

Clerk of the Superior Court
By T. Automation ,Deputy Clerk

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*Attorneys for Plaintiffs Maria Bermudez and
Heather Parker*

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

MARIA BERMUDEZ, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

LENDMARK FINANCIAL SERVICES,
LLC, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 24CU013255C

*Hon. Euketa Oliver
Dept. 75*

CLASS ACTION

**Plaintiffs' Notice of Entry of Order Granting
Final Approval of Class Action Settlement
and Attorneys' Fees and Costs and Entering
Judgment**

Action Filed: September 25, 2024

1 TO THE COURT, ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD, PLEASE
2 TAKE NOTICE THAT:

3 1. On January 9, 2026, at 9:0 a.m. in this Department, the Court entered the Order Granting
4 Final Approval of Class Action Settlement and Attorneys' Fees and Costs and Entering Judgment
5 attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

6 2. The Judge confirmed the Court's Tentative Ruling attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

7 3. A conformed copy of this Notice will be submitted to the LWDA via its online electronic
8 portal in accordance with Labor Code § 2699(s)(3).

9 4. Notice of the Court's final ruling and entry of judgment is hereby provided.

10
11 Respectfully submitted,

12
13 Dated: January 12, 2026

Ferraro Vega Employment Lawyers, Inc.

14
15 

Nicholas J. Ferraro

Lauren N. Vega

Ricardo De Leon

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs Maria Bermudez and
Heather Parker*

EXHIBIT 1

FILED
Clerk of the Superior Court

JAN 09 2026

By: N. Calantoc, Deputy

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

MARIA BERMUDEZ, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

LENDMARK FINANCIAL SERVICES,
LLC, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 24CU013255C

Hon. **EUKETA OLIVER**
Dept. 75

CLASS ACTION

**~~Proposed~~ Order Granting Final Approval of
Class Action Settlement and Attorneys' Fees
and Costs and Entering Judgment**

Motion for Final Approval/Attorneys' Fees:

Date: January 9, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

[Filed concurrently with Plaintiffs' Notice of
Motion and Motion for Final Approval of Class
Action Settlement, Plaintiffs' Memorandum of
Points and Authorities, Declaration of Nicholas J.
Ferraro, Declaration of Robert L. Shipley,
Declaration of Settlement Administrator,
Declaration of Maria Bermudez, and Declaration
of Heather Parker]

Action Filed: September 25, 2024

**~~Proposed~~ Order Granting Final Approval of Class Action Settlement
and Attorneys' Fees and Costs and Entering Judgment**

1 This matter came on for hearing on January 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 75 of the above-
2 captioned Court, the Honorable James Mangione presiding, on (1) Plaintiffs' Motion for Final
3 Approval of Class Action Settlement and (2) Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs.

4 Having received and considered the motions and supporting papers, including the Class Action
5 and PAGA Settlement Agreement ("Settlement"), the evidence and documents received by the Court
6 in connection with the Motions for Final Approval and Attorneys' Fees and Costs, and the previously
7 decided Motion for Preliminary Approval, the Court GRANTS FINAL APPROVAL of the Settlement
8 and ORDERS AND MAKES THE FOLLOWING DETERMINATIONS:

9 1. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement and the Order Granting Preliminary Approval,
10 and the Settlement, a notice was sent to each class member by first-class U.S. mail. The notice
11 informed the class of the terms of the Settlement, their right to receive a settlement payment without
12 any required action, their right to comment upon or object to the Settlement, and their right to appear
13 in person or by counsel at the Final Approval Hearing and to be heard regarding approval of the
14 Settlement. Adequate periods of time were provided for each of these procedures.

15 2. Zero class members returned a written objection to the proposed Settlement as part of
16 the notice process or stated an intention to appear at the Final Approval Hearing and there we no
17 dissenting appearances from class members at the hearing. No class members requested exclusion
18 from the Settlement.

19 3. The Court finds and determines the notice procedure afforded adequate protection to the
20 class and provides the basis for the Court's informed decision regarding approval of the Settlement
21 based the response. The Court finds and determines the notice provided was the best notice
22 practicable, satisfying the requirements of law and due process.

23 4. For purposes of approving this Settlement only, this Court finds and concludes: (a) the
24 proposed class is ascertainable and so numerous that joinder of all members of the class is
25 impracticable; (b) there are questions of law or fact common to the proposed class, and there is a well-
26 defined community of interest among members of the class with respect to the subject matter of the
27 claims; (c) the claims of the representative are typical of the claims of the class; (d) the class
28 representative has and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class; (e) a class action is

1 superior to other available methods for an efficient adjudication of this controversy in the context of
2 settlement; and (f) the law firm of Ferraro Vega Employment Lawyers, Inc. is qualified and adequate
3 to serve as Class Counsel in this action.

