or "Lawsuit" means and refers to the case entitled *Brown and Amster v. Joshua's Pest Control, et al.*. Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. CVRI2402875.

2. "Aggrieved Employee(s)" means all current and former nonexempt (hourly paid) employees employed by Defendant Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., in California during the PAGA Period.

3. "Agreement" or "Settlement Agreement" or "Settlement" shall mean this Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Release of Claims.

4. "Class" is defined all current and former nonexempt (hourly paid) employees employed by Defendant Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., in California during the Class Period.

5. "Class Member(s)" refers to individual members of the Class.

6. "Class Counsel" refers to Brian Mankin and Peter Carlson of Lauby, Mankin & Lauby LLP and Douglas Han, Shunt Tatavos-Gharajeh, and Lily Short of Justice Law Corporation.

7. "Class Data" means a complete list that Defendants will diligently and in good faith compile from their records and provide to the Settlement Administrator on one spreadsheet which shall include, for each Class Member: (a) individual's full name; (b) last known address; (c) Social Security Number; and (d) total Weeks Worked during the Class Period and total pay periods worked during the PAGA Period. Defendants and Defendants' counsel shall not bear any responsibility for errors or omissions in the calculation of or distribution of the settlement payments or development of the list of recipients of settlement payments.

/ / /

8. “Class Period” is deemed to be any time during the period of May 24, 2020, through July 29, 2025.

9. “Class Representatives” or “Plaintiffs” means and refers to Plaintiffs Justin Brown and Shayna Amster.

10. “Complaint” refers to the operative second amended complaint, which pleads class action and PAGA representative claims.

11. “Court” (or “Judge”) means the California Superior Court, County of Riverside.

12. “Defendants” means and refers to Defendants Joshua’s Pest Control, L.P., Moxie Pest Control, L.P., Moxie Advisors, LLC, Walton Holdings GP, LLC, and MGFleming Holdings, Inc.

13. “Defendants’ Counsel” or “Defense Counsel” means and refers to Call & Jensen.

14. “Effective Date” means the latest of the following dates: (a) if no Class Member timely and properly intervenes, or files a motion to vacate the judgment approving the Settlement Agreement under Code of Civil Procedure section 663, then the date the Court enters an order granting Final Approval; (b) if a Class Member intervenes, or files a motion to vacate the judgment approving the Settlement Agreement, then sixty-one (61) calendar days following the date the Court enters an order granting Final Approval, assuming no appeal is filed; or (c) if a Class Member timely and properly intervenes or files a motion to vacate the Judgment under Code of Civil Procedure section 663 or initiates another collateral attack, and if a timely appeal is filed, then the date of final resolution of that appeal or other collateral attack (including any requests for rehearing and/or petitions for *certiorari*), resulting in final judicial approval of the Settlement. It is the Parties’ intent that the Settlement shall not become effective until the judgment approving this Settlement has become completely final, and there is no timely recourse by an appellant or intervenor who seeks to contest the Settlement.

15. “Escalator Clause:” Defendants estimate that there are approximately three hundred fifty (350) Class Members, who collectively worked a total of approximately 17,500 Workweeks during the Class Period. If the total count of Workweeks (as contained in the Class Data) exceeds 19,250 (10% more than Defendants’ estimate), then, at Defendants’ election,

Defendants can either: (a) increase the Settlement Amount by $28.57 for each additional Workweek above 19,250; or (b) end the Class Period on the date the number of Workweeks reaches 19,250, as long as the end date does not occur prior to November 12, 2024. Defendants shall file a declaration in support of the Motion for Preliminary Approval attesting to the number of Workweeks in the Class Period and the end date of the Class Period.

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

17. "Individual Class Payment" refers to each Participating Class Member's share of the Net Settlement Amount, as further discussed in Paragraph 50(c) below.

18. "Individual PAGA Payment" refers to each Aggrieved Employee's share of the PAGA Penalties, as further discussed in Paragraph 50(h) below.

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

20. "Notice" means the notice of proposed class settlement that will be sent to the Class Members, and which will advise each Class Member of the settlement and his or her estimated Individual Class Payment and Individual PAGA Payment, total number of Workweeks during the Class Period and total number of pay periods during the PAGA Period, and will further advise of the setting of a Final Approval Hearing.

21. "Notice Packet" means the Notice, Request for Exclusion Form, Objection Form, and Dispute Form to be sent to all Class Members in English (a Spanish translation is not necessary because all Class Members are able to read and communicate in English).

22. "Objecting Class Member" means a Class Member, other than Plaintiffs, who submits a valid and timely objection to the terms of this Agreement, pursuant to Paragraph 69(c).

23. "PAGA Penalties" means the amount that the Parties have agreed to pay to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") in connection with the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (Lab. Code section 2698, *et seq.*, "PAGA"), as well as the Individual PAGA Payment allocated to each Aggrieved Employee.

24. "PAGA Period" is deemed to be any time during the period of May 24, 2023, through July 29, 2025.

25. "Participating Class Member" means any and all Class Members who are deemed to participate and receive an Individual Class Payment and do not opt-out by submitting timely valid Requests for Exclusion.

26. "Parties" or "Settling Parties" mean Plaintiffs and Defendants, collectively.

27. "Preliminary Approval Date" means the date the Court approves the Settlement Agreement and enters the Preliminary Approval Order.

28. "Preliminary Approval Order" means the judicial Order to be entered by the Court, upon the application or motion of the Plaintiffs, preliminarily approving this Settlement and providing for the issuance of the Notice Packet to the Class, an opportunity to opt out of the Settlement, an opportunity to submit timely objections to the Settlement, and setting a final approval hearing on the fairness of the terms of Settlement, including approval of attorneys' fees and costs. Provided that the motion is consistent with the terms herein, Defendants will not object to Plaintiffs' motion for preliminary approval but will be provided with an opportunity to review and comment upon the motion before it is filed.

29. "QSF" means the Qualified Settlement Fund set up by the Settlement Administrator for the benefit of the Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees, and from which the settlement payments shall be made.

30. "Released Class Claims" or "Class Claims" by the Participating Class Members upon Final Approval of the Settlement will include all claims stated in the Complaint, or that reasonably could have been alleged based upon the facts stated in the Complaint including claims arising out the following alleged violations: (a) failure to pay minimum wages, (b) failure to pay overtime wages, (c) failure to provide meal periods, (d) failure to provide rest breaks, (e) failure to reimburse business expenses, (f) failure to timely pay final wages, (g) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, and (h) unfair and unlawful competition, as well as claims for restitution and other equitable relief, liquidated damages, or penalties and any other benefit, wages, penalties, or other amounts claimed on account of the allegations or the primary rights

asserted in the Complaint. The time period governing the Released Class Claims shall be the Class Period. The Released Class Claims expressly excludes all claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, claims while classified as exempt, and claims outside of the Class Period.

31. "Released PAGA Claims" means all PAGA claims alleged in the Complaint, or that reasonably could have been based on the facts stated in the Complaint and in the relevant LWDA notice letters including all PAGA claims seeking civil penalties premised upon: (a) failure to pay minimum wages, (b) failure to pay overtime wages, (c) failure to provide meal periods, (d) failure to provide rest breaks, (e) failure to reimburse business expenses, (f) failure to pay vested vacation, (g) failure to timely pay wages each period, (h) failure to timely pay wages upon separation of employment, (i) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, and (j) all other claims for civil penalties recoverable under PAGA based on the facts or claims alleged in the LWDA notice letters and Complaint. The time period governing the Released PAGA Claims shall be any time during the PAGA Period. The Released PAGA Claims shall bind only Plaintiffs and State of California.

(a) Under PAGA, "an 'aggrieved employee' may bring a civil action personally and on behalf of other current or former employees to recover civil penalties for Labor Code violations." (*Arias v. Superior Court* (2009) 46 Cal.4th 969, 980.) A plaintiff suing under PAGA, "does so as the proxy or agent of the state's labor law enforcement agencies," and, as such, "represents the same legal right and interest as state labor law enforcement agencies … ." (*Id.* at p. 986.) Of any civil penalties recovered, seventy-five percent (75%) goes to the LWDA, and the remaining twenty-five percent (25%) is allocated to the aggrieved employees. (*Id.* at pp. 980- 981.)

(b) A judgment in a PAGA action "binds not only that [plaintiff] employee but also the state labor law enforcement agencies." (*Arias v. Superior Court*, *supra*, 46 Cal.4th at p. 986.) Furthermore, "[b]ecause an aggrieved employee's action under [PAGA] functions as a substitute for an action brought by the

> government itself, a judgment in that action binds all those, including nonparty aggrieved employees, who would be bound by a judgment in an action brought by the government." (*Arias v. Superior Court*, *supra*, 46 Cal.4th at p. 986.) "Accordingly, with respect to the recovery of civil penalties, nonparty employees as well as the government are bound by the judgment in an action brought under [PAGA] … ." (*Ibid*.)

32. "Released Parties" means Defendants, together with their respective former and present officers, directors, employees, and agents.

33. "Release" shall mean the release and discharge of the Released Class Claims by Plaintiffs and all Participating Class Members and their assignees.

34. "Response Deadline" is 45 calendar days from the date the Notice is mailed to the Class Members.

35. "Request for Exclusion" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Paragraph 69(a).

36. "Settlement Amount" is Five Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($500,000), subject to the Escalator Clause and exclusive of Defendants' obligation to fund its share of payroll taxes, as further discussed in Paragraph 50(a) below.

37. "Service Payments" or "Service Awards" means the amount approved by the Court to be paid to Class Representatives Brown and Amster in addition to their Individual Class Payments as Participating Class Members and Individual PAGA Payments as Aggrieved Employees.

38. "Settlement Administrator" means and refers to Phoenix Settlement Administrators, the third-party class action settlement administrator agreed to by the Parties, that will provide the Notice Packet to the Class Members and distribute the settlement amounts as described in this Agreement.

39. "Settlement Administration Costs" means the costs payable from the Settlement Amount to the Settlement Administrator for administering this Settlement, including, but not limited to, printing, translating, distributing, and tracking documents for this Settlement, tax reporting, and deposit of the employee and employer share of payroll taxes, unclaimed property

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 and shall not exceed the amount approved by the Court, regardless of any additional costs that the Settlement Administrator may request or feel is necessary to administer the Settlement.

40. "Workweeks" or "Weeks Worked" in the context of a Class Member means any and all work weeks during the Class Period during which the Class Member worked at least one (1) day for Defendant Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., in California. Workweeks during which a Class Member was employed but did not record any hours can be excluded from this calculation.

B. <u>General Terms</u>

41. On May 24, 2024, Plaintiff Brown filed the instant class action, alleging that Defendants violated various sections of the Labor Code. On the same day, Plaintiff Brown gave written notice by online filing to the LWDA and by certified mail to Defendants of the specific provisions of the Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations. Then, on about August 5, 2024, Plaintiff Brown filed a First Amended Complaint adding causes of action under PAGA.

42. On May 6, 2024, Plaintiff Amster gave written notice by online filing to the LWDA and by certified mail to Defendants of the specific provisions of the Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations. On July 17, 2024, Plaintiff Amster filed a separate class action against Defendant Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., in San Diego County Superior Court, entitled *Amster v. Joshua's Pest Control*, Case No. 24CU001671C, which generally alleged the same wage-and-hour violations as Plaintiff Brown's action.

