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Attorneys for Plaintiff DIANNA FLORES,
individually, and on behalf of other similarly
situated employees and aggrieved employees
pursuant to the California Private Attorneys
General Act

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

DIANNA FLORES, individually, and on
behalf of other similarly situated employees
and aggrieved employees pursuant to the
California Private Attorneys General Act,

Plaintiff,
vs.

CAPITOL DISTRIBUTION COMPANY
LLC dba CAPITOL FOOD COMPANY; and
DOES 1 through 25, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 24STCV20477

Honorable Theresa M. Traber
Department 1

**DECLARATION OF ALEXANDRA ROSE IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Date: January 15, 2026
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Dept.: 1

Complaint Filed: August 13, 2024
FAC Filed: August 15, 2025
Trial Date: Not Set

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1 attended all hearings; attended all mediations; coordinated with class action administrators; prepared
2 and worked with experts; first and second chaired multiple trials and arbitrations; and engaged in all
3 other intricate facets of litigation. During that time, he represented a wide range of clients from sole
4 proprietorships to Fortune 500 companies in state, federal, complex, and appellate courts. Many of
5 the cases he managed were highly publicized, with articles written about them in the Los Angeles
6 Times, Deadline, The Hollywood Reporter, Business Insider, Law360, and others. Super Lawyers has
7 regularly honored him as a Southern California Rising Star since 2012.

8 4. Barbara DuVan-Clarke is a 16-year litigator who joined Blackstone Law, APC in
9 September 2022 as a Senior Trial Attorney and Team Lead, building on her entire career of litigating
10 single-plaintiff employment, catastrophic injury, and class/PAGA matters with well-known plaintiff-
11 side wage and hour law firms in Los Angeles. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the
12 University of California at Los Angeles in 2003, and then obtained her Juris Doctorate from Case
13 Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio in 2007. Ms. DuVan-Clarke also maintains leadership
14 roles in the California Employment Lawyers' Association ("CELA") and other organizations.

15 5. Danielle L. GruppChang is a senior associate attorney at Blackstone Law, APC. She
16 graduated from California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo in 2013, with a Bachelor of Arts
17 degree in Political Science with a minor in Communication Studies. She then obtained her Juris
18 Doctorate from University of California Law San Francisco (formerly known as University of
19 California Hastings College of the Law), graduating in 2016, and was admitted to the California State
20 Bar in January 2017. She has practiced exclusively plaintiff's side labor and employment class and
21 representative action law from 2017 through the present.

22 6. P.J. Van Ert is an accomplished attorney who joined Blackstone Law, APC in 2023,
23 after having worked at an employment litigation firm for 2 years, and prior to that, having served as a
24 District Attorney for over 13 years. In that role, she was a prolific trial attorney, and it is my
25 understanding that she tried over 50 jury trials to verdict. She graduated from University of California
26 at Davis in 2000, with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and from University of California at Los Angeles
27 School of Law with a Juris Doctorate in 2004. She was admitted to the State Bar of California in
28 December 2004.

1 7. I joined Blackstone Law, APC from a highly reputable employment law firm. I
2 graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2016 and
3 from New England Law | Boston with a Juris Doctor degree in 2019. I was admitted to the State Bar
4 of California in December of 2019 and the State Bars of New York and New Jersey in 2023. I am
5 additionally licensed in all federal district courts of California. I have worked on many wage and hour
6 class action and PAGA representative matters, and my work has included, *inter alia*, researching and
7 drafting pleadings, administrative notice exhaustion, drafting, negotiating, and finalizing stipulations
8 and settlement agreements, engaging in motion practice, claims evaluation and analysis, and making
9 court appearances. I manage the post-settlement department at Blackstone Law, APC. In that
10 capacity, I oversee and handle over 100 wage-and-hour putative class actions and/or representative
11 actions under PAGA that are in settlement.

12 8. Blackstone Law, APC has been counsel of record on several class action and PAGA
13 actions that have since been resolved, the most recent of which are attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

14 **Procedural History of the Action**

15 9. On August 6, 2024, Plaintiff provided written notice to the California Labor and
16 Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) by online submission and to Defendant Capitol
17 Distribution Company LLC dba Capitol Food Company (“Defendant”) by U.S. Certified Mail,
18 pursuant to California Labor Code Section 2699.3, of the specified provisions of the California Labor
19 Code alleged to have been violated by Defendant (“PAGA Letter”). A true and correct copy of the
20 PAGA Letter is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**.

21 10. On August 13, 2024, Plaintiff filed a Class Action Complaint in the action entitled
22 *Dianna Flores v. Capitol Distribution Company LLC dba Capitol Food Company*, Los Angeles
23 County Superior Court Case No. 24STCV20477 (“Action”), thereby commencing a putative class
24 action against Defendant.

25 11. On October 14, 2024, Plaintiff filed a Complaint for Enforcement Action Under the
26 Private Attorneys General Act, Cal. Labor Code §§ 2698 *Et Seq.* in the action entitled *Dianna Flores*
27 *v. Capitol Distribution Company LLC dba Capitol Food Company*, Los Angeles County Superior
28 Court Case No. 24STCV26687 (“PAGA Action”), which alleged one cause of action PAGA against

1 Defendant.

2 12. On June 11, 2025, Plaintiff and Defendant (together, the “Parties”) participated in a
3 formal mediation conducted by Monique Ngo-Bonnici, Esq. (“Mediator”), a neutral and respected
4 mediator with extensive experience in complex wage and hour matters, and with the assistance of the
5 Mediator’s evaluations, the Parties were able to reach an agreement to resolve this dispute on a class
6 and representative basis. The Parties then worked diligently to negotiate and memorialize the terms
7 in a long form settlement agreement.

8 13. On August 11, 2025, the Parties executed the Joint Stipulation of Class Action and
9 PAGA Settlement (“Settlement” or “Settlement Agreement”). A true and correct copy of the
10 Settlement Agreement is attached hereto as **Exhibit 3**.

11 14. On August 15, 2025, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint Class and
12 Representative Action Complaint (“Operative Complaint”) in the Action, which added the PAGA
13 claims alleged in the PAGA Action. The Operative Complaint alleges eleven (11) causes of action
14 for violations of the California Labor Code for failure to pay minimum wages, failure to pay overtime
15 wages, failure to provide compliant meal periods and premium payments in lieu thereof, failure to
16 provide compliant rest periods and premium payments in lieu thereof, failure to timely pay wages
17 during employment, failure to provide one day’s rest in seven, failure to provide compliant wage
18 statements, failure to timely pay wages upon termination, and failure to reimburse necessary business
19 expenses, for violations of California Business & Professions Code Section 17200, *et seq.* based on
20 the aforementioned California Labor Code violations, and for civil penalties under PAGA based on
21 the aforementioned California Labor Code violations.

22 15. On August 19, 2025, the PAGA Action was dismissed without prejudice.

23 **Summary of the Terms of the Settlement Agreement**

24 16. For purposes of settlement only, the Parties have agreed that the Class shall be defined
25 as “all current and former non-exempt employees (excluding drivers) who worked for Defendant in
26 the State of California at any time during the Class Period” (“Class” or “Class Member(s)”). The
27 Class Period is defined as the period from August 13, 2020 to August 11, 2025, subject to Paragraph
28 17 of the Settlement Agreement. Additionally, the Parties have agreed that the PAGA Employees

1 shall be defined as “all current and former non-exempt employees (excluding drivers) who worked for
2 Defendant in the State of California at any time during the PAGA Period” (“PAGA Employee(s)”).
3 The “PAGA Period” is defined as the period from August 6, 2023 to August 11, 2025, subject to
4 Paragraph 17 of the Settlement Agreement.

5 17. Defendant has represented that the Class Members worked a total of 14,850 workweeks
6 during the period August 13, 2020 to June 11, 2025. If it is determined by the Settlement
7 Administrator that the total number of weeks worked for Defendant as non-exempt employees in
8 California during the Class Period (“Workweeks”) actually exceeds 14,850 by more than 10% (i.e., if
9 the Workweeks exceed 16,335), then Defendant shall have the option of: (i) increasing the Gross
10 Settlement Amount on a *pro rata* basis equal to the percentage increase in the number of Workweeks
11 worked by the Class Members above 10%; or (ii) rolling back the end of the Class Period and PAGA
12 Period to the date in which the number of Workweeks do not exceed 16,335. Based on information
13 provided by Defendant, it is estimated that the Class Members worked 17,907 Workweeks during the
14 Class Period. Accordingly, it is believed that the Escalator Clause has been triggered. Defendant has
15 expressed that it will exercise the option to roll back the Class Period and PAGA Period to the date in
16 which the number of Workweeks do not exceed 16,335, which Defendant has estimated as March 22,
17 2025. It is estimated that there are 190 Class Members through March 22, 2025. Pursuant to CPT
18 Group, Inc.’s (“CPT” or “Settlement Administrator”) duties, the Settlement Administrator will
19 calculate and verify the number of Workweeks once they are in receipt of the Class List, which occurs
20 after the Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement. For the avoidance of doubt, the Class
21 Notice will have the confirmed end date of the Class Period prior to the mailing to Class Members.

22 18. The Parties have agreed to settle the class and PAGA claims at issue in the Operative
23 Complaint for a non-reversionary Gross Settlement Amount of Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars
24 and Zero Cents (\$450,000.00), exclusive of employer-side payroll taxes. The Gross Settlement
25 Amount is a common fund and therefore includes all requested costs, fees, and other allocations. The
26 Gross Settlement Amount includes: (1) Class Counsel’s fees in the amount of thirty-five (35%) of the
27 Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$157,500.00 if the Gross Settlement Amount is \$450,000.00); (2) Class
28 Counsel’s actual litigation costs and expenses, not to exceed Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero

1 Cents (\$25,000.00); (3) Settlement Administration Costs, not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars and
2 Zero Cents (\$10,000.00); (4) Enhancement Payment in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero
3 Cents (\$10,000.00); and (5) PAGA Amount in the amount of Twenty-Two Thousand Five Hundred
4 Dollars and Zero Cents (\$22,500.00). After the above-estimated amounts are deducted from the Gross
5 Settlement Amount, the Net Settlement Amount that will be available for Class Members is currently
6 estimated to be Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$225,000.00).
7 Additionally, 35% of the PAGA Amount (“PAGA Employee Amount”), which is \$7,875.00 out of
8 \$22,500.00, will be fully distributed to the PAGA Employees.