4 5. The Court confirms certification, for settlement purposes only, of the class as defined in
5 the Settlement and approved at the preliminary approval stage.

6 6. The Court finds and determines the terms set forth in the Settlement are fair, reasonable,
7 and adequate and, having found the Settlement was reached as a result of informed and non-collusive
8 arms'-length negotiations facilitated by a neutral and experienced mediator, directs the Parties to
9 effectuate the Settlement according to its terms. The Court further finds the Parties conducted
10 extensive investigation, research, and informal discovery, and that their attorneys were able to
11 reasonably evaluate their respective positions. The Court also finds that Settlement will enable the
12 Parties to avoid additional and potentially substantial litigation costs, as well as delay and risks if the
13 Parties were to continue to litigate the case. The Court has reviewed the monetary recovery and
14 recognizes the significant value provided to the Class. Therefore, the Court approves the Settlement
15 and incorporates the terms of the Settlement in full into this Final Approval Order as though fully set
16 forth herein.

17 7. The Court finds and determines the fees and expenses in administering the Settlement
18 incurred by the Settlement Administrator of \$8,000 are fair and reasonable. The Court orders these
19 administration costs be paid in accordance with the terms of the Settlement.

20 8. The Court finds and determines the Service Award totaling \$20,000, \$10,000 to Plaintiff
21 Bermudez and \$10,000 to Plaintiff Parker, as fair and reasonable. The Court orders the service awards
22 be paid in accordance with the terms of the Settlement.

23 9. The Court finds and determines payment to the California Labor and Workforce
24 Development Agency of \$15,000, as its 75% share of the civil penalties under the Private Attorneys
25 General Act is fair, reasonable, and appropriate. The Court orders that amount be paid in accordance
26 with the terms of the Settlement and approves the settlement of claims under the Private Attorneys
27 General Act pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(s)(2).
28

1 10. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement and the statutory provisions authorizing
2 attorneys' fees under the California Labor Code and Code of Civil Procedure, as set forth in the Motion
3 for Attorneys' Fees, the Court awards Class Counsel attorneys' fees of \$216,450 and litigation costs
4 of \$18,076.43. Class Counsel has sufficiently explained the basis for the fee award based on a
5 percentage of the fund. The Court finds such amounts to be fair and reasonable. The Court orders the
6 Settlement Administrator to make these payments in accordance with the Settlement.

7 11. Without affecting the finality of this Order or the entry of judgment in any way, the
8 Court retains jurisdiction of all matters relating to the interpretation, administration, implementation,
9 and enforcement of this Order and the Settlement.

10 12. Nothing in this Order shall preclude any action to enforce the Parties' obligations under
11 the Settlement or under this Order, including the requirement that Defendant make payments to Class
12 Members in accordance with the Settlement.

13 13. The Court hereby ENTERS FINAL JUDGMENT in accordance with the terms of the
14 Settlement, in accordance with this Final Approval Order and Judgment.

15 14. The Parties shall comply with Cal. Rules of Court Rule 3.771(b), by filing a Notice of
16 Entry of Judgment with the Court.

17
18 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

19
20 Date: 1/9/2026


The Honorable Euketa Oliver
Judge of the Superior Court

EXHIBIT 2

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
CENTRAL COURTHOUSE
TENTATIVE RULINGS - January 08, 2026

HEARING DATE: HEARING TIME: DEPT.:

JUDICIAL OFFICER:

CASE NO.:24CU013255C

CASE TITLE: Bermudez vs Lendmark Financial Services LLC

CASE TYPE: (U)Other Employment

HEARING TYPE:

Plaintiffs' Unopposed Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement and Attorney's Fees is granted.

The payment of \$15,000 to the LWDA and \$5,000 to Aggrieved PAGA Employees is approved.

Plaintiffs' request for an enhancement award of \$10,000 each for Maria Bermudez and Heather Parker is granted. The settlement administrator cost of \$8,000 is also approved.

Plaintiffs request attorney's fees of \$216,450 or one-third of the gross settlement amount. To support this request, Plaintiffs have provided a lodestar cross-check based on 187.40 hours of work at an hourly rate of \$550 for Robert L. Shipley, APLC and 77 hours of work at an hourly rate of \$600 for Ferraro Vega Employment Lawyers, Inc. Consequently, Counsels' lodestar is \$103,070 and \$46,200, respectively, for a total lodestar of \$149,270. The Court finds that a 1.45 multiplier is warranted. Therefore, the Court finds the amount requested reasonable and grants attorney's fees of \$216,450. Plaintiffs are also awarded actual litigation costs of \$18,076.43.

The Court is prepared to sign the proposed order upon confirmation of the tentative.