43. On November 12, 2024, the Parties in Plaintiff Brown's action attended mediation with Steve Serratore, Esq., but no settlement was reached. Counsel for Plaintiffs in the *Brown* and *Amster* actions then entered into a Joint Prosecution Agreement to work together as co-counsel in the two actions. The Parties then resumed negotiations, facilitated by the mediator, and ultimately reached the Settlement detailed herein. As part of the Settlement, the Parties agreed to

consolidate Plaintiff Amster's action and claims into Plaintiff Brown's action by filing a second amended complaint to add Shayna Amster as a plaintiff. After the Court approved the Parties' stipulation in this regard, Plaintiffs filed the operative second amended complaint on September 12, 2025. Shayna Amster will file her request for dismissal, without prejudice, of her separate lawsuit in San Diego County Superior Court after Court grants final approval.

44. Defendants deny Plaintiffs' claims and allegations and contend that the Action is not suitable for class certification.

45. The Class Representatives believe they can proceed with the representative and class claims, that the Action is meritorious, and that class certification is appropriate.

46. The Parties have conducted a thorough investigation into the facts of the Action. This includes an extensive exchange of informal discovery, including a sampling of payroll and timekeeping records for Class Members. 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 Class. Class Counsel has diligently pursued an investigation of the Class Members' claims against Defendants. Based on the foregoing data and on their own independent investigation and evaluation, Class Counsel is of the opinion that the settlement with Defendants for the consideration and on the terms set forth in this Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interest of the Class Members in light of all known facts and circumstances, including the risk of significant delay and uncertainty associated with litigation, various defenses asserted by Defendants, and numerous potential appellate issues.

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

48. <u>Stipulation for Class Certification</u>. For settlement purposes only, Defendants will stipulate that the Class Members described herein who do not Request Exclusion from the Class may be conditionally certified as a Class. This stipulation to certification is in no way an admission that class action certification is proper and shall not be admissible in this Action except

for the sole purposes of enforcing this Agreement. Should, for whatever reason, the Court fail to issue Final Approval, the Parties' stipulation to class certification as part of the Settlement shall become null and void ab initio and shall have no bearing on and shall not be admissible in this Action in connection with, the issue of whether certification would be appropriate in a non-settlement context. Defendants expressly reserve their rights and declare that they would continue to oppose class certification and the substantive merits of the case should the Court fail to issue Final Approval. Plaintiffs expressly reserve their rights and declare that they will continue to pursue class certification and a trial should the Court fail to issue Final Approval.

49. The Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by this Settlement.

C. <u>Terms of Settlement</u>

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

(a) <u>Settlement Amount</u>: The Parties agree to settle this Action for the Settlement Amount, which is the maximum amount that will be paid by Defendants unless the Escalator Clause is triggered and except for the employer's share of payroll taxes that will be paid by Defendants in addition to the Settlement Amount. The Settlement Amount includes payments to the Participating Class Members, PAGA Penalties (to the Aggrieved Employees and LWDA), Attorneys' Fees and Costs Award, Service Payments to the Class Representatives, and Settlement Administration Costs. Defendants shall separately pay the employer's share of payroll tax obligations, which shall be reported through the Settlement Administrator.

(b) <u>Net Settlement Amount</u>: The "Net Settlement Amount" is defined as the Settlement Amount, less the Attorneys' Fees and Costs Award, Service Payments to the Class Representatives as awarded by the Court, Settlement Administration Costs, and PAGA Penalties (to the Aggrieved Employees and LWDA). If the Court reduces the Attorneys' Fees and Costs Award, Service Awards, or Settlement Administrator Costs, or either increases or decreases the amount allocated to the PAGA Penalties, the difference shall be placed in the Net Settlement Amount and allocated to the Participating Class Members.

(c) Individual Class Payments. Individual Class Payments for the Class will be calculated and apportioned from the Net Settlement Amount based on the number of Weeks Worked by each Class Member during the Class Period. Each specific Individual Class Payment will be calculated by: (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Weeks Worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period, and (b) multiplying the result by each Participating Class Members' number of Weeks Worked. The entire Net Settlement Amount will be disbursed to all Participating Class Members. The amount actually distributed to Participating Class Members shall equal one hundred percent (100%) of the Net Settlement Amount. Class Members will not be required to submit any claim form in order to receive an Individual Class Payment.

(d) Allocation of Individual Class Payments: The Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members will be allocated as follows: ten percent (10%) will be allocated as wages subject to withholding of all applicable local, state and federal taxes; and ninety percent (90%) will be allocated for interest and statutory penalties (pursuant to, *e.g.*, Labor Code sections 203, 210, 226) from which no taxes will be withheld. The Settlement Administrator will issue to each Participating Class Member an IRS Form W-2 and comparable state forms with respect to the wage allocation and an IRS Form 1099 with respect to the penalties and interest allocations.

(e) Service Payments to Class Representatives: The amount, if any, awarded to the Class Representatives as Service Payments will be set by the Court in its discretion, not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($10,000) to each Plaintiff (totaling Twenty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($20,000)), in exchange for the service that Plaintiffs performed on behalf of the Class and in exchange for Plaintiffs' release of claims under Civil Code section 1542. Defendants agree not to oppose this request. The Service Payments to Plaintiffs will be paid out of the Settlement Amount. The Class Representatives will each be issued an IRS Form 1099 for these payments. Plaintiffs shall be solely and legally responsible to pay any and all applicable taxes on this payment, shall hold harmless Released Parties, Class Counsel, and Defense Counsel from any claim or liability for taxes, penalties, or interest arising as a result of payment of the Class Representative Service Payments. This Settlement is not contingent upon the Court awarding any particular amount in Service Payments. The Parties agree that any amount awarded as the Service Payments to Plaintiffs less than the requested amount shall not be a basis for Class Counsel to void this Settlement Agreement. Should the Court approve a lesser amount for the Service Payments, the difference shall be added to the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members.

(f) Attorneys' Fees and Costs Award: Defendants agree to not oppose a request by Class Counsel to the Court for an award of attorneys' fees of one-third of the Settlement Amount (*i.e.*, One Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars and Sixty-Seven Cents ($166,666.67) subject to the Escalator Clause), plus reasonable litigation costs not to exceed Thirty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($30,000) ("Attorney's Fees and Cost Award"). Defendants agree not to oppose any contention by Class Counsel that attorneys' fees should be based on the catalyst and/or common fund theory. The Attorney's Fees and Costs Award shall be paid from the Settlement Amount, and, except for this award, Defendants shall have no further obligation to pay any attorneys' fees, costs or expenses to Class Counsel. This Settlement is not contingent upon the Court awarding Class Counsel any particular amount in the Attorneys' Fees and Cost. Should the Court approve a lesser amount than what 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. 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 assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the Attorneys' Fees and Costs Award and holds Released Parties harmless Released Parties, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these payments.

(g) Settlement Administration Costs: The fees and other charges of the Settlement Administrator will be paid from the Settlement Amount, not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($10,000), unless (i) the Escalator Clause is triggered (whereby any reasonable increase in Settlement Administration Costs shall be paid from the increased

Settlement Amount, subject to Court approval), or (ii) as otherwise approved by all Parties and the Court.

(h) PAGA Penalties: The Parties agree that Twenty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($20,000) is allocated to PAGA Penalties, and is to be paid from the Settlement Amount, subject to Court approval. Of this amount, Fifteen Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($15,000) (75%) shall be paid to the LWDA in satisfaction of civil penalties under the Private Attorney General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") and Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($5,000) (25%) will form the Individual PAGA Payments to the Aggrieved Employees, which shall be calculated and allocated pro-rata according to the number of pay periods worked during the PAGA Period. Pay Periods during which an Aggrieved Employee was employed but did not record any hours can be excluded from this calculation. Individual PAGA Payments will be treated entirely as civil penalties, and which shall be reported as required on an IRS Form 1099. Class Counsel shall give proper notice to the LWDA of the Settlement.

i. The Settlement Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by: (1) dividing Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($5,000) by the total number of pay periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (2) multiplying the result by the number of pay periods worked by each individual Aggrieved Employee during the PAGA Period. Aggrieved Employees will not be required to submit any claim form in order to receive an Individual PAGA Payment.

(i) Tax Liability: Class Counsel and Defendants make no representations as to the tax treatment or legal effect of settlement amounts called for hereunder, and Plaintiffs and the Class Members are not relying on any statement or representation by Class Counsel or Defendants in this regard. Plaintiffs, Participating Class Members, and Aggrieved Employees understand and agree that they will be solely responsible for the payment of any taxes and penalties assessed on their respective Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments, described herein. An IRS Forms 1099 will be distributed in the manner required by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 ("Code") and consistent with this Agreement. If the Code, the regulations promulgated thereunder, or other applicable tax law, is changed after the date of this Agreement, the processes set forth in this Section may be modified in a manner to bring Defendants into compliance with any such changes. Plaintiffs, Participating Class Members, and Aggrieved Employees understand and agree that they will be solely responsible for the payment of any taxes and penalties assessed on their respective payments described herein.

(j) CIRCULAR 230 DISCLAIMER. EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT (FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE "ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY" AND EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT OTHER THAN THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY, AN "OTHER PARTY") ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT (1) NO PROVISION OF THIS AGREEMENT, AND NO WRITTEN COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE BETWEEN OR AMONG THE PARTIES OR THEIR ATTORNEYS AND OTHER ADVISERS, IS OR WAS INTENDED TO BE, NOR SHALL ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTE OR BE CONSTRUED OR BE RELIED UPON AS, TAX ADVICE WITHIN THE MEANING OF UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR 230 (31 CFR PART 10, AS AMENDED); (2) THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY (A) HAS RELIED EXCLUSIVELY UPON HIS, HER OR ITS OWN, INDEPENDENT LEGAL AND TAX COUNSEL FOR ADVICE (INCLUDING TAX ADVICE) IN CONNECTION WITH THIS AGREEMENT, (B) HAS NOT ENTERED INTO THIS AGREEMENT BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF ANY OTHER PARTY OR ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO ANY OTHER PARTY, AND (C) IS NOT ENTITLED TO RELY UPON ANY COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE BY ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISER TO ANY OTHER PARTY TO AVOID ANY TAX PENALTY THAT MAY BE IMPOSED ON THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY; AND (3) NO ATTORNEY OR ADVISER TO ANY OTHER PARTY HAS IMPOSED ANY LIMITATION THAT PROTECTS THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY SUCH ATTORNEY'S OR ADVISER'S TAX STRATEGIES (REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH LIMITATION IS LEGALLY BINDING) UPON DISCLOSURE BY THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY OF THE TAX TREATMENT OR TAX STRUCTURE OF ANY TRANSACTION, INCLUDING ANY TRANSACTION CONTEMPLATED BY THIS AGREEMENT.

(k) "Non-Reversionary" Settlement. This is a "non-reversionary" settlement. Under no circumstances will any portion of the Settlement Amount revert to Defendants. Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees will not have to make a claim to receive an Individual Class Payments or Individual PAGA Payment. Distributions, in the form of Individual Class Payments or Individual PAGA Payments will be made directly to each Participating Class Member and Aggrieved Employee. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for accurately and timely reporting and remittance obligations with respect to unclaimed funds as a result of a Participating Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee not cashing any checks delivered pursuant to the Settlement by the check cashing deadline.