9 19. The Net Settlement Amount will be distributed and paid to all Class Members who do
10 not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion (“Settlement Class Member(s)”) on a *pro rata*
11 basis based on their number of Workweeks. The *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Amount that a
12 Class Member may be eligible to receive under the Class Settlement (“Individual Settlement Share”)
13 will be calculated by the Settlement Administrator, in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

14 20. The PAGA Employee Amount will be distributed to all PAGA Employees on a *pro*
15 *rata* basis based on their number of pay periods they each worked for Defendant as non-exempt
16 employees in California during the PAGA Period (“Pay Periods”). The *pro rata* share of the PAGA
17 Employee Amount that a PAGA Employee may be eligible to receive under the PAGA Settlement
18 (“Individual PAGA Payment”) will be calculated by the Settlement Administrator, in accordance with
19 the Settlement Agreement.

20 21. Each Individual Settlement Share will be allocated as follows: twenty percent (20%)
21 wages and eighty percent (80%) penalties, interest, and non-wage damages. The portion allocated to
22 wages will be reported on an IRS Form W-2 and the portions allocated to penalties, interest, and non-
23 wage damages will be reported on an IRS Form 1099 (if applicable) by the Settlement Administrator.
24 The Settlement Administrator will withhold the employee’s share of taxes and withholdings with
25 respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Shares, and issue checks to Settlement Class
26 Members for their Individual Settlement Payments (i.e., payment of their Individual Settlement Share
27 net of these taxes and withholdings). The employer taxes will be paid separately and in addition to
28 the Gross Settlement Amount. Each Individual PAGA Payment will be allocated as one hundred

1 percent (100%) penalties and will be reported on an IRS Form 1099 (if applicable) by the Settlement
2 Administrator.

3 22. The Settlement Agreement is a non-reversionary and non-claims made settlement. The
4 Net Settlement Amount will be fully distributed to Settlement Class Members and the PAGA Amount
5 will be fully distributed to the LWDA and PAGA Employees, in accordance with the Settlement
6 Agreement. No money will revert to Defendant.

7 23. Each Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA Payment check will be
8 valid and negotiable for one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days from the date the checks are
9 issued, and thereafter, shall be canceled. Any funds associated with such canceled checks shall be
10 distributed by the Settlement Administrator to the State of California's Unclaimed Property Division
11 in the name of the Settlement Class Member and/or PAGA Employee.

12 **The Settlement is Reasonable**

13 ***Informed Arms-Length Negotiations***

14 24. The Parties' settlement negotiations were at all times made at arm's-length and were
15 adversarial. The Settlement was reached following a full day of mediation with a highly respected
16 mediator with substantial experience mediating wage and hour cases, and Plaintiff engaged in
17 additional negotiations in order to finalize the long-form agreement presently before the Court.

18 25. The Parties engaged in extensive informal discovery prior to reaching a settlement.
19 Prior to mediation, Defendant produced a random thirty-three percent (33%) sampling of putative class
20 members' time and pay data. The random sampling was conducted by sorting putative class members'
21 last names alphabetically, then selecting every third employee until the sampling was met. Defendant
22 also produced relevant wage and hour policies, employee handbook, and information regarding the
23 total number of putative class members, the number of current versus former employees, the total
24 workweeks worked by the putative class members, and the average rate of pay for the putative class
25 members.

26 26. This allowed Class Counsel to conduct an informed assessment and analysis of the
27 strengths and weaknesses of the claims and the potential class-wide damages.

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27. Based on the information exchanged, the Parties extensively briefed issues regarding class certification and liability and provided their analyses to the Mediator who helped the Parties debate the strengths and weakness of their respective positions.

Estimate of Potential Value of Claims

28. Class Counsel analyzed all available data and estimated Defendant's maximum potential exposure to be approximately \$3,552,078, assuming the litigation was successful at trial on all claims at issue and every employee had a violation for each claim on every shift worked. This maximum potential analysis was then reduced based on the challenges facing the likelihood of obtaining class certification, prevailing at trial, and other attendant risks. This estimate is based off an estimated maximum liability for all claims at issue and the total aggregate workweeks during the relevant time period, less interest, and based on the analysis of the data which was extrapolated out for all putative class members across the entire putative class period, which included: \$394,562 for meal period violations (less meal period premiums paid); \$1,660,173 for rest period violations at a 100% violation rate; \$350,304 for unpaid off-the-clock work for 1 hour per workweek of off-the-clock work; \$5,554 for unpaid overtime wages at the required regular rate of pay; \$290,800 for failure to provide one day's rest in seven; \$107,200 for unreimbursed business expenses; \$452,685 for waiting time penalties; and \$290,800 for wage statement penalties. Plaintiff further estimated that Defendant faced an additional exposure of \$300,200 in potential, non-stacked (i.e., one penalty, per employee, per pay period during the PAGA statutory period) PAGA penalties. Together with the PAGA penalties, Defendant's maximum potential exposure totaled \$3,852,278 in damages.

Specific Risks Considered

29. Although the investigation and information discovered supports Plaintiff's contentions, Defendant raised potential defenses and other circumstances that impacted the risk of proceeding on a class-wide basis. Consideration of these risks factored into the negotiations and the decision to enter the Settlement. First and foremost, Defendant contended that it possesses enforceable, signed arbitration agreements that include class action waivers for all but twenty-six (26) of the putative class members. Defendant asserted that those twenty-six (26) individuals, including Plaintiff, signed the same arbitration agreement, however, Defendant only has confirmation of these agreements, as the

signed originals are held by its former HR and payroll provider, Insperity. Defendant contended that had this case not settled, Defendant would have obtained Plaintiff's original signed arbitration agreement and filed a motion to compel arbitration. Further, Defendant contended that if the signed agreement could not be retrieved from Insperity, Defendant intended to bring an affirmative motion to deny class certification based on the arbitration agreements already in its possession.

30. Class Counsel is aware of Defendant's defenses and arguments and has also taken into account the uncertainty and risk of the outcome of further litigation, and the difficulties and delays inherent in such litigation, including those involved in class and/or representative adjudication. Plaintiff further recognizes the burdens of proof necessary to establish liability for the claims asserted in the Action, Defendant's defenses, and the difficulties in establishing entitlement to monetary recovery. Plaintiff has also considered the Parties' settlement discussions, as well as the evaluations of the Mediator, who is experienced and well-regarded in complex labor and employment matters.

31. Defendant denied and continues to deny any liability and wrongdoing of any kind associated with the claims alleged in the Action, and further denies that class certification is appropriate for any purpose other than the Settlement. Defendant believes that it would ultimately prevail in the Action. Defendant proffered defenses to both certification and to the merits of Plaintiff's claims. Defendant contended that Plaintiff's claims are not suitable for class certification because individual issues would predominate should this case go to trial. As with all class actions, these complex cases raise difficult management and proof issues and, accordingly, there is a significant risk that the Court may deny class certification.

32. For example, Plaintiff's meal period claims, which were based on Defendant's alleged failure to provide lawful meal periods, have been increasingly difficult to certify in recent years. Plaintiff's theory of liability for meal period violations was based on allegations that Defendant had failed to implement its policies and that its practices failed to allow Class Members to take meal breaks in the manner required under California law. Defendant contended that its policies and practices at all times during the Class Period were lawful. Indeed, Plaintiff's analysis revealed only a 12.9% violation rate for purported unique meal period violations offsetting meal period premiums paid and taking into consideration enforceable meal period waivers signed by Class Members. Defendant further argued

1 that the rate of purported meal period violations reflected in the data would require individualized
2 inquiry and that such inquiry would prohibit a class from being certified. We also had to consider the
3 risk that the Court would find validity in the individualized proof defense to certification of Plaintiff's
4 meal period claim.

5 33. Additionally, a large portion of Defendant's overall liability lies in Plaintiff's rest
6 period allegations. As with the meal period allegations, Defendant contended that it had a lawful
7 written rest period policy, provided compliant rest breaks, and relieved Class Members of all duties as
8 required under California law. Additionally, this claim was even more uncertain given the difficulties
9 associated with proving the alleged rest period violations, as Defendant was not required to record
10 these breaks. Given the lack of records demonstrating rest period violations, there were legitimate
11 concerns Plaintiff would not be able to certify these claims or prove substantial damages with requisite
12 certainty, which made the estimated value of this claim subject to much challenge.

13 34. Plaintiff also faced challenges certifying and proving liability for her minimum wage
14 and overtime claims. These claims were largely based on Defendant's unrecorded, off-the-clock work
15 performed by the Class Members before their shifts and during purported meal periods and rest
16 periods. For example, Plaintiff reported that she and the other Class Members would often be
17 contacted with work-related inquiries while off-the-clock. However, the individualized nature of why
18 this work was performed and the individualized nature of damages presented substantial concerns
19 regarding the manageability of the case and the risk the Court could find these issues prevented
20 certification, and the estimated damages for this claim were based on an assumption that all Class
21 Members worked off the clock for at least one hour per week.

22 35. Plaintiff also contended that Defendant failed to provide one day's rest in seven.
23 Plaintiff alleged that Defendant intentionally and willfully required Plaintiff and the other Class
24 Members to work for period of seven days straight without one day of rest without properly
25 compensating Plaintiff or the other Class Members, as prescribed by California law, at either the time-
26 and-a-half rate or the double time rate, depending on hours worked on the seventh day. Defendant
27 contended that it paid Plaintiff and the other Class Members in compliance with California law.

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1 36. Plaintiff also contended that Defendant failed to reimburse Plaintiff and the other Class
2 Members for necessary business-related expenses, such as usage of personal cell phones for work-
3 related purposes. Defendant contended that it had a policy and practice of reimbursing employees for
4 necessary business-related expenses. Defendant also contended that prior to November 1, 2024, it
5 provided employees with company phones for business purposes. Defendant further contended that,
6 with respect to the alleged expenses for which Plaintiff and the other Class Members never requested
7 reimbursement from Defendant, it did not know and had no reason to know that alleged business-
8 related expenses had been incurred. Defendant further contended that the reason for why a Class
9 Member undertook certain expenses, while not others, and failed to receive reimbursement for certain
10 expenses while not others, would raise individual issues that could not be certified.

