

Miriam L. Schimmel (State Bar No. 185089)
mschimmel@blackstonepc.com
Joana Fang (State Bar No. 309623)
jfang@blackstonepc.com
Alexandra Rose (State Bar No. 329407)
arose@blackstonepc.com
Jared C. Osborne (State Bar No. 335968)
josborne@blackstonepc.com
Jasmine Y. Kianfard (State Bar No. 349975)
jkianfard@blackstonepc.com
BLACKSTONE LAW, APC
8383 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 745
Beverly Hills, California 90211
Tel: (310) 622-4278 / Fax: (855) 786-6356

Attorneys for Plaintiff COLTON RAY,
individually, and on behalf of Aggrieved Employees
pursuant to the California Private Attorneys General Act

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

COLTON RAY, individually, and on behalf
of Aggrieved Employees pursuant to the
California Private Attorneys General Act,

Plaintiff,

vs.

PAPÉ MACHINERY, INC.; THE PAPÉ
GROUP, INC.; and DOES 1 through
25, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. CV2402126

Honorable Timothy A. Canning
Department 4

**DECLARATION OF COLTON RAY IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
APPROVAL OF PAGA SETTLEMENT,
ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS, SERVICE
AWARD, AND SETTLEMENT
ADMINISTRATION COSTS**

Date: April 20, 2026
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Department: 4

Complaint Filed: November 4, 2024
FAC Filed: March 11, 2026
Trial Date: None Set

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1 much information as I could.

2 6. I understood that in the event this matter did not settle and proceeded with trial, I would
3 need to be in court to participate in the trial. I was ready to perform that role, as well as fulfill any
4 responsibilities that are necessary for this lawsuit.

5 7. I know that I took a sizeable risk by bringing and pursuing this lawsuit for several
6 reasons. First, I understood that if I lost, I would potentially have to pay the costs in the lawsuit. I
7 also understood there was a risk of losing any current job and/or income due to the time that I would
8 have to miss work in order to fulfill my duties and responsibilities in this matter, including having to
9 attend the trial, if needed. Most importantly, I believe that by pursuing this case, I have taken a
10 significant risk because future employers can easily find out that I sued my prior employer, and that
11 may negatively impact my ability to find employment within this industry – and even outside of it –
12 in the future. In contrast, the other employees who will be receiving money from this lawsuit did not
13 have to file a claim or take the risk that I took in bringing this action.

14 8. I reviewed the settlement agreement, discussed the settlement agreement with my
15 attorneys, and asked them questions before signing it.

16 9. I believe that I have done everything that my attorneys have asked of me and tried, to
17 the best of my ability, to seek relief for the Aggrieved Employees and the State of California. I have
18 spent approximately 40-45 hours participating in this case as described above. I believe my efforts
19 helped get the result obtained in this case.

20 10. I understand that any resolution of this lawsuit on a representative basis is subject to
21 court approval. At all times throughout the course of this litigation I have considered the interests of
22 the Aggrieved Employees above my own personal interests.

23 11. I respectfully request that the Court approve and award me a Service Award in the
24 amount of \$7,500.00 for my efforts and active participation in the case and for the broader, general
25 release of all claims that I have or may have against Defendants in connection with the settlement.
26 Taking into consideration the time that I dedicated to this case, I believe that this amount is reasonable.

27 12. I am not related to anyone associated with Blackstone Law, APC.

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

3 Executed on 02/18/2026 at Shasta, California.

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5 _____
6 Colton Ray