(l) Class Counsel and Plaintiffs believe that the Settlement is fair and reasonable and will so represent same to the Court.

D. Release of Class Claims by the Participating Class Members

51. Upon the Effective Date and Defendants' full funding of the Settlement Amount and separate amount of payroll taxes, and except as to such rights or claims as may be created by this Agreement, Plaintiffs and the Participating Class Members will forever completely release and discharge the Released Parties from the Released Class Claims for the Class Period.

52. Each Participating Class Member will be deemed to have made the foregoing Release as if by manually signing it.

53. Class Representatives, on behalf of themselves and the Class, acknowledge and agree that the claims for unpaid wages and untimely payment of wages in the Action are disputed, and that the payments set forth herein constitute payment of all sums allegedly due to them. Class Representatives, on behalf of themselves and the Class, acknowledge and agree that Labor Code section 206.5 is not applicable to the Parties or Settlement. Labor Code 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. Release of PAGA Claims

54. Upon the Effective Date and Defendants' full funding of the Settlement Amount

and separate amount of payroll taxes, Plaintiffs, in their individual capacities and on behalf of the State of California and LWDA, shall completely release and discharge the Released Parties from the Released PAGA Claims for the PAGA Period.

55. Regardless of submitting a valid Request for Exclusion, neither Plaintiffs nor any Aggrieved Employee shall have the right to opt out or exclude themselves from releasing the PAGA portion of the Settlement.

56. It is the intent of the Parties that the Final Approval Order shall have full equitable and collateral estoppel and res judicata effect to the fullest extent permitted by law.

F. <u>Plaintiffs' Release</u>

57. Upon the Effective Date and Defendants' full funding of the Settlement Amount and separate amount of payroll taxes, Plaintiff Brown and Plaintiff Amster release and discharge Released Parties from all claims, transactions, or occurrences from the beginning of time through the date Plaintiffs sign this Agreement ("Plaintiffs' Release"). Plaintiffs' Release includes, but is not limited to, all federal, state, and local statutes, ordinances, regulations, rules, and other laws; claims based on theories of wrongful or constructive discharge, breach of contract or implied contract, fraud, misrepresentation, promissory estoppel, intentional and/or negligent infliction of emotional distress. Plaintiffs' Release is for any and all relief, no matter how denominated, including, but not limited to, statutory penalties, back pay, front pay, vacation pay, bonuses, compensatory damages, tortious damages, liquidated damages, punitive damages, damages for pain and suffering, and attorneys' fees and costs. Plaintiffs' Release does not extend to any claims or actions that cannot be released as a matter of law, including claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, or workers' compensation benefits. Plaintiff Brown and Plaintiff Amster both acknowledge that they may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that they now know or believe to be true but agree, nonetheless, that Plaintiffs' Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiffs' discovery of them.

58. For purposes of Plaintiffs' Release only, Plaintiffs expressly waive and relinquish the provisions, rights and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code or similar

provisions of applicable law, which reads:

> **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.**

G. <u>Interim Stay of Proceedings</u>

59. 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.

H. <u>Notice Process</u>

60. <u>Appointment of Settlement Administrator</u>. The Parties have agreed to the appointment of the Settlement Administrator to perform the duties of a settlement administrator, including mailing the Notice Packet, 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 Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees, issuing all necessary tax forms, and performing other tasks as set forth herein or as the Parties mutually agree or the Court orders.

61. <u>Disputes Regarding Settlement Administration</u>. Any and all disputes relating to 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 Agreement, until Plaintiffs and Defendants notify the Court that all payments and obligations contemplated by this Agreement have been fully carried out. Prior to 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 Plaintiffs, Participating Class Members, and Aggrieved Employees, and Class Counsel any Tax Forms as may be required by law for all amounts paid pursuant to this Agreement.

62. Class Data. Within fourteen (14) days after entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, Defendants shall provide the Class Data to the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will run a check of 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 remain confidential and will not be used or disclosed to anyone, except as required by applicable tax authorities, pursuant to Defendants' express written consent, or by order of the Court. Although Class Counsel will not be provided with the list of Class Data, nothing herein shall prevent Class Counsel from communicating with Class Members regarding the Action and Settlement.

63. Total Workweeks. At least ten (10) calendar days prior to mailing the Notice Packet, the Settlement Administrator shall provide a spreadsheet to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel containing a preliminary calculation of all payments to be paid from the Settlement Amount, including the estimated Individual Class Payments to each Class Member and Individual PAGA Payments to each Aggrieved Employee (a person's name shall be redacted and a control number used in place of the name). In the event that the total Workweeks worked by all Class Members triggers the Escalator Clause, Defendants shall have five (5) calendar days to make their election to either increase the Settlement Amount or change the end date of the Class Period under Paragraph 15. If Defendants fail to make an election within the required five-day period, it shall be treated as a waiver of the right to shorten the Class Period, and the Settlement Amount shall be increased in accordance with the Escalator Clause. In either event, the Settlement Administrator shall notify the Parties of the increased Settlement Amount (if applicable), and related increased payments from the Settlement Amount (if applicable), including increased Attorneys' Fees and Costs and any increased Settlement Administration Costs, all of which shall be subject to Court approval, and shall update the Notice accordingly (including modifying the end date of the Class Period if Defendants elect that option).

64. Notice Packet. The Notice Packet, as approved by the Court, shall be sent by the Settlement Administrator to the Class Members, by first class mail, in English (a Spanish translation is unnecessary because all Class Members can read and communicate in English),

within fifteen (15) calendar days following the Settlement Administrator's receipt of the Class Data. For all Class Members, the Notice Packet will include the Notice, Request for Exclusion Form, Objection Form, and Dispute Form. The Settlement Administrator shall use standard devices, including a skip trace, to obtain forwarding addresses of Class Members if any envelopes are returned.

65. Returned Notice Packets. The Settlement Administrator will take steps to ensure that the Notice Packet is received by all Class Members, including utilization of the National Change of Address Database maintained by the United States Postal Service to review the accuracy of and, if possible, update a mailing address. Notices will be re-mailed to any Class Member for whom an updated address is located within ten (10) calendar days following both the Settlement Administrator learning of the failed mailing and its receipt of the updated address. The Notice Packet shall be identical to the original Notice Packet, except that it shall notify the Class Member that the exclusion (opt-out) request or objection must be returned by the later of the Response Deadline or fifteen (15) days after the remailing of the Notice Packet.

66. Presumption Regarding Receipt of Notice Packet. It will be conclusively presumed that if an envelope has not been returned to Settlement Administrator by the Response Deadline that the Class Member received the Notice Packet.

67. Disputes Regarding Class Data. Class Members are deemed to participate in the Settlement unless they opt-out, and Aggrieved Employees may not opt out of or object to the PAGA portion of the Settlement. The Notice will inform Class Members of his/her estimated Individual Class Payment and Individual PAGA Payment, as well as the number of Weeks Worked during the Class Period and the number of pay periods worked during the PAGA Period. Class Members may dispute their Weeks Worked by timely submitting evidence to the Settlement Administrator. Defendants' records will be presumed determinative absent reliable evidence to rebut Defendants' records, but the Settlement Administrator will evaluate the evidence submitted by the Class Member and provide the evidence submitted to 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 Work Weeks, and estimated Individual Class and PAGA Payments. If Class

Counsel and Defense Counsel are unable to agree, they agree to submit the dispute to the Court to render a final decision. Class Members will have until the Response Deadline to dispute Weeks Worked, object, or opt out, unless extended by the Court.

68. Declaration of Due Diligence. The Settlement Administrator shall provide counsel for the Parties, at least five (5) calendar days after the initial Response Deadline, a declaration of due diligence and proof of mailing with regard to the mailing of the Notice Packet.

69. Class Members' Rights. Each Class Member will be fully advised of the Settlement, the ability to object or request exclusion from the Class Claims portion of the Settlement. The Notice Packet will inform the Class Members of the Court-established deadlines for filing objections or requesting exclusion from the Settlement in accordance with the following guidelines:

(a) Requests for Exclusion from Class. Plaintiffs agree not to request exclusion from this Settlement. Any Class Member, other than Plaintiffs, may request to be excluded from the Class by completing the Request for Exclusion Form provided within the Notice Packet. The Request for Exclusion Form must be mailed to the Settlement Administrator and postmarked on or before the Response Deadline in order to be timely, unless the Parties otherwise agree in writing. Any such Request must be made in accordance with the terms set forth in the Notice Packet. The Settlement Administrator shall attach each Request for Exclusion to its declaration of due diligence and file with the Court prior to the Final Approval Hearing. Any Class Member who timely requests exclusion in compliance with these requirements: (i) will not have any rights under this Agreement, including the right to object, appeal, or comment on the Settlement; (ii) will not be entitled to receive any Individual Class Payments under this Agreement; and (iii) will not be bound by the Release of Class Claims, or the Judgment with respect to the Class component of the Settlement. Any Class Member who is an Aggrieved Employee who requests timely exclusion will still receive an Individual PAGA Payment. All Parties and their counsel, including Defendants and their agents and employees, shall not encourage or solicit opt-outs or objections, directly or indirectly, through any means.

(b) Binding Effect on Participating Class Members. All Participating Class Members will: (i) be bound by the terms and conditions of this Agreement, Judgment, and releases set forth herein; and (ii) except as otherwise provided herein, will be deemed to have waived all objections and oppositions to the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the Settlement.

(c) Objections to Settlement. Plaintiffs agree not to object to this Settlement. Class Members who submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion may not object to the Settlement. Objections may be made by completing the Objection Form provided within the Notice Packet. Any Class Member that intends to object must mail the Objection Form to the Settlement Administrator. The Objection Form must be postmarked on or before the Response Deadline in order to be timely, unless the Parties otherwise agree in writing. Additionally, any objection must be made in accordance with the terms set forth in the Notice Packet. The Settlement Administrator shall provide any objections to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel within three (3) calendar days of receipt, and the Settlement Administrator shall attach the same to its declaration of due diligence and file with the Court prior to the Final Approval Hearing. Any Participating Class Member who files an objection remains eligible to receive monetary compensation from the Settlement. Plaintiffs and Defendants shall not be responsible for any fees, costs, or expenses incurred by any Class Member and/or his or her counsel related to any objections to the Settlement. Submitting an objection does not preserve the right to appeal a final judgment. The right to appeal is preserved by becoming a party of record by timely and properly intervening or filing a motion to vacate the judgment under Code of Civil Procedure section 663. No objections may be made to the PAGA component of this Settlement.

(d) Failure to Object. Any Class Member who does not timely and properly become a party of record by intervening or filing a motion to vacate the judgment waives any and all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to any post-judgment proceeding and appellate proceeding, such as a motion to vacate judgment, motion for new trial, a motion under 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 Class Members at least five (5) court days before the date of the Final Approval Hearing.

70. Class Members will have until the 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 Defense Counsel what objections or Requests for Exclusion were timely submitted on a weekly basis and upon the request of Class Counsel or Defense Counsel.