11 37. There are also substantial risks associated with Plaintiff's waiting time penalties and
12 wage statement claims. First, these claims were derivative of Plaintiff's claims for unpaid meal period
13 premiums, unpaid rest period premiums, unpaid minimum wages, and unpaid overtime wages, and if
14 certification was denied on those underlying claims, these derivative claims for penalties would also
15 likely fail. Further, even if Plaintiff prevailed on her underlying claims, she would still be required to
16 demonstrate that Defendant's violations of California Labor Code section 203 were *willful* violations.
17 Wage statement claims have also seen varying treatment at the appellate level because such claims
18 have an element of discretion attached to them rather than a pure calculation of damages after liability
19 is proven. Accordingly, these derivative claims, which comprised a substantial portion of Defendant's
20 estimated liability, were therefore uncertain.

21 38. Class Counsel also recognized that, even if Plaintiff prevailed at class certification,
22 proving the amount of wages due to each Class Member would be an expensive, time-consuming, and
23 extremely uncertain proposition. In order to prove liability and damages, Class Counsel will need to
24 request and analyze thousands of pages of documents, obtain the Class Members' contact information,
25 contact them, and obtain declarations at great expense. Obtaining the cooperation of current
26 employees would also be difficult, given the likely reluctance to aid prosecution of a lawsuit against a
27 current employer. On the other hand, Defendant would likely be able to obtain the cooperation of its
28 employees. Moreover, even if Plaintiff prevailed at class certification and trial, possible appeals would

1 substantially delay any recovery by the Class.

2 39. Therefore, taking into account how each of the above risks potentially effected
3 Plaintiff's ability to first obtain class certification, and then prove the underlying violations, plus the
4 cost and delay in recovering the alleged potential damages, Class Counsel discounted Defendant's
5 estimated liability based on the challenges facing her ability to succeed on class certification by 60%
6 to \$1,540,911. The merits-based risk factors further reduced Defendant's estimated liability by an
7 additional 60%. This resulted in an adjusted estimated liability of \$616,364. In light thereof, the
8 settlement amount of \$450,000 is a significant settlement.

9 40. Class Counsel also separately contemplated the risks of proceeding with the PAGA
10 claims and potential liability Defendant could face from these claims as part of the global resolution.
11 Existing case law makes PAGA claims subject to the same defenses and risks as Plaintiff's underlying
12 wage claims. Class Counsel also anticipated that even if successful on the merits at trial, the
13 imposition of cumulative civil penalties based on the alleged wage and hour violations could be
14 considered unjust, arbitrary and oppressive, or confiscatory, and that Defendant would argue that it
15 made a good faith attempt to comply with its legal obligations warranting a reduction in penalties.
16 Class Counsel also anticipated Defendant would argue that the violations per pay period were low,
17 warranting an additional reduction in civil penalties. Finally, we were also mindful of the fact that
18 PAGA is fundamentally not intended to be compensatory in nature but is instead intended to facilitate
19 enforcement of California's labor laws by financing state activities and educating and deterring non-
20 compliance.

21 41. Therefore, after considering this multitude of factors, we concluded that it was in the
22 best interest of the State of California and the PAGA Employees to enter into the Settlement, and to
23 allocate Twenty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$22,500.00) of the Gross
24 Settlement Amount towards the PAGA claims, which represents approximately 5% of the Gross
25 Settlement Amount. This percentage of the settlement is well-within the range of wage and hour
26 settlements regularly approved in both state and federal court for cases that include both a class and
27 PAGA action. Typically, such hybrid cases allocate only 1% of the gross settlement value to resolve
28 PAGA claims, and, indeed, settlements allocations as little as 0.22% of the gross settlement amount

1 have been approved as reasonable by courts. Moreover, the overall relief obtained by the Settlement
2 is significant, not only from a monetary perspective, but also because it fulfills the public policy
3 objectives of PAGA—to promote enforcement of California’s labor laws, provide funds to the state,
4 and deter future non-compliance by the employer.

5 42. Class Counsel therefore submits that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate.
6 The Settlement is in the best interest of the Class Members, the PAGA Employees, and the State of
7 California and is within the accepted range of recoveries for this type of litigation given the inherent
8 risk of litigation, the risk of obtaining and maintaining class certification, and the costs of further
9 litigation.

10 ***Enhancement Payment***

11 43. As part of the Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff is requesting a reasonable Enhancement
12 Payment of Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$10,000.00) to Plaintiff Dianna Flores. This
13 Enhancement Payment is eminently reasonable given the time and effort Plaintiff spent on this case,
14 and the benefit to the Class Members as a result of Plaintiff’s actions. Notice of the requested
15 Enhancement Payment is disclosed to the Class Members in the Class Notice.

16 ***Attorneys’ Fees and Costs***

17 44. The attorneys’ fees incurred by Class Counsel are in line with the common fund
18 requested. The Settlement Agreement provides for Class Counsel to apply for attorneys’ fees in an
19 amount of up to thirty-five (35%) of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$157,500.00 if the Gross
20 Settlement Amount is \$450,000.00) and actual litigation costs and expenses in an amount not to exceed
21 Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$25,000.00), which will be paid out of the Gross
22 Settlement Amount, subject to approval by the Court. Class Counsel has borne all of the risks and
23 costs of litigation and will not receive any compensation until recovery is obtained.

24 45. The effectiveness of Blackstone Law, APC’s prosecution of this matter has translated
25 into tangible monetary benefits as follows: (1) Class Members, the State of California, and PAGA
26 Employees will obtain monetary recovery over a relatively short period of time, as opposed to waiting
27 additional years for the same, or potentially worse, result; (2) a guaranteed result that compares
28 favorably with other similar class action settlements of this type, given the strengths and weaknesses

of the case; and (3) significant savings in Class Counsel's fees and/or costs that would have only increased significantly had the case progress through certification, trial, and/or upon appeal.

46. Class Counsel has litigated this matter for over a year and was actively preparing this matter for class certification and trial. The Motion for Final Approval will elaborate on the nature of the legal services provided, the time incurred in performing those services, and Class Counsel's hourly rates. The Motion for Final Approval will also elaborate on the reimbursement costs sought by Class Counsel. Notice of the requested Attorneys' Fees and Costs is disclosed to the Class Members in the Class Notice.

Notice to the Class

47. The Parties have agreed to retain CPT to handle the notice and settlement administration process. The Parties respectfully request that the Court appoint CPT to handle these procedures and to serve as the Settlement Administrator. Defendant will provide CPT with the Class List and CPT will calculate each Class Member's estimated Individual Settlement Share and each PAGA Employee's estimated Individual PAGA Payment. CPT will also receive and process Requests for Exclusion, Notices of Objection, and Disputes; will provide necessary reports and declarations; will calculate, subtract, and transmit necessary taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Shares; will prepare and submit informational and other tax filings and documents; will issue and transmit all payments provided for by the Settlement, including, but not limited to, mailing Individual Settlement Payment checks to the Settlement Class Members and Individual PAGA Payment checks to the PAGA Employees; and perform any other usual and customary duties for administering a class action settlement.

48. I am not aware of an alternative method of providing notice to the Class which would result in a higher likelihood of actual notice. The original source of the mailing addresses is from each Class Member, who provided the information to Defendant. As a fail-safe to this highly reliable method, skip tracing will be performed, if necessary.

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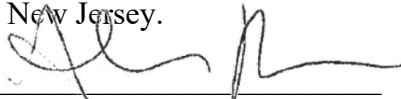
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Notice of Settlement to the LWDA

49. In accordance with California Labor Code section 2699(1)(2), on September 12, 2025, a copy of the proposed Settlement was submitted to the LWDA via online submission through the LWDA's website. A true and correct copy of the email from the LWDA confirming receipt is attached hereto as **Exhibit 4**.

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

Executed on September 12, 2025, at Jersey City, New Jersey.



Alexandra Rose

EXHIBIT 1

- *Juan Escobedo v. Block Tops, Inc.*, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2023-01356309-CU-OE-CXC, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Antonio Quintero v. Weyerhaeuser NR Company*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 23STCV02624, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Cristo Hernandez v. Eldorado National (California), Inc.*, Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. CVRI2201056, approved as counsel, in association with other counsel, in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Rigoberto Tecaliz v. National Restaurant Inc. dba Black Bear Diner*, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2023-00046906-CU-OE-CTL, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Cecilia Estrada v. The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 24STCV07184, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Alexander Davis v. JAJ Roofing dba Citadel Roofing and Solar*, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV011004, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Aurelio Aguilar v. Supreme Car Wash, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV29696, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Aaron Coffey v. Catalina Channel Express, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV41396, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Djuana Shanella Hale, et al. v. Welbe Health, LLC, et al.*, San Joaquin County Superior Court, Case No. STK-CV-UOE-2023-0006866, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.

- *Mario Fosados v. Drew Chain Security Corp.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 24STCV00519, approved as counsel in in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Jose Manuel Amaro Bernal v. Joseph Holt Plastering, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 24STCV15637, approved as counsel in in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Brandon Geston v. FRTO LLC, et al.*, Fresno County Superior Court, Case No. 24CECG01292, approved as counsel in in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Alfonso Herrera v. W.L. Butler Construction, Inc., et al.*, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2023-01335445-CU-OE-CXC, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Marcos Ojendiz, et al. v. Jonathan Louis International*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV35253, approved as counsel in in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Emmanuel Caldera v. Zeb's World Famous Boathouse Inc. dba Goat Hill Tavern*, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2023-01310801-CU-OE-CXC, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Alex Javier Nakamoto v. Skydio, Inc.*, Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. 24CV062913, approved as counsel in in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Jason McEntee v. Roche Molecular Systems, Inc.*, Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV041360, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Alexzander Roberts, et al. v. Lemonade Restaurant Group*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 22STCV38302, approved as counsel, in association with other counsel, in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.

