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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

BRIANNA TAYLOR, LUIS GARCIA and CESAR VELEZ CERNA, individuals, and on behalf of all others similarly situated aggrieved,

Plaintiffs,

v.

SODEXOMAGIC, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company; SDH SERVICES WEST, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company; ASIS IQUECAL, an individual; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 24STCV23503 [Related Cases: 24STCV34737 and 24STCV00321]

[Assigned for all purposes to: Hon. Elihu M. Berle, Dept. 6]

DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF CESAR VELEZ CERNA IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT

Preliminary Approval Hearing:
Date: December 4, 2026
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Dept: 6

DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF CESAR VELEZ CERNA

I, CESAR VELEZ CERNA, declare and state as follows:

1. I am over 18 years of age and a resident of the State of California. I am the plaintiff in Cesar Velez Cerna v. SDH Services West LLC, et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 24STCV00321 (the "Cerna Action"), and I am one of the named Plaintiffs and proposed Class Representatives in this action. I am represented by Harout Messrelian of Messrelian Law Inc. Except as otherwise stated, I have personal knowledge of all matters set forth in this declaration and could and would competently testify to them if called upon to do so as a witness.

2. I started working for Defendant SDH Services West, LLC ("Sodexo") on or around January 7, 2022, as a floor technician.

3. During my employment, I was classified as an hourly, non-exempt employee. My employment with Sodexo ended on or about August 15, 2025.

4. I understand that the Cerna Action is a lawsuit under the Private Attorneys General Act, otherwise known as a PAGA lawsuit or PAGA claim. I understand that I am the Plaintiff in that case, that Sodexo is the Defendant, and that my name is on the cover of that lawsuit. I understand that in a PAGA case I act on behalf of the State of California and other Sodexo employees. I also understand that, as part of the settlement, I am being added as a named Plaintiff and class representative in this case, Brianna Taylor, et al. v. SodexoMagic, LLC, et al., that the PAGA claims from my case will be included in this case, and that my case will be dismissed after the Court grants preliminary approval. As a class representative, I have duties to the State of California and to other employees like me who were not paid correctly for all hours worked and were not provided all required meal and rest periods, among other violations. I have fairly represented the other employees and the State throughout this lawsuit. I do not have any disagreements with the other Sodexo employees I represent. I am not aware of any reason why I cannot make the best decisions for them in this lawsuit.

5. When I hired my attorneys to file this lawsuit, I agreed that I would be the representative of the other employees and the State of California. I agreed that the interests of

the other employees and the State in the lawsuit are as important as my personal interests in suing Sodexo. I agreed that I would do what is in the best interests of the other employees and the State when deciding whether to settle this lawsuit. I also agreed to actively participate in the lawsuit. I understand that the settlement will only become final if the Court approves it. I understood that being a plaintiff and class representative meant that I was seeking recovery not only for myself but also for other people who worked for Sodexo in California. I felt that many of these employees were not aware of their rights under the labor laws, and that even if they were, they would probably be afraid to speak up, or would not want to spend the time and effort or take the risk involved in filing a lawsuit.

6. I spent time and effort on this case. The work I have done includes hiring my attorneys, speaking with my attorneys by telephone, explaining what my job as a floor technician at Sodexo was like, explaining what my employment had in common with other Sodexo employees, explaining my claims to my attorneys, providing documents and information to my attorneys, keeping my attorneys updated with my contact information, being available by telephone on the day of the April 14, 2026 mediation, and reviewing and discussing the settlement terms and settlement documents with my attorneys. While I have not formally tracked my hours, I estimate that I have spent approximately 6 to 10 hours on this case.

7. I believe I did the right thing by bringing this case on behalf of other employees who, subject to Court approval, are in line to receive money as a result of this case and settlement. This is money they may never have received if I had not pursued these claims on their behalf, and I feel personal satisfaction knowing that I played a role in that. I filed my case while I was still working for Sodexo, which meant taking the risk of suing my own employer while I still worked there. I also took the risk that I could be responsible for paying Defendants' costs if we lost the case, and the risk that future employers may hold this lawsuit against me. I understand that, unlike the other Class Members, I am giving a general release of all of my claims against Defendants and the other Released Parties, including claims I do not know about, and that I am waiving the protections of California Civil Code section 1542. My own lawsuit was a PAGA

case and did not include individual claims for my unpaid wages. Instead of filing a separate lawsuit for my own unpaid wages, meal and rest period premiums, waiting time penalties, wage statement penalties, and interest, I chose to pursue these claims on behalf of all of my coworkers through this class action. By serving as a class representative and giving a general release, I have given up my right to pursue those individual wage and hour claims on my own, where I could have recovered substantially more for myself. Instead, my recovery for those claims will be limited to my share of the settlement, calculated the same way as every other Class Member's share. By pursuing the claims of all Class Members and Aggrieved Employees, I have also delayed my own recovery by many months. In light of the time I have spent on this case, the risks I took, the individual claims and broader release I am giving up, and the size of the settlement, I believe the request for a $10,000.00 Class Representative Service Payment for me is fair and reasonable. I understand that my attorneys will not take any part of my Class Representative Service Payment as attorneys' fees.

8. I reviewed (and signed) the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement, and my attorneys answered all of the questions I had. I believe the settlement terms and allocations are fair, adequate, and reasonable given the strength of the class and PAGA claims and Defendants' defenses.

9. I have no conflicts of interest, actual or potential, with any Class Member, any Aggrieved Employee, or the Settlement Administrator, Phoenix Settlement Administrators. I have no relationship of any kind with Phoenix Settlement Administrators.

10. I understand that Defendants have identified three other lawsuits, filed after the settlement was reached, that assert claims that will be affected by the Settlement. Other than those three lawsuits and the lawsuits being resolved by this Settlement, I am not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.

11. I am aware of the Joint Prosecution and Fee-Sharing Agreement between Bibiyan Law Group, P.C. and Messrelian Law Inc., under which any attorneys' fees awarded in this

matter will be divided 75% to Bibiyan Law Group, P.C. and 25% to Messrelian Law Inc. I consented in writing to this fee division on July 16, 2025. I understand that the total fee will not be increased because of this division of fees.

I declare under the penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Executed on November 3, 2026, at Glendale, California.



CESAR VELEZ CERNA, Declarant

eSignature Details

Signer ID:	**agBZQT2siR1u8XakqCuDG8DV**
Signed by:	CESAR VELEZ CERNA
Sent to email:	cesarfvelezcerna@gmail.com
IP Address:	172.56.176.101
Signed at:	Nov 3 2026, 5:59 pm PST