71. Funding of the Settlement Amount. Defendants Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., Moxie Pest Control, L.P., and Moxie Advisors, LLC, jointly and severally, shall fund the Settlement Amount under a two-part payment plan as follows: (a) by the later of December 1, 2026 or fifteen (15) calendar days after the Effective Date, Defendants Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., Moxie Pest Control, L.P., and Moxie Advisors, LLC shall fund one-half (50%) of the Settlement Amount plus the required share of payroll taxes ("First Installment Payment"), and (b) by the later of June 1, 2027 or fifteen (15) calendar days after the Effective Date, Defendants Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., Moxie Pest Control, L.P., and Moxie Advisors, LLC shall fund the remaining one-half (50%) of the Settlement Amount, plus the required share of payroll taxes ("Second Installment Payment").

72. Distribution of Funds. No later than ten (10) calendar days after the deposit of each installment payment, the Settlement Administrator shall mail amounts equal to fifty percent (50%) of the Individual Class Payments to the Participating Class Members, Individual PAGA Payments to the Aggrieved Employees, payment to Class Counsel for the Attorneys' Fees and Costs Award, any Service Payments to the Class Representatives, payment to the LWDA for PAGA Penalties, and Settlement Administration Costs. Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments may be combined into a single check.

73. No Benefits. The payment of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendants to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to Class Members (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses). Similarly, payment of Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, and Class Representative Service Payments does not extend or alter the Class Members' or Aggrieved Employees' period of

employment.

74. Deadline for Cashing Settlement Checks. Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees shall have one hundred eighty (180) calendar days after mailing by the Settlement Administrator to cash their settlement checks. The Released Class Claims will be binding regardless of whether the Participating Class Member cashes their checks within the 180-day period. In the event that 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, and notify Defense Counsel and Class Counsel of the results. If a new address is located by these means, the Administrator will have ten (10) business days to re-issue the check. Neither Defendants, Defense Counsel, Class Counsel, Plaintiffs, nor the 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 a Participating Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee notifies the Settlement Administrator that he or she believes 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 prior to the stop payment order, the Settlement Administrator will issue a replacement check.

(a) If any Participating Class Member's check is not cashed within the time periods noted above, the check will be void and a stop-payment will be issued. If a Participating Class Member's check for the First Installment Payment is not cashed within the periods noted above, then the Settlement Administrator shall re-issue the check for the First Installment Payment when issuing the Participating Class Member's check for the Second Installment Payment. For any checks remaining uncashed after the 180-day period after issuance of checks for the Second Installment Payment, the Settlement Administrator shall issue the unclaimed funds to the California State Controller's Office in the name of the Class Member.

(b) If any Aggrieved Employee's check is not cashed within the time periods noted above, the check will be void and a stop payment will be issued. If an Aggrieved Employee's check for the First Installment Payment is not cashed within the periods noted above, then the Settlement Administrator shall re-issue the check for the First Installment Payment when issuing the Participating Class Member's check for the Second Installment Payment. For any checks remaining uncashed after the 180-day period after issuance of checks for the Second Installment Payment, the Settlement Administrator shall issue the unclaimed funds to the California State Controller's Office in the name of the Class Member.

I. <u>Duties of the Parties Prior to the Court's Approval</u>

75. Promptly after execution of this Agreement, Plaintiffs will move the Court for Preliminary Approval of this Settlement and entry of the Preliminary Approval Order accomplishing 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 Payments;

(b) Approving as to form and content the proposed Notice Packet;

(c) Directing the mailing of the Notice Packet by first class mail to the Class Members;

(d) Preliminarily approving this Settlement;

(e) Preliminarily certifying the class for purposes of this Settlement; and

(f) Advising the LWDA of the proposed Settlement.

76. Plaintiff shall provide drafts of the motion for preliminary approval and motion for final approval to Defense Counsel at least seven (7) calendar days prior to filing. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve any disagreements concerning the motions.

J. <u>Duties of the Parties Following Court's Final Approval</u>

77. In connection with the Final Approval Hearing provided for in this 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, Service Payments to the Class Representatives, and the payment to the Settlement Administrator for costs of administering the settlement; and

(c) Entering judgment approving the Settlement.

K. <u>Voiding the Agreement</u>

78. If the Court fails or refuses to issue the Final Approval Order or fails to approve any material condition of this Agreement which effects a fundamental change of the Settlement, the entire Agreement shall be rendered voidable and unenforceable as to all Parties herein at the option of either Party.

79. If more than five percent (5%) of the Class Members submit and timely and valid opt-outs from the Settlement, then Defendants may, in their sole discretion, terminate, nullify, and void this Settlement. The Settlement Administrator shall provide Defendants' Counsel with the information necessary to effectuate this provision on a regular basis, but no less frequently than a weekly basis. To terminate this Settlement under this paragraph, Defendants' Counsel must give Plaintiffs' Counsel written notice by email or mail of Defendants' election to withdraw not later than ten (10) calendar days after the Response Deadline. Late elections will have no effect. If Defendants exercise their option under this paragraph, the Settlement shall be considered void ab initio and shall be of no force or effect, and Defendants shall be responsible for paying all costs incurred by the Settlement Administrator.

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

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

L. <u>Other Terms</u>

82. <u>Waiver</u>. The waiver by one Party of any breach of this Agreement by another Party shall not be deemed a waiver of any other prior or subsequent breach of this Agreement.

83. Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the judgment approving this Settlement is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Participating Class Members who did not object to the Settlement as provided in this Agreement, waive all rights to appeal from the judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs, and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If an objector appeals the judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the judgment becomes final.

84. Appellate Court Orders to Vacate, Reverse or Materially Modify Judgment. If a reviewing Court vacates, reverses, or modifies the judgment approving this Settlement in a manner that requires a material modification of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, the scope of the releases set forth herein), this Agreement shall be null and void. The Parties shall nevertheless expeditiously work together in good faith to address the appellate court's concerns and to obtain Final Approval and entry of judgment, sharing, on a 50-50 basis, any additional expenses and costs reasonably incurred after remittitur. An appellate decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of the Attorneys Fees, Costs Award, and Service Payments shall not constitute a material modification of the judgment within the meaning of this paragraph.

85. Amended Judgment. If any amended judgment is required under Code of Civil Procedure section 384, the Parties will work together in good faith to jointly submit and a proposed amended judgment.

86. Acceleration Clause. If Defendants fail to make any required payments within five (5) business days of the respective due date, Class Counsel shall send a notice of default to Defense Counsel. Defendants will then have ten (10) business days after issuance of the notice of default to cure and bring all payments up to the current required amount. If Defendants fail to timely cure the late payment, all remaining balances shall become due and payable immediately.

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

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

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

90. No Admission. Defendants deny any and all liability to Plaintiffs and/or any Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee in this Action, as to any and all causes of action that were asserted or that might have been asserted in this Action. Nonetheless, Defendants wish to settle and compromise the matters at issue in the Complaint to avoid further substantial expense and the inconvenience and distraction of protracted and burdensome litigation. Defendants have taken into account the uncertainty and risks inherent in litigation, and without conceding any infirmity in the defenses that they have asserted or could assert against Plaintiffs, have determined that it is desirable and beneficial that Plaintiffs' claims be settled in the manner and upon the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement.

91. Inadmissibility of Agreement. Whether or not the Court issues the Final Approval Order, nothing contained herein, nor the consummation of this Agreement, is to be construed or deemed an admission of liability, culpability, negligence, or wrongdoing on the part of Defendants or any of the other Released Parties. Each of the Parties hereto has entered into this Agreement with the intention of avoiding further disputes and litigation with the attendant inconvenience and expenses. This 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 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, and/or interpret or enforce this Agreement. The stipulation for class certification as part of this 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.

92. No Publicity. The Parties will not publicize the Settlement or disclose it to third parties prior to the Court granting Preliminary Approval, except as required or necessary to effectuate its terms and comply with law. After the Final Approval Date, Class Counsel and Class Representatives agree that they will not discuss the Settlement with the media, any settlement and verdict reporting service, any social media postings or other Internet postings. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent Class Counsel from the public filing of motions or other case materials in the Action related to seeking and obtaining Court approval of this Settlement and the related awards of attorneys' fees and costs, or to communications with Class Members or their representatives about this Settlement, including through the posting of Court-filed documents on Class Counsel's websites for access solely by the Class Members, or to prevent the Parties or their representatives from communicating with financial or legal advisors regarding the Settlement. In response to any media inquiry, Class Counsel may state only that the Action has been settled on terms mutually agreeable to the Parties.

93. 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 Class:	*To Defendants*:
Brian J. Mankin *brian@lmlfirm.com* Lauby, Mankin & Lauby LLP 5198 Arlington Ave, PMB 513 Riverside, CA 92504 Tel: (951) 320-1444 Fax: (951) 320-1445	Ellen Connelly Cohen *ecohen@calljensen.com* Call & Jensen 610 Newport Center Drive, Suite 700 Newport Beach, CA 92660 Tel: (949) 717-3000 Fax: (949) 717-3100

94. Construction. The Parties hereto agree that the terms and conditions of this Agreement are the result of lengthy, intensive arms' length negotiations between the Parties and that this Agreement shall not be construed in favor of or against any Party by reason of the extent to which any Party or his or its counsel participated in the drafting of this Agreement. Plaintiffs and Defendants 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.

95. 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 Agreement or any provision hereof. Each term of this Agreement is contractual and not merely a recital.

96. Modification. This 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 a writing signed by all of the Parties hereto.

97. Severability. In the event that one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall in no way effect any other provision if Defense Counsel and Class Counsel, on behalf of the Parties and the Settlement Class, mutually elect in writing to proceed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been included in this Agreement.

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 Plaintiffs and Defendants may agree to seek the help of the mediator to resolve any dispute they are unable to resolve informally. During this period, the Parties shall bear their own attorneys' fees and costs. This provision shall not apply to any legal action or other proceeding instituted by

any person or entity other than Plaintiffs or Defendants.

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

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

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

102. Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court. The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement solely for purposes of: (a) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment; (b) addressing settlement administration matters; and (c) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.

103. Signatures of All Class Members Unnecessary to be Binding. It is agreed that, because the members of the Class are numerous, it is impossible or impractical to have each Class Member execute this Agreement. The Notice Packet will advise all Class Members of the binding nature of the release provided herein and such shall have the same force and effect as if this Agreement were executed by each Class Member.

104. Counterparts. This 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 Agreement, which shall be binding upon and effective as to all Parties. Electronic signatures shall have the same force and effect as an original.

-- *Signatures on Next Page* --

Dated: Oct 23, 2025

PLAINTIFF AND CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

Justin Brown (Oct 23, 2025 14:11:31 PDT)

Justin Brown

Dated: ________________

PLAINTIFF AND CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

Shayna Amster

Dated: ________________

DEFENDANT JOSHUA'S PEST CONTROL, L.P.

By: Jason Walton
Title: Owner

Dated: ________________

DEFENDANT MOXIE PEST CONTROL, L.P.

By: Jason Walton
Title: Owner

Dated: ________________

DEFENDANT MOXIE ADVISORS, L.P.