- *Halla Knotts v. Launch Technical Workforce Solutions, LLC*, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVSB2332568, approved as counsel, in association with other counsel, in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Armando Gastelum v. Premier Trailer Manufacturing, Inc.*, Tulare County Superior Court, Case No. VCU300333, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Tiffany Patterson v. Black Mountain Healthcare, LLC., d/b/a Seaport Home Health & Hospice*, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2023-00037563-CU-OE-CTL, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Angel Rodriguez v. American Textile Maintenance*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 22STCV17855, approved as counsel, in association with other counsel, in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Rita Ray v. Families Together of Orange County*, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2023-01324555-CU-OE-CXC, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Ly Hai v. Sunroad HS Auto, Inc.*, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2022-00025788-CU-OE-CTL, approved as counsel, in association with other counsel, in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Anabel Perez v. Eureka Specialties, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 22STCV35940, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Jose Luis Galicia v. Virco, Inc., et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 23STCV29425, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Rene Umana v. Columbus Technologies*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case

No. 22STCV16432, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.

- *Sitara Nayabhil v. San Francisco SPCA (dba SFSPCA), a California 501(c)(3) non-profit organization*, San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. CGC-23-609950, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Fernando Solis v. Tuff Shed, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 24VECV00368, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Tyler Emery v. Santa Cruz Bicycles, LLC*, Santa Cruz Superior Court, Case No. 24CV00244, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Odalys Montejo v. Team Nissan LLC*, Ventura County Superior Court, Case No. 2023CUOE017853, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA
- *Vanessa Cortes v. Giti Tire (USA) LTD*, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVSB2332578, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Travis Sanford v. Santa Cruz Seaside Company*, Santa Cruz County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV01762, approved as counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Jered Ortega v. YMCA of San Diego County*, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2023-00043645-CU-OE-CTL, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Corina Martinez v. Stagnaro Bros. Seafood, Inc.*, Santa Cruz County Superior Court, Case No. 24CV00082, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.

- *Alejandra Jimenez v. ClearFreight, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 23STCV28938, approved as counsel, in association with other counsel, in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Jazzmin Cortez v. Millard Mall Services, Inc.*, Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. CVRI2104010, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Christa Morton, et al. v. PSI Services, LLC*, Fresno County Superior Court, Case No. 24CECG00039, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Michael Bravo v. Michels Pacific Energy, Inc.*, Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 22CV403427, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Daniel Rodriguez v. Republique, LLC*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 23STCV14521, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Theresa Bendorf, et al. v. Sea World LLC, et al.*, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2021-00034922-CU-OE-CTL, approved as class counsel, in association with other counsel, in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Victor De La Cruz v. Northwest Pipe Company*, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVSB2211140, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Bobby Birdi v. Lucid USA, Inc.*, Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. 21CV003541, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Jose Trujillo, et al. v. Producers Dairy Foods, Inc.*, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2022-00313753, approved as counsel in settlement of

representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.

- *David Williams v. Rancho Nicasio, LLC*, Marin County Superior Court, Case No. CIV2203067, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Alexander Jackson v. Lifecare Assurance Company*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 23STCV26579, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Alexis Cardoza v. BHFC Operating LLC*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV34040, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Maria Ayala, et al. v. SDH Services West, LLC*, Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-21-101933, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class action.
- *Alfredo Sanchez v. Greenworld, Inc.*, Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. CVRI2105756, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Oscar Bryant v. Midwest Construction Services, Inc. dba Trillium*, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVSB2121529, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class action.
- *Matthew Savattieri v. AMI Expeditionary Healthcare, LLC, et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV33372, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Lexy Barajas, et al. v. H. W. Hunter, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 22STCV01892, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Alejandro Valdez v. C.H.I. Automart, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV40168, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour

class and PAGA action.

- *Sheizan Bawa v. Meathead Movers, Inc.*, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2021-01211895-CU-OE-CXC, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Tanisha Lopez, et al. v. Restorix Health, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV33067, approved as class counsel, in association with other counsel, in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Perla Soto, et al. v. Nippon Express U.S.A., Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV24902, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Angel Garcia, et al. v. J&B Investments, Inc., et al.*, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVSB2208601, approved as class counsel, in association with other counsel, in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Sindy Aviles, et al. v. Freeway Insurance Services America, LLC*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV34864, approved as counsel, in association with other counsel, in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Alexander Gnaedig, et al. v. Favorite Healthcare Staffing, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV20904, approved as class counsel, in association with other counsel, in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Richard Evans v. My Paint Stop, LLC, et al.*, Contra Costa County Superior Court, Case No. MSC21-01812, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Jose Luis Parada George v. Main Electric Supply Company, LLC, et al.*, Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2021-01220136-CU-OE-CXC, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.
- *Samia Salazar Yunis v. Sharif Jewelers*, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case

No. 34-2020-00290080, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.

- *Daniel Analco v. Felix Chevrolet, LP, et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV36654, approved as class counsel in final settlement of wage and hour class and PAGA action.
- *Sasha Aiono v. Benefit Cosmetics*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCV33719, approved as counsel in settlement of representative wage and hour action pursuant to PAGA.

EXHIBIT 2



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August 6, 2024

PAGA Claim Notice Via Online Electronic Submission

California Labor & Workforce Development Agency

800 Capitol Mall, Suite 5000 (MIC-55)

Sacramento, CA 95814

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/Private-Attorneys-General-Act/Private-Attorneys-General-Act.html>

RE: *Dianna Flores v. Capitol Distribution Company LLC dba Capitol Food Company*

To Whom It May Concern:

This office represents Dianna Flores (“Claimant”) with respect to their claims under the California Labor Code against Capitol Distribution Company LLC dba Capitol Food Company (including all affiliates, subsidiaries, parents, directors, and officers) (collectively referred to herein as “Employers”). This letter is being sent simultaneously to Employers by certified mail.

Employers employed Dianna Flores from approximately April 2022 to April 2024 as a non-exempt, hourly-paid employee. Dianna Flores worked as a Shipping Coordinator for Employers and was based out of Employers’ facility located at 16424 Valley View Ave La Mirada, CA 90638.

Claimant intends to bring a representative action seeking penalties for violations of the California Labor Code which are recoverable under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.* (“PAGA”). Claimant is seeking penalties on behalf of his or herself and in a representative capacity on behalf of the State of California and all current and former hourly-paid and/or non-exempt employees who worked for Employers in the State of California during the relevant statutory period (“Aggrieved Employees”). This letter is being sent in compliance with California Labor Code section 2699.3 and shall serve as Claimant’s notice of the provisions of the California Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories in support thereof.

As detailed below, Employers violated several of California’s wage and hour laws during Claimant’s employment, including but not limited to California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, 2802, and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order (“IWC Wage Order”).

The claims made on behalf of Claimant and Aggrieved Employees are based upon the

following facts and theories:

1. FAILURE TO PAY FOR ALL TIME WORKED AT CORRECT RATES OF PAY, INCLUDING MINIMUM WAGES, STRAIGHT TIME WAGES, AND OVERTIME COMPENSATION

Employers engaged in numerous unlawful practices which resulted in the failure to pay Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees for all time worked at the correct rates of pay, including minimum wages, straight time wages, and overtime compensation.

California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197, and 1197.1 and the applicable IWC Wage Order require employers to pay at least the legal minimum wage to their employees. California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198 and the applicable IWC Wage Order further require employers to pay no less than one and one-half times an employee's regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday, for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in one workweek, and for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day of work in any one workweek, and to pay no less than twice an employee's regular rate of pay of the employee for hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in one workday and for any work in excess of eight (8) hours on any seventh day of a workweek.

Throughout the relevant time, Employers regularly required Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to perform work off-the-clock including, among other things, answering necessary, work-related messages and calls between shifts. Employers failed to compensate Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees for any of this off-the-clock work, in violation of California law.

This uncompensated work often resulted in the total number of hours worked by Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees exceeding the daily and/or weekly triggers for overtime wages, yet Employers failed to pay Claimant and Aggrieved Employees applicable overtime rate(s) for these hours.

Employers also failed to accurately record the actual time worked by Claimant and Aggrieved Employees.

Employers also failed to pay overtime to Claimant and Aggrieved Employees for all overtime hours worked based on regular rates of pay correctly calculated to include all applicable remuneration, including non-discretionary commissions, non-discretionary bonuses, and non-discretionary performance pay.

As a result of the foregoing practices, Employers failed to pay Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees for all wages earned at the correct rates of pay, including minimum wages, straight time wages, and overtime compensation. Accordingly, Employers violated the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code sections 204, 510, 1194, 1197, 1197.1 and 1198.

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to the applicable IWC Wage Orders; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 558, 1197.1, and 1199; and attorneys' fees

and costs.

2. MEAL BREAK VIOLATIONS

California law requires employers to provide employees with an opportunity to take an uninterrupted meal period of no less than thirty (30) minutes before the end of the fifth hour of work when an employee works more than five (5) hours in a day. Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512(a). Employers must provide a second meal period of no less than thirty (30) minutes before the end of the tenth hour of work when an employee works more than ten (10) hours in a day. *Id.* For each day that an employer fails to provide compliant meal period(s), the employer must pay the employee a meal penalty equal to one hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation. *Id.*

During the relevant time period, Employers failed to provide Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees with legally compliant 30-minute meal periods. Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees were required by Employers to work more than five (5) hours per day but were not provided with uninterrupted 30-minute meal periods. Further, Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees were not provided with a second uninterrupted 30-minute meal period when they worked over ten (10) hours per day. Employers regularly required Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to work through their first and second meal periods, to take their first meal period after their fifth (5th) hour of work, and/or to take their second meal periods after their tenth (10th) hour of work. Meal breaks, when provided, were oftentimes interrupted and/or cut short.