By: Jason Walton
Title: Owner

Dated: ________________

DEFENDANT WALTON HOLDINGS GP, LLC

By: Jason Walton
Title: Owner

Dated: ________________ **PLAINTIFF AND CLASS REPRESENTATIVE**

____
Justin Brown

Dated: 10/29/2025 **PLAINTIFF AND CLASS REPRESENTATIVE**

Shayna Amster
____
Shayna Amster

Dated: ________________ **DEFENDANT JOSHUA'S PEST CONTROL, L.P.**

____
By: Jason Walton
Title: Owner

Dated: ________________ **DEFENDANT MOXIE PEST CONTROL, L.P.**

____
By: Jason Walton
Title: Owner

Dated: ________________ **DEFENDANT MOXIE ADVISORS, L.P.**

____
By: Jason Walton
Title: Owner

Dated: ________________ **DEFENDANT WALTON HOLDINGS GP, LLC**

____
By: Jason Walton
Title: Owner

Dated: ______________ **PLAINTIFF AND CLASS REPRESENTATIVE**

____
Justin Brown

Dated: ______________ **PLAINTIFF AND CLASS REPRESENTATIVE**

____
Shayna Amster

Dated: Oct. 23, 2025 **DEFENDANT JOSHUA'S PEST CONTROL, L.P.**

____
By: Jason Walton
Title: Owner

Dated: Oct. 23, 2025 **DEFENDANT MOXIE PEST CONTROL, L.P.**

____
By: Jason Walton
Title: Owner

Dated: Oct. 23, 2025 **DEFENDANT MOXIE ADVISORS, L.P.**

____
By: Jason Walton
Title: Owner

Dated: Oct. 23, 2025 **DEFENDANT WALTON HOLDINGS GP, LLC**

____
By: Jason Walton
Title: Owner

Dated: ________________

DEFENDANT MGFLEMING HOLDINGS, INC.

____
By: Michael Fleming
Title: Owner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Dated: 10/23/2025

CLASS COUNSEL
LAUBY, MANKIN & LAUBY LLP

____
Brian J. Mankin, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Dated: October 29, 2025

CLASS COUNSEL
JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION

____
Douglas Han, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Dated: ________________

DEFENSE COUNSEL:
CALL & JENSEN

____
Ellen Connelly Cohen, Esq.
Attorneys for Defendants

Dated: 10-23-2025

DEFENDANT MGFLEMING HOLDINGS, INC.

By: Michael Fleming
Title: Owner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Dated: ____________

CLASS COUNSEL
LAUBY, MANKIN & LAUBY LLP

____
Brian J. Mankin, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Dated: ____________

CLASS COUNSEL
JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION

____
Douglas Han, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Dated: October 30, 2025

DEFENSE COUNSEL:
CALL & JENSEN

____
Ellen Connelly Cohen, Esq.
Attorneys for Defendants

EXHIBIT “B”

COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

<u>Brown and Amster v. Joshua's Pest Control et al.</u>
(Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. CVRI2402875)

The Riverside County Superior Court authorized this Notice. Read it carefully!
It's not junk mail, spam, an advertisement, or solicitation by a lawyer. You are not being sued.

You may be eligible to receive money from a class action lawsuit filed by Justin Brown and Shayna Amster ("Plaintiffs" or "Class Representatives") against Defendants Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., Moxie Pest Control, L.P., Moxie Advisors, LLC, Walton Holdings GP, LLC, and MGFleming Holdings, Inc. ("Defendants") for alleged violations of the California Labor Code (the "Action"). (Plaintiffs and Defendants shall be collectively referred to as the "Parties").

The Action seeks payment of (1) unpaid wages, statutory damages and penalties, interest and attorneys' fees on behalf of all Class Members, who are defined as "all current and former nonexempt (hourly paid) employees employed by Defendant Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., in California during the Class Period (which is May 24, 2020, through July 29, 2025)"; and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") on behalf of all Aggrieved Employees, who are defined as "all current and former nonexempt (hourly paid) employees employed by Defendant Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., in California during the PAGA Period (which is May 24, 2023, through July 29, 2025). PAGA is a California law that allows employees to bring claims for civil penalties on behalf of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and all Aggrieved Employees for alleged violations of the Labor Code, and any payment for PAGA penalties shall be paid 75% to the LWDA and 25% to all Aggrieved Employees as civil penalties (rather than wages).

The proposed Settlement has two main parts: (1) a Class Settlement requiring Defendants to fund Individual Class Payments to Class Members, and (2) a PAGA Settlement requiring Defendants to fund Individual PAGA Payments to Aggrieved Employees and pay penalties to the LWDA. Based on Defendants' records, and the Parties' current assumptions, your Individual Class and PAGA Payments are shown in the charts below, along with the applicable data points from which these estimates are derived.

[CLASS MEMBER NAME] [ID/CONTROL NUMBER]

Calculations and Data Points for Estimated Individual PAGA Payment	
Weeks Worked during Class Period	***Estimated* Individual Class Payment**
INSERT	INSERT

Calculations and Data Points for Estimated Individual PAGA Payment	
Weeks Worked during PAGA Period	***Estimated* Individual PAGA Payment**
INSERT	INSERT

Please note that the actual amount you receive may be different from the above and will depend on several factors. (If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment then, according to Defendants' records, you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you didn't work for Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., in California during the PAGA Period.) If you believe that you worked a different number of weeks during the periods than is shown in the chart above, you can submit a dispute by DATE ("**Response Deadline**"). See **Section 4, subsection 3** of this Notice.

In granting preliminarily approval of the proposed Settlement and approving this Notice, the Court has determined only that there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the proposed Settlement might be fair, adequate and reasonable, and that any final determination of those issues will be made at the Final Approval Hearing. <u>Your legal rights are affected whether you act or do not act.</u> Read this Notice carefully. You will be deemed to have carefully read and understood it. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will decide whether to finally approve the Settlement and how much of the Settlement will be paid to Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' attorneys ("Class Counsel"). The Court will also decide whether to enter a judgment that requires Defendants to make payments under the Settlement and requires Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against Defendants.

If you worked for Defendants in California during the Class Period and/or the PAGA Period, you have a few options as shown in the Chart below:

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT	
DO NOTHING AND RECEIVE A SETTLEMENT PAYMENT	If you want to receive your full settlement payment, then no further action is required on your part. You will automatically receive a settlement payment if the Settlement receives final approval by the Court. You will be bound by the terms of the Settlement Agreement and will give up your right to sue on the Released Class Claims described in **Section 3 below**. ***Defendants will not retaliate against you for participating or not participating in this Settlement.***
EXCLUDE YOURSELF	If you do not wish to participate in the proposed Settlement of the Class Claims, you may "opt-out" of the Settlement of the Class Claims. If you choose to opt-out, you must submit a Request for Exclusion form by _____________(see **Section 6** below for more details on how to opt-out). If you opt-out, you will no longer be a participating Class Member, and you will (1) not receive an Individual Class Payment, but you will preserve your right to pursue the Released Class Claims described below subject to applicable statutes of limitations, and (2) be barred from filing an objection to the settlement. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. Defendants must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees. See **Section 6** of this Notice.
OBJECT	If you decide to object to the settlement with respect to the Class Claims because you find it unfair or unreasonable, you must submit an Objection Form stating why you object to the settlement by _____________(see **Section 7** for more details on how to object).
DISPUTE THE NUMBER OF WEEKS WORKED	If you believe the number of workweeks that you were credited with working in the chart above is incorrect, you must submit the Dispute Form with any supporting evidence to Phoenix Settlement Administrators (the "Settlement Administrator"), a third party responsible for sending this Notice. (see **Section 4** for more details on how to submit a dispute). Defendants' records will be presumed correct, but you may provide evidence to the Settlement Administrator showing how many Weeks Worked you believe you should be credited and the Settlement Administrator and the Parties will consider your documentation and make a determination (with the assistance of the Court if necessary).

YOU MAY ATTEND THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING, BUT IT'S NOT REQUIRED	
DATE: DATE **TIME: 8:30 A.M.**	The Court's Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on ______________. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will decide whether to finally approve the Settlement. You don't have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone or by using the Court's virtual appearance platform. See **Section 8** of this Notice.

1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?

Plaintiffs are former employees of Defendants. The Action accuses Defendants of violating California labor laws due to the alleged failure to pay minimum and overtime wages, failure to provide meal periods and rest breaks, failure to pay vested vacation, failure to reimburse business expenses, failure to maintain required records, failure to timely pay wages upon separation of employment, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, and unfair and unlawful competition. Based on the same claims, Plaintiffs also asserted a claim for civil penalties under PAGA.

Defendants strongly deny violating any laws or failing to pay any wages and contends they complied with all applicable laws.

Both Parties are represented by attorneys in the Action. See Section 9 below for their contact information.

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE ACTION HAS SETTLED?

The Parties hired an experienced, neutral mediator in an effort to resolve the Action by negotiating to end the case by agreement (settle the case) rather than continuing the expensive and time-consuming process of litigation. The case did not immediately settle at mediation but the negotiations were ultimately successful. By signing a lengthy written settlement agreement ("Agreement"), Plaintiffs and Defendants have negotiated a proposed Settlement that is subject to the Court's Final Approval. Both sides agree the proposed Settlement is a compromise of disputed claims. By agreeing to settle, Defendants do not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims.

Plaintiffs and Class Counsel strongly believe the Settlement is a good deal for you because they believe that: (1) Defendants have agreed to pay a fair, reasonable and adequate amount considering the strength of the claims and the risks and uncertainties of continued litigation; and (2) Settlement is in the best interests of the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. So far, the Court has made no determination whether Defendants or Plaintiffs are correct on the merits, and has determined only that there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the proposed settlement might be fair, adequate, and reasonable, and that any final determination of those issues will be made at final hearing. The Court preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, authorized this Notice, and scheduled a hearing to determine Final Approval.

3. WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT TERMS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

1. The Gross Settlement Amount. Defendants have agreed to pay a total gross settlement amount of $500,000 (the "Settlement Amount") and will deposit the Settlement Amount into an account controlled by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will use the Settlement Amount to pay the Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, Class Representative's Service Payment, Class Counsel's attorney's fees and expenses, the Settlement Administrator's Costs, and PAGA Penalties to be paid to the LWDA. Assuming the Court grants Final Approval of the settlement and that the Judgment entered by the Court becomes final, Defendants will fund the Settlement Amount in two equal payments in approximately December 2026 and December 2027. Payments to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees will be issued in two equal shares approximately 10 days after payment is received from Defendants. The Judgment will be final on the date the Court enters Judgment, or a later date if the Judgment is appealed.

2. Court Approved Deductions from Settlement Amount. At the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiffs and/or Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve the following deductions from the Settlement Amount, the amounts of which will be decided by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing:

A. Up to one-third (1/3) of the Settlement Amount to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees ($INSERT), plus reasonable costs and expenses not to exceed $30,000. To date, Class Counsel have incurred expenses on the Action without payment.

B. Up to $10,000 each to the Class Representatives as a Service Payment for litigating the Action, working with Class Counsel, and representing the Class. The Service Payments will be the only monies the Plaintiffs will receive other than their Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment.

C. $10,000 to the Settlement Administrator for services administering the Settlement.

D. $20,000 for PAGA Penalties, allocated 75% to the LWDA and 25% in Individual PAGA Payments to the Aggrieved Employees based on their share of Weeks Worked during the PAGA Period.

E. Participating Class Members have the right to object to any of these deductions. The Court will consider all objections.

3. Net Settlement Distributed to Class Members. After making the above deductions in amounts approved by the Court, the Settlement Administrator will distribute the rest of the remainder of the Settlement Amount (the "Net Settlement Amount") by making Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members based on their pro rata share of total Weeks Worked during the Class Period.

4. Taxes Owed on Payments to Class Members. Plaintiffs and Defendants are asking the Court to approve an allocation of 10% of each Individual Class Payment to taxable wages ("Wage Portion") and 90% to penalties and interest ("Non-Wage Portion"). The Wage Portion is subject to withholdings and will be reported on IRS W-2 Forms. Defendants will separately pay employer-side payroll taxes it owes on the Wage Portion. The Individual PAGA Payments are counted as penalties rather than wages for tax purposes. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments and the Non-Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

Although Plaintiffs and Defendants have agreed to these allocations, neither side is giving you any advice on whether your Payments are taxable or how much you might owe in taxes. You are responsible for paying all taxes (including penalties and interest on back taxes) on any Payments received from the proposed Settlement. You should consult a tax advisor if you have any questions about the tax consequences of the proposed Settlement.

5. Need to Promptly Cash Payment Checks. The front of every check issued for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments will show the date when the check expires (the "void date"). If you don't cash it by the void date, your check will be automatically cancelled, and the monies will be deposited with the California State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in your name. If the monies represented by your check is sent to the Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund, you should consult the rules of the Fund for instructions on how to retrieve your money. You will still be bound by the Judgment, even if you do not cash your check.

6. Requests for Exclusion from the Class Settlement (Opt-Outs). You will be treated as a Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Settlement, unless you opt-out of the Settlement, not later than the Response Deadline. See Section 6 of this Notice for details on how to Opt-Out.

7. The Proposed Settlement Will be Void If the Court Denies Final Approval. It is possible the Court will decline to grant Final Approval of the Settlement or decline to enter a Judgment. It is also possible the Court will enter a Judgment that is reversed on appeal. Plaintiffs and Defendants have agreed that, in either case, the Settlement will be void: Defendants will not pay any money and Class Members will not release any claims against Defendants.

8. Settlement Administrator. The Court has appointed a neutral company, Phoenix Settlement Administrators (the "Settlement Administrator") to send this Notice, calculate and make payments, and process Class Members' Requests for Exclusion and Objections. The Settlement Administrator will also assist the Parties with deciding any disputes over weeks worked, mail and re-mail (if necessary) settlement checks and tax forms, and perform other tasks necessary to administer the Settlement. The Settlement Administrator's contact information is contained in Section 9 of this Notice.

9. Participating Class Members' Release. After the Judgment is final and Defendants have fully funded the Settlement Amount, Participating Class Members will be legally barred from asserting any of the claims released under the Settlement. This means that unless you opted out by validly excluding yourself from the Class Settlement, you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendants or the "Released Parties" (which means Defendants, together with their respective former and present officers, directors, employees, and agents) based on the facts alleged in the Action for the duration of the Class Period, which are resolved by this Settlement.

The Participating Class Members will be bound by the following release:

> All Participating Class Members release the Defendants and the Released Parties from any and all claims stated in the Complaint, or that reasonably could have been alleged based upon the facts stated in the Complaint including claims arising out the following alleged

violations: (a) failure to pay minimum wages, (b) failure to pay overtime wages, (c) failure to provide meal periods, (d) failure to provide rest breaks, (e) failure to reimburse business expenses, (f) failure to timely pay final wages, (g) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, and (h) unfair and unlawful competition, as well as claims for restitution and other equitable relief, liquidated damages, or penalties and any other benefit, wages, penalties, or other amounts claimed on account of the allegations or the primary rights asserted in the Complaint. The time period governing the Released Class Claims shall be the Class Period. The Released Class Claims expressly excludes all claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, claims while classified as exempt, and claims outside of the Class Period.

10. Release of Released PAGA Claims. After the Court's judgment is final, and Defendants fully funded the Settlement Amount, Plaintiffs and the State of California and the LWDA shall completely release and discharge the Released Parties from the Released PAGA Claims for the PAGA Period, including all PAGA claims alleged in the Complaint, or that reasonably could have been based on the facts stated in the Complaint and in the relevant LWDA notice letters including all PAGA claims seeking civil penalties premised upon: (a) failure to pay minimum wages, (b) failure to pay overtime wages, (c) failure to provide meal periods, (d) failure to provide rest breaks, (e) failure to reimburse business expenses, (f) failure to pay vested vacation, (g) failure to timely pay wages each period, (h) failure to timely pay wages upon separation of employment, (i) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, and (j) all other claims for civil penalties recoverable under PAGA based on the facts or claims alleged in the LWDA notice letters and Complaint. The time period governing the Released PAGA Claims shall be any time during the PAGA Period. The Released PAGA Claims shall bind only Plaintiffs and State of California, but the judgment entered by the Court at Final Approval "binds all those, including nonparty aggrieved employees, who would be bound by a judgment in an action brought by the government." (*Arias v. Superior Court* (2009) 46 Cal.4th 969, 980-986.)

4. WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT TERMS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

1. Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual Class Payments by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of weeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period, and (b) multiplying the result by each Participating Class Members' Individual Workweeks during the Class Period.

2. Individual PAGA Payments. The Settlement Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing $5,000 by the total number of weeks worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by the number of Individual PAGA Workweeks for each Aggrieved Employee during the PAGA Period.

3. Disputing Weeks Worked. The number of weeks you worked during the Class and PAGA Periods, as recorded in Defendants' records, are stated in the tables on page 1 of this Notice. You have until DATE (the "Response Deadline") to dispute the number of Workweeks credited to you by submitting the Dispute Form along with supporting evidence to the Settlement Administrator. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information. You need to support your dispute by sending copies of pay stubs or other records. You should send copies rather than originals because the documents will not be returned to you. The Settlement Administrator will attempt to resolve challenges based on your submission and on input from Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel. If they cannot agree, your dispute will be submitted to the Court to render a final decision. You can't appeal or otherwise challenge its final decision.

5. HOW WILL I GET PAID?

1. Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single check to every Participating Class Member (which includes every Class Member who does not opt-out) and qualified Aggrieved Employee. The single check will combine the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment (if you are entitled to an Individual PAGA Payment).

2. Non-Participating Class Members/Aggrieved Employees Only. If you opted out of the Class settlement, but qualify as an Aggrieved Employee, then the Settlement Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single Individual PAGA Payment check to every Aggrieved Employee, including those who opt out of the Class Settlement.

Your check will be sent to the same address as this Notice. If you change your address, be sure to notify the Settlement Administrator as soon as possible. Section 9 of this Notice has the Settlement Administrator's contact information.

6. HOW DO I OPT-OUT OF THE CLASS SETTLEMENT?

You will be treated as a Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Settlement, unless you opt-out of the Settlement before the Response Deadline. To opt-out, you must complete, sign, and mail the accompanying Request for Exclusion Form to the Settlement Administrator, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline (as a reminder, **the "Response Deadline" is DATE**). Any person who submits a timely Request for Exclusion from the Class Claims (1) will not have any rights under this Settlement, including the right to object, appeal or comment on the Settlement; (2) will not be entitled to receive an Individual Class Payment; (3) will preserve the right to pursue the Released Class Claims, and (4) will not be bound by this Settlement, or the Judgment, as to the Released Class Claims.

You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Class Members who exclude themselves from the Class Claims remain eligible to receive an Individual PAGA Payment.

7. HOW DO I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT?

Only Participating Class Members have the right to object to the Settlement. A Participating Class Member who disagrees with any aspect of the Settlement may wish to object. If you wish to object to the proposed Settlement, you or your own attorney must submit a written objection on the enclosed Objection Form and include any and all evidence and supporting documentation or papers. The Objection Form and any accompanying documentation and papers must be sent to the Settlement Administrator at the address listed in Section 9 on the Objection Form, **postmarked** on or before the Response Deadline. If you do not comply with these procedures and the deadline for objections, the Court may not consider your objection at the Final Approval Hearing, and you may lose the right to contest the approval of the Settlement. You are still eligible to receive a settlement payment should the settlement become Final even if you object to the settlement. Submitting an objection does not preserve the right to appeal a final judgment. Rather, the right to appeal is preserved by becoming a party of record by timely and properly intervening or filing a motion to vacate the judgment before entry of judgment.

8. WHEN IS THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING?

On ________________, _____, at ____ a.m./p.m., the Court will hold a public hearing in Department 1 of the Superior Court for the State of California, County of Riverside, 4050 Main St, Riverside, CA 92501, for the purposes of determining whether the proposed Settlement is fair, adequate and reasonable and should be approved, whether to approve Class Counsel's applications for attorneys' fees and costs, whether to approve the proposed payment to the LWDA, and whether to approve Plaintiffs' request for the service award. This hearing may be continued or rescheduled by the Court. Objectors to the proposed settlement will be provided notice in the event that the Final Approval Hearing is continued to a later date. Class Members who support the proposed Settlement do not need to appear at the hearing and do not need to take any other action to indicate their approval. Class Members who object to the proposed Settlement are not required to attend the Final Approval Hearing.

9. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

If you have questions about this Notice, the enclosed Request for Exclusion Form, Objection Form, the dispute process, or the Settlement itself, or if you did not receive this Notice in the mail and you believe that you are or may be a member of the Class, you should contact the Administrator for more information or to request that a copy of this Notice Packet and related forms be sent to you in the mail. If you wish to communicate directly with Class Counsel, you may contact them at the information below. You may also seek advice and guidance from your own private attorney at your own expense if you so desire.

This Notice is only a summary. For more detailed information, you may review the Settlement Agreement, containing the complete terms of the proposed Settlement, which is on file with the Court and attached to the Declaration of Brian J. Mankin in Support of Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement filed on DATE and available to be inspected at any time during regular business hours at the Clerk's Office, Superior Court for the State of California, County of Riverside, 4050 Main St, Riverside, CA 92501. You may also review the pleadings, records, and other papers on file in this lawsuit at the Clerk's Office or online at https://epublic-access.riverside.courts.ca.gov/public-portal/. To access the case file, click on "Case Number Search," then create a free online account, then type in the case number (CVRI2402875) where requested, and click "Search." You may also email Class Counsel and request a copy of the Settlement Agreement.

DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT

The contact information for Class Counsel and the Settlement Administrator are below:

Class Counsel		**Settlement Administrator**
Brian Mankin, Esq. *brian@LMLfirm.com* Peter Carlson, Esq. *peter@LMLfirm.com* Lauby Mankin Lauby LLP 5198 Arlington Ave, PMB 513 Riverside, CA 92504 Tel: (951) 320-1444	Douglas Han, Esq. *doug@justicelawcorp.com* Lily Short, Esq. *lshort@justicelawcorp.com* Justice Law Corporation 751 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 101 Pasadena, California 91103 Tel: (818) 230-7502	Phoenix Settlement Administrators Mailing Address Telephone Number

10. WHAT IF I LOSE MY SETTLEMENT CHECK?

If you lose or misplace your settlement check before cashing it, the Settlement Administrator will replace it as long as you request a replacement before the void date on the face of the original check. If your check is already void, you should consult the Unclaimed Property Fund for instructions on how to retrieve the funds.

11. WHAT IF I CHANGE MY ADDRESS?

To receive your check, you should immediately notify the Settlement Administrator if you move or otherwise change your mailing address.