Employers' policies, practices, and procedures were responsible for the violations alleged above and prevented Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees from taking timely, complete and duty-free meal periods because, amongst other reasons: (1) Employers did not have legally-compliant policies regarding the provision and timing of meal periods or systematically disregarded their own purported meal period policies; (2) Employers' management at various levels failed and refused to implement and enforce legally compliant meal period policies and practices; (3) Employers failed to adequately inform and train Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees regarding their right to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal periods; (4) Employers failed to adequately inform and train Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees about their right to premium wages for non-compliant meal periods; (5) Employers failed to ensure that there was adequate staffing to allow Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal periods; (6) Employers required Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to respond to work-related requests at all times, including during meal periods; and (7) Employers' policy and culture prevented Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees from taking timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal periods because of the priority placed on maximizing profits over employees' right to receive timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal periods.

Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees did not receive an extra hour of wages at their regular rate of pay for each day a compliant meal period was not provided to them in compliance with California law.

Accordingly, Employers violated the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor

Code sections 226.7, 512(a) and 1198.

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to penalties paragraph of the applicable IWC Wage Orders; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 558 and 1199; and attorneys' fees and costs.

3. REST BREAK VIOLATIONS

California law requires employers to authorize and permit employees to take an uninterrupted rest period of no less than ten (10) minutes for every four (4) hours, or major fraction thereof, worked. Cal. Lab. Code § 226.7. For each day that an employer fails to authorize and permit a compliant rest period, the employer owes the employee one hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation. Cal. Lab. Code § 226.7(c).

Employers failed to authorize and permit Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to take compliant 10-minute rest periods. Employers required Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to work through rest periods. Claimant and Aggrieved Employees were not provided with uninterrupted, duty-free rest periods when they worked more than four (4) hours or a major fraction thereof. Further, Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees were not provided with a second uninterrupted, duty-free rest period when they worked more than six (6) hours in a day, or a third uninterrupted, duty-free rest period after working more than ten (10) hours in day. In the rare event that a rest period was taken, it was frequently interrupted or cut short. Moreover, Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees were not completely relieved of duty as required by *Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.*, 2 Cal.5th 257 (2016).

Employers' policies, practices, and procedures were responsible for the violations alleged above and prevented Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees from taking timely and complete rest periods because, amongst other reasons: (1) Employers did not have legally-compliant policies regarding the provision and timing of rest periods or systematically disregarded its own purported rest period policies; (2) Employers' management at various levels failed and refused to implement and enforce legally compliant rest period policies and practices; (3) Employers failed to adequately inform and train Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees regarding their right to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free rest periods; (4) Employers failed to adequately inform and train Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees about their right to premium wages for non-compliant rest periods; (5) Employers failed to ensure that there was adequate staffing to allow Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free rest periods; (6) Employers required Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to respond to work-related requests at all times, including during rest periods; and (7) Employers' policy and culture prevented Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees from taking timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free rest periods because of the priority placed on completing job requirements over employees' right to receive rest periods.

Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees did not receive an extra hour of wages at their regular rate of pay for each day a rest period was not provided to them in compliance with California law. Accordingly, Employers violated the applicable IWC Wage Order and California

Labor Code sections 226.7 and 1198.

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to the applicable IWC Wage Orders; Labor Code sections 558 and 1199 penalties; and attorneys' fees and costs.

4. FAILURE TO TIMELY PAY WAGES DURING EMPLOYMENT

California Labor Code section 204 requires that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 1st and the 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 16th and the 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 1st and the 10th day of the following month.

California Labor Code section 204 also requires that all wages earned for labor in excess of the normal work period shall be paid no later than the payday for the next regular payroll period. During the relevant time period, Employers failed to timely pay all wages earned because Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees were not paid all the wages they were owed including, *inter alia*, overtime compensation, straight time wages, minimum wages, and meal and rest period premiums. Accordingly, Employers violated California Labor Code section 204(a).

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 210 and 1199; and attorneys' fees and costs.

5. FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE ITEMIZED WAGE STATEMENTS

California Labor Code section 226(a) requires an employer semimonthly or at the time of each payment of wages to furnish wage statements to its employees setting forth, *inter alia*, (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, and (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer.

As a result of the practices described above, the wage statements provided to Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees failed to include the actual hours worked (including time spent working off-the-clock), the actual gross wages earned (including wages owed for time spent working off the clock and meal and rest period premiums), and the correct rates of pay. Accordingly, Employers violated California Labor Code section 226(a).

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties; penalties

pursuant to California Labor Code section 226.3; and attorneys' fees and costs.

6. FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ACCURATE RECORDS

California Labor Code section 1174(d) requires an employer to keep, at a central location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units earned by and any applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or establishments. These records shall be kept with rules established for this purpose by the commission, but in any case, shall be kept on file for not less than three years. During the relevant time period, Employers have failed to maintain accurate records relating to Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees' work periods, meal periods, total daily hours worked, and total hours worked per payroll period. Accordingly, Employers violated the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code sections 1198.5 and 1174(d).

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to paragraph of the applicable IWC Wage Orders; California Labor Code section 1174.5 penalties; and attorneys' fees and costs.

7. FAILURE TO REIMBURSE NECESSARY EXPENDITURES

California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 require an employer to reimburse its employees for all necessary expenditures incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her job duties or in direct consequence of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer. The applicable IWC Wage Order requires employers to provide employees with the tools or equipment necessary for the performance of their job. During the relevant time period, Claimant and Aggrieved Employees incurred necessary business-related expenses and costs that were not fully reimbursed by Employers.

Accordingly, Employers violated the applicable IWC Order **¡Error! No se encuentra el origen de la referencia.** and California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802. Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to paragraph of the applicable IWC Wage Orders; and attorneys' fees and costs.

8. FAILURE TO TIMELY PAY ALL WAGES UPON TERMINATION

California Labor Code sections 201 and 202 provide that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately, and if an employee quits his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than seventy-two (72) hours thereafter, unless the employee has given seventy-two (72) hours' 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.

During the relevant time period, upon the termination of employment (including but not limited to when they were temporarily laid off, laid off, discharged, and/or resigned), Employers

failed to pay all wages due to their employees within twenty-four (24) hours of termination or even within seventy-two (72) hours for those who resigned. Specifically, as a result of Employers' practices of requiring Claimant and Aggrieved Employees to work off-the-clock without compensation, failing to pay proper overtime compensation, failure to properly calculate regular rates, and failure to accurately record all hours actually worked, Employers failed to pay Claimant and Aggrieved Employees for all straight time wage, minimum wages and overtime compensation owed to them upon termination of their employment. Employers also failed to pay Claimant and Aggrieved Employees for meal period premiums and rest period premiums they were owed, amongst other wages. Accordingly, Employers violated California Labor Code sections 201 and 202.

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 203 and 1199; and attorneys' fees and costs.

9. FAILURE TO PROVIDE ONE DAY'S REST IN SEVEN

California Labor Code section 551 states that "[e]very person employed in any occupation of labor is entitled to one day's rest therefrom in seven." California Labor Code section 552 prohibits and employer from "caus[ing] his employees to work more than six days in seven."

In *Mendoza v. Nordstrom, Inc.* (2017) 2 Cal. 5th 1074, the Court addressed unsettled questions relating to employees' guaranteed day of rest under the California Labor Code, noting the following:

1. Employees are entitled to one day of rest for each workweek (as defined by the employer), rather than one rest day in every consecutive seven-day period. [*Mendoza v. Nordstrom, Inc.*, *supra*, 2 Cal.5th at p.1078.] The California Labor Code refers to a week or workweek as a "fixed and regularly recurring period." This can be Sunday to Saturday, or Monday to Sunday, not a rolling period of any seven consecutive days. [*Id.* at p. 1084.] This means that an employee could essentially work more than six consecutive days without a day of rest if the days of work stretch across more than one workweek. This "week-by-week" interpretation can be best understood by dividing the calendar month into seven-day blocks (such as Monday to Sunday). If an employee takes a day of rest early in the workweek (Tuesday) and then another rest day late in the next workweek (Sunday), that employee will essentially work eleven consecutive days without a rest day. This is not per se prohibited under the law. [*Id.* at p. 1080.] The court explained that for every calendar month, an employee is guaranteed no less than one day of rest for every seven days worked. Therefore, rest days need not fall on every seventh day, but can be spaced out differently in a calendar month, "so long as the number of rest days received by the employee amounts to the number of calendar days divided by seven." [*Id.* at p. 1086.]
2. Employees who work six-hour shifts or less on every day of the given workweek are not entitled to a rest day. [*Mendoza v. Nordstrom, Inc.*, *supra*, 2 Cal.5th at p. 1078.] However, this applies only if the employee never works a shift of more than six hours in any day of

the given week. Also, the day of rest guarantee does not apply “when the total hours of employment do not exceed 30 hours in any week.” [*Id.* at p. 1084.]

3. Finally, an employer “causes” an employee to go without a day of rest “when it induces the employee to forgo rest to which he or she is entitled.” [*Mendoza v. Nordstrom, Inc.*, *supra*, 2 Cal.5th at p. 1078.] An employee can, however, independently choose not to take a day of rest and an employer is not prohibited from allowing or permitting the employee to do so. [*Id.*] “An employer may not encourage its employees to forgo rest or conceal the entitlement to rest, but is not liable simply because an employee chooses to work a seventh day.” [*Id.* at p. 1091.]

Further, the California Code of Regulations, Title 8 (“Cal. Code Regs.”) provide for the amounts at which employees should be paid when working on the seventh day in the manner proscribed by Cal. Lab. Codes 551 and 552, and further clarified by *Mendoza*. For example, Cal. Code Reg. section 11170 for miscellaneous employees section 4 provides:

4. Daily Overtime - General Provisions

The following overtime provisions are applicable to employees eighteen (18) years of age or over and to employees 16 or 17 years of age who are not required by law to attend school, and are not otherwise prohibited by law from engaging in the subject work. Such employees shall not be employed more than eight (8) hours in any workday or more than 40 hours in any workweek unless the employee receives one and one-half (1 1/2) times such employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 hours in the workweek. Eight (8) hours of labor constitutes a day's work. Employment beyond eight (8) hours in any workday or more than six (6) days in any workweek is permissible provided the employee is compensated for such overtime at not less than:

(A) One and one-half (1 1/2) times the employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours up to and including 12 hours in any workday, and for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh (7th) consecutive day of work in a workweek; and

(B) Double the employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 12 hours in any workday and for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh (7th) consecutive day of work in a workweek.

(C) The overtime rate of compensation required to be paid to a nonexempt full-time salaried employee shall be computed by using the employee's regular hourly salary as one-fortieth (1/40) of the employee's weekly salary.

During the relevant time period, Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees were subjected to numerous work periods where they were not afforded one day's rest in seven, and, per the further

guidance provided in from the *Mendoza* case, Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees were sometimes required to work two or three weeks straight without a single day off. Therefore, Employers failed to provide Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees the legally-mandated rest days as required by California law, and in violation of California Labor Code sections 551 and 552.

Based on these violations, Claimant will seek civil penalties under PAGA, Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.*, on behalf of the LWDA, against Employers if authorized to file a representative action on behalf of the State of California.

10. EMPLOYER'S OTHER VIOLATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE

Finally, pursuant to *Huff v. Securitas Security Services USA, Inc.* (2018) 25 Cal.App.5th 745 (“*Huff*”), as an Aggrieved Employee, Claimant has standing, and intends to pursue civil penalties on behalf of the LWDA against Employers for any and all other Labor Code violations committed by Employers. In *Huff*, the California Court of Appeals held that an employee alleging a single violation of the Labor Code under PAGA may also bring PAGA claims against Employer for all other alleged Labor Code violations, even those suffered by other employees of the same employer. According to the *Huff* decision, Claimant, as an “aggrieved” employee affected by at least one Labor Code violation may, and hereby does, pursue penalties on behalf of LWDA for all Labor Code violations by Employer.

Employers are in direct violation of numerous California wage and hour laws including but not limited to said sections stated above. Claimant hereby provides notice to the LWDA under the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code Sections 2698, *et seq.*, and specifically asks for an investigation, or if the agency does not intend to investigate the alleged violations, a letter confirming the same so that Claimant may allege a cause of action under PAGA against Employers for the violations discussed in this letter.

This letter is sent in compliance with the reporting requirements of California Labor Code section 2699.3. By law, an employee alleging a violation of one of the above referenced sections must notify his or her employer and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) before he or she can invoke the provisions of Sections 2699, *et seq.*, by seeking redress in court. Cal. Lab. Code § 2699.3(a)(1). The LWDA must then notify the employer and the employee within 60 calendar days regarding whether it intends to investigate the alleged violation. Cal. Lab. Code § 2699.3(a)(2)(B). If the LWDA advises it will not investigate, or if no notice is provided within 65 calendar days, the employee may file a lawsuit invoking the provisions under Labor Code § 2699. Cal. Lab. Code § 2699.3(a)(2)(A). It is Claimant's intention to file a civil complaint and to bring the appropriate claims under California Labor Code § 2699 on behalf of themselves, the State of California and all Aggrieved Employees should your office not address Employers' alleged violations within this timeframe.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your attention to this matter.



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BLACKSTONE LAW

Barbara DuVan Clarke, Esq.

cc: By U.S. Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested

Capitol Distribution Company LLC
c/o Agent for Service, Gary K. Salomons
4558 Sherman Oaks Ave
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

Capitol Distribution Company LLC
12836 Alondra Blvd.
Cerritos, CA 90703

EXHIBIT 3

JOINT STIPULATION OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT

This Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement (“Settlement,” “Agreement,” or “Settlement Agreement”) is made and entered into by and between Plaintiff Dianna Flores (“Plaintiff” or “Class Representative”), individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated and on behalf of the State of California with respect to aggrieved employees, and Defendant Capitol Distribution Company LLC dba Capitol Food Company (“Defendant”) (together, Plaintiff and Defendant are referred to as “Parties” and individually as “Party”).

This Settlement Agreement shall be binding on Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members (as defined herein), the State of California as to the employment of PAGA Employees (as defined herein), and Defendant, subject to the terms and conditions hereof and the approval of the Court.

RECITALS

1. On August 6, 2024, Plaintiff provided written notice to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) by online submission and to Defendant by U.S. Certified Mail, pursuant to California Labor Code Section 2699.3, of the specific provisions of the California Labor Code alleged to have been violated by Defendant (“PAGA Letter”).

2. On August 13, 2024, Plaintiff filed a Class Action Complaint in the action entitled *Dianna Flores v. Capitol Distribution Company LLC dba Capitol Food Company*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 24STCV20477 (“Action”), thereby commencing a putative class action against Defendant.

3. On October 14, 2024, Plaintiff filed a Complaint for Enforcement Action Under the Private Attorneys General Act, Cal. Labor Code §§ 2698 *Et Seq.* in the action entitled *Dianna Flores v. Capitol Distribution Company LLC dba Capitol Food Company*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 24STCV26687 (“PAGA Action”), which alleged one cause of action under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 pursuant to California Labor Code Section 2698 *et seq.* (“PAGA”) against Defendant. Together, the Action and the PAGA Action shall be referred to as the “Actions”.

4. The Parties agree that Plaintiff will file a First Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint (“Operative Complaint”) in the Action, which will add the PAGA claims alleged in the PAGA Action and that Plaintiff will dismiss the PAGA Action.

1 5. The Operative Complaint alleges eleven (11) causes of action for violations of the
2 California Labor Code for failure to pay minimum wages, failure to pay overtime wages, failure to
3 provide compliant meal periods and premium payments in lieu thereof, failure to provide compliant
4 rest periods and premium payments in lieu thereof, failure to timely pay wages during employment,
5 failure to provide one day's rest in seven, failure to provide compliant wage statements, failure to
6 timely pay wages upon termination, and failure to reimburse necessary business expenses, for
7 violations of California Business & Professions Code Section 17200, *et seq.* based on the
8 aforementioned California Labor Code violations, and for civil penalties under PAGA based on the
9 aforementioned California Labor Code violations.

10 6. Defendant denies all material allegations set forth in the Actions, denies any failure to
11 comply with the laws identified in the Operative Complaint and denies any and all liability for the
12 causes of action alleged, and has asserted numerous affirmative defenses. Notwithstanding, in the
13 interest of avoiding further litigation, Defendant desires to fully and finally settle the Actions, Released
14 Class Claims (as defined herein), and Released PAGA Claims (as defined herein).

15 7. Class Counsel diligently investigated the class and PAGA claims against Defendant,
16 including any and all applicable defenses and the applicable law. The investigation included, *inter*
17 *alia*, the exchange of information, data, including time and pay data, and documents, and review of
18 corporate policies and practices. The Parties have engaged in sufficient informal discovery and
19 investigation to assess the relative merits of the claims and contentions of the Parties.

20 8. On June 11, 2025, the Parties participated in mediation with Monique Ngo-Bonnici,
21 Esq. (the "Mediator"), a respected mediator of complex wage and hour actions, and with the assistance
22 of the Mediator's evaluations, the Parties reached the settlement that is memorialized herein. The
23 Parties' settlement discussions were conducted at arms' length, and the Settlement is the result of an
24 informed and detailed analysis of Defendant's potential liability and exposure in relation to the costs
25 and risks associated with continued litigation. Based on Class Counsel's investigation and evaluation,
26 Class Counsel believes that the settlement with Defendant for the consideration and on the terms set
27 forth in this Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interest of the
28 Class Members, State of California, and PAGA Employees in light of all known facts and

1 circumstances, including the risk of significant delay and uncertainty associated with litigation and
2 various defenses asserted by Defendant.

3 9. The Parties expressly acknowledge that this Settlement Agreement is entered into
4 solely for the purpose of compromising significantly disputed claims and that nothing herein is an
5 admission of liability or wrongdoing by Defendant. If for any reason this Settlement Agreement is
6 not approved, it will be of no force or effect, and the Parties shall be returned to their original respective
7 positions.

8 **DEFINITIONS**

9 10. The following definitions are applicable to this Settlement Agreement. Definitions
10 contained elsewhere in this Settlement Agreement will also be effective.

11 a. "Attorneys' Fees and Costs" means attorneys' fees approved by the Court for
12 Class Counsel's litigation and resolution of the Actions and all actual costs and expenses incurred and
13 to be incurred by Class Counsel in connection with the Actions, as set forth in Paragraph 13.

14 b. "Class" or "Class Member(s)" means all current and former non-exempt
15 employees (excluding drivers) who worked for Defendant in the State of California at any time during
16 the Class Period.

17 c. "Class Counsel" means Jonathan M. Genish, Barbara DuVan-Clarke, P.J. Van
18 Ert, Danielle Ling GruppChang, Alexandra Rose, and Shawn Bahmani of Blackstone Law, APC, who
19 will seek to be appointed counsel for the Class.

20 d. "Class List" means a complete list of all Class Members that Defendant will
21 diligently and in good faith compile from its records and provide to the Settlement Administrator. The
22 Class List will be formatted in a readable Microsoft Office Excel spreadsheet containing the following
23 information for each Class Member: (1) full name; (2) last known mailing address; (3) Social Security
24 number; (4) dates worked for Defendant during the Class Period; and (5) such other information as is
25 necessary for the Settlement Administrator to calculate Workweeks and Pay Periods.

26 e. "Class Notice" means the Notice of Class Action Settlement, substantially in
27 the form attached hereto as "**Exhibit A**."

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f. “Class Period” means the period from August 13, 2020 to August 11, 2025, subject to Paragraph 17.

g. “Class Settlement” means the settlement and resolution of all Released Class Claims.

h. “Court” means the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles.

i. “Defendant’s Counsel” means Dina S. Glucksman, Leslie H. Joyner, and Emilie MacLean of Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP.

j. “Dispute” means a letter submitted by a Class Member disputing the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods which have been credited to them, which must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action; (b) contain the Class Member’s full name, signature, address, telephone number, and the last four (4) digits of the Class Member’s Social Security number; (c) clearly state that the Class Member disputes the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to the Class Member and what the Class Member contends is the correct number; and (d) be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline.

k. “Effective Date” means the following: (i) if no Settlement Class Member objects to the Class Settlement, then the Effective Date will be the date of Final Approval; or (ii) if any Settlement Class Member objects to the Class Settlement, the Effective Date will be the sixty-first (61st) calendar day after the date of Final Approval, provided no appeal is initiated by an objector; or (iii) if a timely appeal is initiated by an objector, then the Effective Date will be the day after final resolution of that appeal (including any requests for rehearing and/or petitions for certiorari), resulting in final judicial approval of the Settlement.

l. “Employer Taxes” means the employer’s share of taxes and contributions in connection with the wages portion of Individual Settlement Shares, which shall be paid by Defendant in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount.