EXHIBIT “C”

REQUEST FOR EXCLUSION FORM

Brown and Amster v. Joshua's Pest Control et al.
(Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. CVRI2402875)

[NAME]
[ADDRESS LINE 1]
[ADDRESS LINE 2]

DO YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT AND RECEIVE A SETTLEMENT CHECK? (check the box that applies)

☐ **YES: *STOP HERE* -- DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM. NO FURTHER ACTION IS NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT.**

☐ **NO: SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO EXCLUDE YOURSELF FROM THE SETTLEMENT.**

DEFENDANTS WILL NOT RETALIATE AGAINST YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS SETTLEMENT

By signing below, I am excluding myself from the Settlement:

By signing below, I represent that I do NOT want to participate in the settlement in *Brown et al. v. Joshua's Pest Control et al.* (Riverside Superior Court Case No. CVRI2402875). I understand by excluding myself that I will no longer be a Class Member, and I will not receive an Individual Class Payment. I further understand that I cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement, and that if I qualify as an Aggrieved Employee (see first page of the Notice), I will receive an Individual PAGA Payment and will have no right to pursue the Released PAGA Claims even if I exclude myself.

Signed on ___________________, 2025 ____
[NAME]

MAIL TO THE SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR, BY U.S. MAIL, POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN [INSERT DEADLINE]:

Settlement Administrator:
Name Mailing Address Telephone Number

EXHIBIT “D”

OBJECTION FORM

Brown and Amster v. Joshua's Pest Control et al.
(Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. CVRI2402875)

[NAME]
[ADDRESS LINE 1]
[ADDRESS LINE 2]

DO YOU OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT? (check the box that applies)

☐ **NO: *STOP HERE* -- DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM**

☐ **YES: COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM**

The Court will consider your objection at the Final Approval Hearing if you submit a timely and valid written statement of objection. Any objection should describe the nature of and basis for the objection, and any other information that you would like the Court to consider.

I OBJECT to the Settlement in the case of *Brown et al. v. Joshua's Pest Control et al.* (Riverside Superior Court Case No. CVRI2402875) on the following grounds (if additional space is necessary, please include additional sheets of paper):

____

____

____

Signed on ___________________, 2025 ____
[NAME]

MAIL TO THE SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR, BY U.S. MAIL, POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN [INSERT DEADLINE]:

Settlement Administrator:
Name Mailing Address Telephone Number

EXHIBIT “E”

DISPUTE FORM

Brown and Amster v. Joshua's Pest Control et al.
(Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. CVRI2402875)

Please verify and/or complete any missing identifying information:

[NAME]
[ADDRESS LINE 1]
[ADDRESS LINE 2]

The following charts are based on the records of Defendants and reflect the number of weeks worked for Defendant Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., in California as a nonexempt (hourly paid) during the applicable periods.

Data Points for Calculations of Individual Class Payment	
Weeks Worked from 5/24/2020 through 7/29/2025	INSERT

Data Points for Calculations of Individual PAGA Payment	
Weeks Worked from 5/24/2023 through 7/29/2025	INSERT

DO YOU DISAGREE WITH ANY OF THE INFORMATION ABOVE AND WANT THE PARTIES AND ADMINISTRATOR TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER?

☐ **NO: STOP HERE -- DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM.**

☐ **YES: COMPLETE THE REVERSE SIDE AND RETURN THIS FORM.**

Please state why you believe that you should be credited with more Weeks Worked than shown in the chart and attach copies (not originals) of supporting documentation. The Parties and Settlement Administrator will consider your challenge and make a determination as to these issues.

____

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Signed on ____________________, 2025 ____

[NAME]

MAIL TO THE SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR, BY U.S. MAIL, POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN [INSERT DEADLINE]:

Settlement Administrator:
Name Mailing Address Telephone Number

EXHIBIT “F”

May 24, 2024

Submitted Via Online Filing to the LWDA

California LWDA
Attn: PAGA Administrator
455 Golden Gate Ave., 9th Fl.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Sent Via U.S. Mail and Certified Mail

Please See Attached Service List

Re: **PAGA Civil Penalty Claim**
Justin Brown v. Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., et al.

To the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., Moxie Pest Control, L.P., Moxie Pest Control (Orange County), L.P., Moxie Advisors, LLC, Walton Holdings GP, LLC, MGFleming Holdings, Inc., Jason Walton, Kristen Walton, Michael Gavin Fleming, and Madison Anne Fleming

Pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA"), Labor Code §§ 2699, *et seq.*, this letter shall serve as notification of the PAGA civil penalty claim of aggrieved employee Drew Oldfield ("Claimant"), on behalf of the State of California and all Aggrieved Employees, against his former employers, Joshua's Pest Control, L.P., Moxie Pest Control, L.P., Moxie Pest Control (Orange County), L.P., Moxie Advisors, LLC, Walton Holdings GP, LLC, MGFleming Holdings, Inc. and any affiliated entities, as well as the companies' respective owners/officers, including Jason Walton, Kristen Walton, Michael Gavin Fleming, and Madison Anne Fleming (the "Owners") (collectively, the "Company") for violations of Labor Code §§ 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 208, 210, 218.6, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1199, and 2802, among possibly other sections inadvertently omitted, and/or sections of the applicable IWC Wage Order(s).

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Claimant was employed by the Company from 2023 through May 2024 and alleges that he and all other nonexempt employees employed by the Company in California (the "Aggrieved Employees") were subjected to the same policies, working conditions, and corresponding wage and hour violations to which Claimant was subjected during employment.

For instance, at all relevant times, Claimant and the Aggrieved Employees were not provided proper minimum, regular, and overtime wages due to the Company's failure to accurately record and compensate for all hours worked at the proper rate of pay, which, led to frequent and reoccurring unpaid compensable time. See *Troester v. Starbucks Corporation* (2018) 5 Cal.5th 829 (California law "do[es] not allow employers to require employees to routinely work for minutes off the clock without compensation"); See also *Frlekin v. Apple Inc.* (2020) 8 Cal.5th 1038 (tasks are compensable when employee is under company's control and where the tasks served the employer's interests).

Additionally, Claimant and the Aggrieved Employees often worked more than 8 hours per day and/or 40 hours per week yet did not receive all required overtime compensation on such occasions. Also, at all relevant times, Claimant and the Aggrieved Employees were compensated on an hourly basis plus additional earned compensation (including commissions and bonuses). However, on the occasions when the Aggrieved Employees worked overtime hours and received additional earned compensation during the same workweek, the Company failed to properly include these amounts in the calculations for the regular rate of pay – in violation of California law and which led to the failure to pay proper overtime.

Claimant and the Aggrieved Employees were also not provided 30-minute off-duty meal periods, as mandated by California law, during employment with the Company, yet the Company did not pay all required wage premiums (including at the "regular rate" per § 226.7). As a result of the Company's policies and practices, as well as the hectic and demanding workload, Claimant was subjected to meal period violations when: (1) unable to take a meal period due to workload, (2) forced to take an on-duty meal period while under the control of the Company, (3) forced to take a shortened meal period, (4) forced to take a meal period after the 5th hour of work, and (5) not provided a second meal period for shifts in excess of 10 hours.

The Company also failed to provide Claimant with 10 minutes of net rest break time for every 4 hours worked, or major fraction thereof, as mandated by California law. Claimant was often not authorized and/or permitted to take mandated rest breaks. Furthermore, on occasions when Claimant worked 10 hours or more in a shift, the Company failed to authorize and/or permit the mandated additional rest breaks.

Also, the Company required Claimant and the Aggrieved Employees to incur necessary business-related expenses and costs without reimbursement, including, but not limited to, expenses related to using personal cellular phones to communicate with the Company and customers. Moreover, at all relevant times, the Company utilized a policy and practice through which Claimant and the Aggrieved Employees accrued vacation and/or PTO hours (collectively, "vacation hours"). However, on the occasions when Claimant and the Aggrieved Employees had accrued but unused vacation hours upon separation of employment, Defendants failed to pay for these earned wages and, further, failed to pay for vested and unused vacation at the "final rate" as required by Labor Code § 227.3.

The Company also failed to comply with the mandates of Labor Code §§ 204 and 210 regarding the timing of the payment of wages to its employees each period, including minimum and overtime wages, as well as meal and rest period premiums. Also, the Company failed to comply with the mandates of Labor Code §§ 201–203 regarding timing of payment of final wages and failed to pay all wages due and owing upon separation of employment including minimum wages, overtime, meal and rest break premiums, vacation wages, and the Company further failed to pay the Aggrieved Employees for mandated sick time at a rate "calculated in the same manner as the regular rate of pay" as required by Labor Code § 246.

Finally, during employment with the Company, Claimant received inaccurate and incomplete wage statements that failed to accurately state all necessary items required under Labor Code § 226(a).

Claimant alleges that he worked under the joint direction and control of the Company and the Owners and is informed and believes that each of them acted in all respects pertinent to this action as the agent of the others, carried out a joint scheme, business plan or policy in all respect pertinent hereto, and the acts of each are legally attributable to the others. On information and belief, a unity of interest and ownership between each exists such that the Company and the Owners acted as a single employer of Claimant and the Aggrieved Employees. Furthermore, on information and belief, the Company and the Owners are an integrated enterprise and should be treated as a single employer because the Company and the Owners share an interrelation of operations, with common human resources and personnel policies and shared common offices and facilities. Upon information and belief, the Company and the Owners share common management, a centralized control of labor operations, and common ownership or financial control.

Furthermore, Claimant alleges that the Owners are now and at all material times herein mentioned were the owners/officers of the Company, and Claimant's and the Aggrieved Employees' actual employer or, in the alternative, were individuals employed by the Company as a managerial and/or supervisory employee and/or agent. In addition, Claimant alleges that at all relevant times herein the Owners had the authority, in the interest of the Company to exercise independent judgment to hire, transfer, promote, discharge, assign, discipline, or take other similar actions against Claimant and the Aggrieved Employees, and were in Claimant's chain of command at the time of and direct participants in the wrongful conduct which constitutes the basis of Claimant's complaint herein. Claimant also alleges that the Company and the Owners are the agents, servants, employees, partners, affiliates, and/or representatives of each other, and were, at all times herein mentioned, acting within the course, scope, and purpose of such relationship(s) and with the knowledge, consent and/or ratification of each other. Furthermore, in conducting themselves in the manner described herein, the Company and the Owners were acting in active concert with on another such that the acts of each were fully attributable to the other in all material respects.

Claimant also alleges that the Company was merely the alter ego of the Owners in that there existed a unity of interest and ownership such that any separateness between them ceased to exist and the Owners exercised undue dominance, control, influence, and management over the Company. Claimant further alleges that, at all relevant times, the Company has been inadequately capitalized to conduct its business, has failed to follow appropriate corporate formalities, and has simply been a shell and instrumentality through which the Owners have conducted their personal affairs. Accordingly, the corporate veil should be pierced, and any liability attached to the Company should be imposed jointly and severally against the Owners. Adherence to the fiction of the separate existence of the corporate entity of the Company would permit abuse of the corporate privilege, thereby sanctioning fraud and promoting injustice.

Also, in a separate, but not necessarily mutually exclusive, alternative theory of liability, the Owners are liable for PAGA civil penalties under Labor Code § 558 as "other person(s)" who caused the violations regarding minimum wage among other claims. *See Atempa v. Pedrazzani* (2018) 27 Cal.App.5th 809, 820 ("if there is evidence and a finding that a party other than the employer 'violates, or causes to be violated' the overtime laws (§ 558(a)) or 'pays or causes to be paid to any employee' less than minimum wage (§ 1197.1(a)), then that party is liable for certain civil penalties regardless of the identity or business structure of the employer"); *Moua v. IBM* (N.D. Cal. 2019) 2019 U.S.Dist.LEXIS 40851 (holding the same)

Based on Claimant's own personal observations, all Aggrieved Employees employed or formerly employed by the Company are entitled to similar wage and hour claims, as further set forth below.

PAGA ASSESSMENT FOR FAILURE TO PAY ALL MINIMUM, REGULAR, AND OVERTIME WAGES

(Labor Code §§ 204, 210, 221-223, 510, 558, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198; IWC Wage Order §§ 3, 4(B))

As discussed above, the Company failed to pay all required minimum, regular, and overtime wages to Claimant and the Aggrieved Employees. This resulted in earned, but unpaid, wages due and owing to Claimant and the Aggrieved Employees. Therefore, Claimants and the Aggrieved Employees performed work for the Company without receiving proper payment of the requisite minimum, regular, overtime, and/or doubletime wages. Accordingly, Labor Code §§ 210, 558, 1194.2, 1197.1, and 2699, among possibly others, impose various penalties upon the Company for each employee and each pay period in which it failed to pay all wages including, but not limited to, minimum, regular, and overtime wages in violation of the Labor Code and/or the IWC Wage Orders.

PAGA ASSESSMENT FOR DENIAL OF MEAL PERIODS, REST BREAKS, AND WAGE PREMIUMS
(Labor Code §§ 226.7(b) & (c), 512, 558; Cal. Admin. Code, Title 8, § 11090)

Labor Code § 226.7(b) states that "[a]n employer shall not require an employee to work during a meal or rest or recovery period mandated pursuant to an applicable statute, or applicable regulation, standard, or order of the Industrial Welfare Commission …" Labor Code § 512(a) states in pertinent part: "[A]n employer may not employ an employee for a work period of more than 5 hours per day without providing the employee with an uninterrupted meal period of not less than 30 minutes […] [a]n employer may not employ an employee for a work period of more than 10 hours per day without providing the employee with a second meal period of not less than 30 minutes." Section 12 of applicable IWC Wage Order states in pertinent part: "Every employer shall authorize and permit all employees to take rest periods, which insofar as practicable shall be in the middle of each work period. The authorized rest period time shall be based on the total hours worked daily at the rate of ten (10) minutes net rest time per four (4) hours or major fraction thereof."

Here, Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees were regularly not provided compliant mandatory meal periods and paid rest breaks due to the Company's policies described above. Although the Company was required to pay Claimant and all Aggrieved Employees premium wages equal to an additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay for each violation under Labor Code § 226.7(c), the Company did not pay the mandatory one-hour wage premiums and did not do so at the proper rate. Labor Code § 558 imposes a penalty for each violation, plus an amount sufficient to recover the underpaid wages. Additionally, the civil assessment set forth in Labor Code § 2699 applies to these violations.

FAILURE TO PAY VESTED VACATION UPON SEPARATION OF EMPLOYMENT
(Labor Code § 227.3)

Pursuant to Labor Code § 227.3, an employer that has implemented a paid vacation, paid time off, or compensated time off policy must, upon an employee's separation from employment, pay to the employee all vested but unused vacation and/or paid time off at her final rate of pay. However, as alleged herein, the Company failed to pay all vested vacation upon separation of employment and, further, only paid vested vacation upon separation at the base rate of pay, leading to a violation on each such occasion. As a result of these violations, penalties may be assessed pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.

PAGA ASSESSMENT FOR FAILURE TO REIMBURSE BUSINESS EXPENSES
(Labor Code § 2802; IWC Wage Order § 9(b))

Labor Code § 2802(a) states "An employer shall indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her duties." Here, the Company required Claimant and the Aggrieved Employees to incur expenses in direct consequence of the discharge of their duties. Accordingly, Labor Code § 2699 imposes a penalty upon the Company for each such violation of Labor Code § 2802.

PAGA ASSESSMENT FOR FAILURE TO PAY SICK TIME AT PROPER RATE OF PAY
(Labor Code § 246)

Labor Code § 246(l)(1) provides that paid sick time for non-exempt employees must be "calculated in the same manner as the regular rate of pay for the workweek in which the employee uses paid sick time, whether or not the employee actually works overtime in that workweek." Additionally, Labor Code § 246(l)(2) states that the paid sick time must be "calculated by dividing the employee's total wages, not including overtime premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment."

Here, Claimant and the Aggrieved Employees were compensated on an hourly basis plus additional compensation. However, when Aggrieved Employees took sick time and received paid sick leave, the Company only paid sick time at the base rate of pay, not factoring in the additional compensation as required by Labor Code §§ 246(l)(1-2). As such, penalties may be assessed pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.

PAGA ASSESSMENT FOR VIOLATION OF IWC WAGE ORDERS
(Labor Code § 1174; IWC Wage Order § 6(A); IWC Wage Order § 7(A))

Labor Code § 1174 and the relevant IWC Wage Order required the Company to accurately record and maintain "each employee's "[t]ime records showing when the employee begins and ends each work period," the time that each meal period began and ended, daily hours worked, and total hours worked in the payroll period. The Company failed to comply with these requirements, triggering civil penalties under §§ 1174.5 and/or 2699 each period.

PAGA ASSESSMENT FOR FAILURE TO PAY ALL WAGES DUE AND OWING EACH PAYROLL PERIOD WITHIN THE TIME REQUIRED BY LAW
(Labor Code §§ 204, 204.1, 208, 210, 256 and 2699)

Under Labor Code § 204(a), wages are due and payable twice during each calendar month, and further states that wages earned during the first through fifteenth days of the month must be paid no later than the twenty-sixth day of the month, and that wages earned between the sixteenth and last day of the month must be paid by the tenth day of the following month. Labor Code § 204(d) states "[t]he requirements of this section shall be deemed satisfied by the payment of wages for weekly, biweekly, or semimonthly payroll if the wages are paid not more than seven calendar days following the close of the payroll period." As a result of the Company's failure to pay Claimant and the Aggrieved Employees all compensation to which they were entitled, the Company had a pattern and practice of failing to pay all wages due and owing to Claimant and the Aggrieved Employees within the time mandated by Labor Code § 204. As a result of these violations, penalties may be assessed pursuant to Labor Code §§ 210 and/or 2699.

PAGA ASSESSMENT FOR FAILURE TO TIMELY PAY FINAL WAGES
(Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 256 and 2699)

Labor Code § 201(a) provides in pertinent part: "If an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately." Labor Code § 202(a) states in pertinent part "If an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours' previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting." Labor Code § 203(a) states "If an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, […] any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than 30 days."

The Company did not pay the Aggrieved Employees all wages that were due and owing within the required time following the end of their employment in accordance with Labor Code §§ 201-202. As a result, all such Aggrieved Employees are entitled to 30 days of wages as a "waiting time penalty." (Labor Code § 203.) Labor Code § 2699 also imposes a penalty.

PAGA ASSESSMENT FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE, ITEMIZED WAGE STATEMENTS

(Labor Code §§ 226, 226.3, and 1174)

Labor Code § 226(a) requires an employer to provide its employees with itemized wage statements accurately stating gross wages earned, total hours worked, all deductions, net wages earned, the inclusive dates of the pay period, the employee's name and the last four digits of his or her Social Security number (or employee identification number), the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

Here, the Company failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements due to violations including: failure to accurately state total hours worked (the paystubs failed to accurately reflect total compensable hours); failure to accurately state gross/net wages earned and all deductions (due to the failure to pay all required minimum/overtime and other wages); failure to state the applicable hourly rates (including the accurate overtime rate of pay); failure to state the accurate start/end dates of the pay period; failure to accurately state the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and; failure to accurately state the number of hours worked at each hourly rate. Additionally, the Company's wage statements directly violated Labor Code § 226(a) each period due to the failure to pay and report premium wages for denied meal/rest breaks under § 226.7. Accordingly, Labor Code §§ 226.3 and 2699 impose civil penalties for these violations.

PAGA ASSESSMENT FOR VIOLATIONS OF LABOR CODE § 1199

(Labor Code § 1199)

An employer violates Labor Code § 1199 if said employer: (a) requires or causes an employee to work for longer hours than those fixed, or under conditions of labor prohibited by an order of the commission; (b) pays or causes to be paid to any employee a wage less than the minimum fixed by an order of the commission; or, (c) violates or refuses or neglects to comply with any provision of this chapter or any order or ruling of the commission. Labor Code § 2699.5 specifically enumerates Labor Code § 1199 as a section to which the civil penalties under the PAGA apply. Therefore, as a result of the Company's violations described herein, the Company is subject to civil penalties in accordance with Labor Code § 2699.

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ATTORNEYS' FEES, INTEREST, AND PENALTIES
(Labor Code §§ 2699(f)(2), 2699(g)(1), 2699.5)

Labor Code § 2699(g)(1), give employees the right to recover in a civil action the unpaid balance of the full amount of wages, including interest thereon, penalties and other damages, as applicable, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs of suit. Additionally, Claimant seeks the assessment of penalties, including civil penalties, under Labor Code §§ 203, 210, 225.5, 226.3, 1174.5, 1197.1, 2699, and/or § 20 of the IWC Wage Orders, among possibly other provisions inadvertently omitted herein. Furthermore, Claimant is entitled to bring a wage/hour claim on behalf of all current and former similarly situated employees of the Company. Thus, the Company is exposed to these same penalties for violations involving all Aggrieved Employees. Additionally, Claimant seeks attorney's fees pursuant to Labor Code § 218.5 and C.C.P. § 1021.5. Please construe this correspondence as Claimants' notification of alleged wrongdoing and attempted resolution in accordance with C.C.P. § 1021.5 and *Graham v. DaimlerChrysler Corp.* (2004) 34 Cal.4th 553.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, the Company may be liable for civil penalties related to the foregoing claims and remedies. If Claimant becomes aware of any additional claims for Labor Code violations related to his employment or other employees of the Company, he reserves the right to supplement this notice letter.

Respectfully,

By: Peter J. Carlson, Esq.
E-mail: peter@lmlfirm.com

Service List

Joshua's Pest Control, L.P.
6867 Nancy Ridge Dr., Suite E
San Diego, CA 92121

Moxie Pest Control, L.P.
13725 Trento Pl.
San Diego, CA 92130

Moxie Pest Control (Orange County), L.P.
18 Technology Dr., Suite 154
Irvine, CA 92618

Moxie Advisors, LLC
5126 Meadows Del Mar
San Diego, CA 92130

Walton Holdings GP, LLC
51 E. 3990 N.
Provo, UT 84604

MGFleming Holdings, Inc.
27 Via Alcamo
San Clemente, CA 92673

Jason Walton
13725 Trento Pl.
San Diego, CA 92130

Kristen Walton
51 E. 3990 N.
Provo, UT 84604

Michael Gavin Fleming
27 Via Alcamo
San Clemente, CA 92673

Madison Anne Fleming
27 Via Alcamo
San Clemente, CA 92673

EXHIBIT “G”