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m. “Enhancement Payment” means the amount to be paid to Plaintiff, in recognition of her effort and work in prosecuting the Actions on behalf of Class Members and PAGA Employees, and general release of claims, as set forth in Paragraph 14.

n. “Final Approval” means the determination by the Court that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and entry of the Final Approval Order and Judgment based thereon.

o. “Final Approval Hearing” means the hearing at which the Court will consider and determine whether the Settlement should be granted Final Approval.

p. “Final Approval Order and Judgment” means the order granting final approval of the Settlement and entering judgment thereon, in a form and content mutually agreed to by the Parties, and subject to approval by the Court.

q. “Gross Settlement Amount” means the amount of Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$450,000.00) to be paid by Defendant in full satisfaction of the Actions, Released Class Claims, and Released PAGA Claims, which includes all Attorneys’ Fees and Costs, Enhancement Payment, PAGA Amount, Settlement Administration Costs, and Net Settlement Amount to be paid to the Settlement Class Members. Defendant shall pay the Employer Taxes separately and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount. The Gross Settlement Amount is non-reversionary; no portion of the Gross Settlement Payment will return to Defendant. The Gross Settlement Amount is subject to increase, as provided in Paragraph 17.

r. “Individual PAGA Payment” means the *pro rata* share of the PAGA Employee Amount that a PAGA Employee may be eligible to receive under the PAGA Settlement, to be calculated in accordance with Paragraph 19.

s. “Individual Settlement Payment” means the net payment of each Settlement Class Member’s Individual Settlement Share, after reduction for the employee’s share of taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Share, as provided in Paragraph 20.

t. “Individual Settlement Share” means the *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Amount that a Class Member may be eligible to receive under the Class Settlement, to be calculated in accordance with Paragraph 18.

u. “LWDA Payment” means the amount of Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars and Zero Cents (\$14,625.00), i.e., 65% of the PAGA Amount, that the Parties have agreed to pay to the LWDA under the PAGA Settlement, as set forth in Paragraph 15.

v. “Net Settlement Amount” means the portion of the Gross Settlement Amount that is available for distribution to Settlement Class Members, which is the Gross Settlement Amount less the Court-approved Attorneys’ Fees and Costs, Enhancement Payment, PAGA Amount, and Settlement Administration Costs.

w. “Notice of Objection” means a Settlement Class Member’s written objection to the Class Settlement, which must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action; (b) contain the objector’s full name, signature, address, telephone number, and the last four (4) digits of the objector’s Social Security number; (c) contain a written statement of all grounds for the objection accompanied by any legal support for such objection; (d) contain copies of any papers, briefs, or other documents upon which the objection is based; and (e) be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline.

x. “PAGA Amount” means the allocation of Twenty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$22,500.00) from the Gross Settlement Amount for the PAGA Settlement. Sixty-five percent (65%) of the PAGA Amount, or \$14,625.00, will be paid to the LWDA (i.e., the LWDA Payment) and the remaining thirty-five percent (35%), or \$7,875.00, will be distributed to the PAGA Employees (i.e., the PAGA Employee Amount).

y. “PAGA Employee(s)” means all current and former non-exempt employees (excluding drivers) who worked for Defendant in the State of California at any time during the PAGA Period.

z. “PAGA Employee Amount” means the amount of Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars and Zero Cents (\$7,875.00), i.e., 35% of the PAGA Amount, to be distributed to PAGA Employees on a *pro rata* basis based on their Pay Periods.

aa. “PAGA Period” means the period from August 6, 2023 to August 11, 2025, subject to Paragraph 17.

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bb. “PAGA Settlement” means the settlement and resolution of all Released PAGA Claims.

cc. “Pay Periods” means the number of pay periods each PAGA Employee worked for Defendant as a non-exempt employee in California during the PAGA Period. Pay Periods will be calculated by the Settlement Administrator from the Class List.

dd. “Preliminary Approval” means the date on which the Court enters the Preliminary Approval Order.

ee. “Preliminary Approval Order” means the order granting preliminary approval of the Settlement, in a form and content mutually agreed to by the Parties, and subject to approval by the Court.

ff. “Released Class Claims” means any and all claims, debts, liabilities, demands, obligations, guarantees, costs, expenses, attorneys’ fees, damages, or causes of action which were alleged or which could have been reasonably alleged based on the factual allegations in the Operative Complaint, arising during the Class Period under any federal, state, or local law, which shall specifically include claims for Defendant’s alleged failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, provide compliant meal and rest periods and associated premium payments, timely pay wages during employment and upon termination, provide one day’s rest in seven, provide accurate wage statements, and reimburse necessary business-related expenses in violation of California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, and 2802, the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order, California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*, and all claims for attorneys’ fees and costs and statutory interest in connection therewith.

gg. “Released PAGA Claims” means any and all claims arising from any of the factual allegations in the PAGA Letter and the Operative Complaint, arising during the PAGA Period, for civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code Sections 2698 *et seq.*, which shall specifically include claims for Defendant’s alleged failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, provide compliant meal and rest periods and associated premium payments, timely pay wages during employment and upon termination, provide one day’s rest in seven, provide

compliant wage statements, maintain complete and accurate payroll records, and reimburse necessary business-related expenses in violation of California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, and 2802, and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order, and all claims for attorneys' fees and costs in connection therewith.

hh. "Released Parties" means Defendant and its current and former officers, directors, members, attorneys, insurers, shareholders, representatives, and agents during the Class Period and their respective parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors, successors, and assigns.

ii. "Request for Exclusion" means a letter submitted by a Class Member indicating a request to be excluded from the Class Settlement, which must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action; (b) contain the Class Member's full name, signature, address, telephone number, and last four (4) digits of the Class Member's Social Security number; (c) clearly state that the Class Member does not wish to be included in the Class Settlement; and (d) be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline.

jj. "Response Deadline" means the deadline by which Class Members must submit a Request for Exclusion, Notice of Objection, and/or Dispute, which shall be the date that is forty-five (45) calendar days from the initial mailing of the Class Notice by the Settlement Administrator to Class Members, unless the 45th day falls on a Sunday or Federal holiday, in which case the Response Deadline will be extended to the next day on which the United States Postal service is open. The Response Deadline may also be extended by express agreement between Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel. In the event that a Class Notice is re-mailed to a Class Member, the Response Deadline for that Class Member shall be extended fifteen (15) calendar days from the original Response Deadline.

kk. "Settlement Administrator" means CPT Group, Inc., or any other third-party class action settlement administrator agreed to by the Parties and approved by the Court for purposes of administering the Settlement. The Parties and their counsel each represent that they do not have any financial interest in the Settlement Administrator or otherwise have a relationship with the Settlement Administrator that could create a conflict of interest.

nn. “Workweeks” means the number of weeks each Class Member worked for Defendant as a non-exempt employee in California during the Class Period. Workweeks will be calculated by the Settlement Administrator from the Class List.

11. For the purposes of this Settlement only, the Parties stipulate to the certification of the Class.

12. The Parties agree that certification for the purpose of settlement is not an admission that certification is proper under Section 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure. Should, for whatever reason, the Court not grant 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 connection with, the issue of whether or not certification would be inappropriate in a non-settlement context.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, promises, and agreements set forth herein, the Parties agree, subject to the Court's approval, as follows:

13. Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Defendant agrees not to oppose or impede any application or motion by Class Counsel for attorneys' fees in the amount up to thirty-five (35%) of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$157,500.00 if the Gross Settlement Amount is \$450,000.00) and reimbursement of actual costs and expenses associated with Class Counsel's litigation and settlement of the Actions, in an amount not to exceed Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$25,000.00), both of which will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. These amounts will cover any and all work performed and any and all costs incurred by Class Counsel in connection with the litigation of the Actions, including without limitation all work performed and costs incurred to

1 date, and all work to be performed and all costs to be incurred in connection with obtaining the Court's
2 approval of this Settlement Agreement, including any objections raised and any appeals necessitated
3 by those objections. Class Counsel shall be solely and legally responsible for correctly characterizing
4 this compensation for tax purposes and for paying any taxes on the amounts received. The Settlement
5 Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 to Class Counsel for the Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Any
6 portion of the requested Attorneys' Fees and Costs that is not awarded by the Court to Class Counsel
7 shall be reallocated to the Net Settlement Amount for the benefit of the Settlement Class Members.

8 14. Enhancement Payment. Defendant agrees not to oppose or impede any application or
9 motion by Plaintiff for an Enhancement Payment in the amount up to Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero
10 Cents (\$10,000.00). The Enhancement Payment, which will be paid from the Gross Settlement
11 Amount, subject to Court approval, will be in addition to their Individual Settlement Payment as a
12 Settlement Class Member and Individual PAGA Payment as a PAGA Employee. Plaintiff shall be
13 solely and legally responsible for correctly characterizing this compensation for tax purposes and for
14 paying any taxes on the amounts received. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form
15 1099 to Plaintiff for the Enhancement Payment. Any portion of the requested Enhancement Payment
16 that is not awarded by the Court to Plaintiff shall be reallocated to the Net Settlement Amount for the
17 benefit of the Settlement Class Members.

18 15. PAGA Amount. Subject to approval by the Court, the Parties agree that the amount of
19 Twenty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$22,500.00) shall be allocated from
20 the Gross Settlement Amount toward penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act, California
21 Labor Code Section 2698, *et seq.* (i.e., the PAGA Amount), of which sixty-five percent (65%), or
22 \$14,625.00, will be paid to the LWDA (i.e., the LWDA Payment) and thirty-five percent (35%), or
23 \$7,875.00, will be distributed to PAGA Employees (i.e., the PAGA Employee Amount) on a *pro rata*
24 basis, based on the total number of Pay Periods worked by each PAGA Employee during the PAGA
25 Period (i.e., the Individual PAGA Payments).

26 16. Settlement Administration Costs. The Settlement Administrator will be paid for the
27 reasonable costs of administration of the Settlement and distribution of payments under the Settlement,
28 which is currently estimated not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$10,000.00). These

costs, which will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, subject to Court approval, will include, *inter alia*, translating the Class Notice to Spanish, printing, distributing, and tracking Class Notices and other documents for the Settlement, calculating and distributing payments due under the Settlement, issuing of 1099 and W-2 IRS Forms and all required tax reporting, filings, withholdings, and remittances, providing necessary reports and declarations, and other duties and responsibilities set forth herein to process the Settlement, and as requested by the Parties. To the extent the actual Settlement Administrator's costs are greater than the estimated amount stated herein, such excess amount will be deducted from the Gross Settlement Amount, subject to approval by the Court. Any portion of the estimated, designated, and/or awarded Settlement Administration Costs which are not in fact required to fulfill payment to the Settlement Administrator to undertake the required settlement administration duties shall be reallocated to the Net Settlement Amount for the benefit of the Settlement Class Members.

17. Escalator Clause. Defendant has represented that the Class Members worked a total of 14,850 workweeks during the period August 13, 2020 to June 11, 2025. If it is determined by the Settlement Administrator that the total number of Workweeks worked by the Class Members during the Class Period actually exceeds 14,850 by more than 10% (i.e., if the Workweeks exceed 16,335), then Defendant shall have the option of: (i) increasing the Gross Settlement Amount on a *pro rata* basis equal to the percentage increase in the number of Workweeks worked by the Class Members above 10%; or (i) rolling back the end of the Class Period and PAGA Period to the date in which the number of Workweeks do not exceed 16,335.

18. Individual Settlement Share Calculations. Individual Settlement Shares will be calculated and apportioned from the Net Settlement Amount based on the Class Members' number of Workweeks, as follows:

a. After Preliminary Approval, the Settlement Administrator will divide the Net Settlement Amount by the Workweeks of all Class Members to yield the "Estimated Workweek Value," and multiply each Class Member's individual Workweeks by the Estimated Workweek Value to yield each Class Member's estimated Individual Settlement Share that the Class Member may be entitled to receive under the Class Settlement.

b. After Final Approval, the Settlement Administrator will divide the final Net Settlement Amount by the Workweeks of all Settlement Class Members to yield the “Final Workweek Value,” and multiply each Settlement Class Member’s individual Workweeks by the Final Workweek Value to each Settlement Class Member’s final Individual Settlement Share.

19. Individual PAGA Payment Calculations. Individual PAGA Payments will be calculated and apportioned from the PAGA Employee Amount based on the PAGA Employees’ number of Pay Periods, as follows: The Settlement Administrator will divide the PAGA Employee Amount, i.e., 35% of the PAGA Amount, by the Pay Periods of all PAGA Employees to yield the “Pay Period Value,” and multiply each PAGA Employee’s individual Pay Periods by the Pay Period Value to yield each PAGA Employee’s Individual PAGA Payment.

20. Tax Treatment of Individual Settlement Shares and Individual PAGA Payments. Each Individual Settlement Share will be allocated as follows: twenty percent (20%) wages and eighty percent (80%) penalties, interest, and non-wage damages. The portion allocated to wages will be reported on an IRS Form W-2 and the portions allocated to penalties, interest, and non-wage damages will be reported on an IRS Form 1099 (if applicable) by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will withhold the employee’s share of taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Shares, and issue checks to Settlement Class Members for their Individual Settlement Payments (i.e., payment of their Individual Settlement Share net of these taxes and withholdings). The Employer Taxes will be paid separately and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount. Each Individual PAGA Payment will be allocated as one hundred percent (100%) penalties and will be reported on an IRS Form 1099 (if applicable) by the Settlement Administrator.

21. Administration of Taxes by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will be responsible for issuing to Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, PAGA Employees, and Class Counsel any tax forms (i.e., IRS Forms W-2, IRS Forms 1099, etc.) as may be required by law for all amounts paid pursuant to this Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Administrator will also be responsible for calculating the Employer Taxes and forwarding all payroll taxes and other legally required withholdings to the appropriate government authorities.

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1 22. Tax Liability. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant, and Defendant's Counsel do not
2 intend anything contained in this Settlement Agreement to constitute advice regarding taxes or
3 taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement Agreement be relied on as such. Plaintiff, Settlement
4 Class Members, and PAGA Employees are not relying on any statement, representation, or calculation
5 by Defendant, the Settlement Administrator, or Class Counsel in this regard. Plaintiff, Settlement
6 Class Members, and PAGA Employees understand and agree that Plaintiff, Settlement Class
7 Members, and PAGA Employees will be solely responsible for the payment of any taxes and penalties
8 assessed on the payments described in this Settlement Agreement. Plaintiff, Settlement Class
9 Members, and PAGA Employees should consult with their tax advisors concerning the tax
10 consequences of any payment they receive under the Settlement.

11 23. Circular 230 Disclaimer. EACH PARTY TO THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
12 (FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE "ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY" AND EACH PARTY
13 TO THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT OTHER THAN THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY, AN
14 "OTHER PARTY") ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT (1) NO PROVISION OF THIS
15 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, AND NO WRITTEN COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE
16 BETWEEN OR AMONG THE PARTIES OR THEIR ATTORNEYS AND OTHER ADVISORS, IS
17 OR WAS INTENDED TO BE, NOR WILL ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE
18 CONSTITUTE OR BE CONSTRUED OR BE RELIED UPON AS, TAX ADVICE WITHIN THE
19 MEANING OF UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR 230 (31 CFR PART
20 10, AS AMENDED); (2) THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY (A) HAS RELIED EXCLUSIVELY
21 UPON HIS, HER, OR ITS OWN, INDEPENDENT LEGAL AND TAX COUNSEL FOR ADVICE
22 (INCLUDING TAX ADVICE) IN CONNECTION WITH THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, (B)
23 HAS NOT ENTERED INTO THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BASED UPON THE
24 RECOMMENDATION OF ANY OTHER PARTY OR ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO ANY
25 OTHER PARTY, AND (C) IS NOT ENTITLED TO RELY UPON ANY COMMUNICATION OR
26 DISCLOSURE BY ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO ANY OTHER PARTY TO AVOID ANY
27 TAX PENALTY THAT MAY BE IMPOSED ON THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY; AND (3) NO
28 ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO ANY OTHER PARTY HAS IMPOSED ANY LIMITATION

1 THAT PROTECTS THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY SUCH ATTORNEY’S OR ADVISOR’S
2 TAX STRATEGIES (REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH LIMITATION IS LEGALLY
3 BINDING) UPON DISCLOSURE BY THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY OF THE TAX
4 TREATMENT OR TAX STRUCTURE OF ANY TRANSACTION, INCLUDING ANY
5 TRANSACTION CONTEMPLATED BY THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.

6 24. Settlement Awards Do Not Trigger Additional Benefits. All payments made under the
7 Settlement shall be deemed to be paid to the payee solely in the year in which such payments actually
8 are issued to the payee. It is expressly understood and agreed that payments made under this
9 Settlement shall not in any way entitle Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, or any PAGA Employee
10 to additional compensation or benefits under any new or additional compensation or benefits, or any
11 bonus, contest, or other compensation or benefit plan or agreement in place during the Class Period,
12 nor will it entitle Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, or any PAGA Employee to any increased
13 retirement, 401K benefits or matching benefits, or deferred compensation benefits (notwithstanding
14 any contrary language or agreement in any benefit or compensation plan document that might have
15 been in effect during the Class Period).

16 25. Duties of the Parties with Respect to Obtaining Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
17 Plaintiff will obtain a hearing date from the Court for Plaintiff’s motion for preliminary approval of
18 the Settlement, which Class Counsel will be responsible for drafting, and submit this Settlement
19 Agreement to the Court in support of said motion. Class Counsel will provide Defendant’s Counsel a
20 draft of the preliminary approval motion before filing it with the Court. Defendant agrees not to
21 oppose the motion for preliminary approval of the Settlement consistent with this Settlement
22 Agreement. By way of said motion, Plaintiff will apply for the entry of the Preliminary Approval
23 Order seeking the following:

- 24 a. Conditionally certifying the Class for settlement purposes only;
- 25 b. Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement;
- 26 c. Preliminarily appointing Plaintiff as the representative of the Class;
- 27 d. Preliminarily appointing Class Counsel as counsel for the Class;

28 ///

e. Approving as to form and content, the mutually-agreed upon and proposed Class Notice and directing its mailing by First Class U.S. Mail;

f. Approving the manner and method for Class Members to request exclusion from or object to the Class Settlement as contained herein and within the Class Notice; and

g. Scheduling a Final Approval Hearing at which the Court will determine whether Final Approval of the Settlement should be granted.

26. Notice of Settlement to the LWDA. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699(1)(2), Class Counsel shall notify the LWDA of the Settlement.

27. Delivery of Class List. Within thirty (30) calendar days of Preliminary Approval, Defendant will provide the Class List to the Settlement Administrator. To protect Class Members' privacy rights, the Settlement Administrator must maintain the Class List in confidence, use the Class List only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Class List to Settlement Administrator employees who need access to the Class List to effect and perform under this Agreement.

28. Notice by First-Class U.S. Mail.

a. Within seven (7) calendar days after receiving the Class List from Defendant, the Settlement Administrator will perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database or any other similar services available, such as provided by Experian, for information to update and correct for any known or identifiable address changes, and will mail a Class Notice in English and Spanish (in the form attached as **Exhibit A** to this Settlement Agreement) to all Class Members via First-Class U.S. Mail, using the most current, known mailing addresses identified by the Settlement Administrator.

b. Any Class Notice returned to the Settlement Administrator as undeliverable on or before the Response Deadline will be sent promptly via First-Class U.S. Mail to the forwarding address affixed thereto and the Settlement Administrator will indicate the date of such re-mailing on the Class Notice. If no forwarding address is provided, the Settlement Administrator will promptly attempt to determine the correct address using a skip-trace or other search, using the name, address, and/or Social Security number of the Class Member, and perform a single re-mailing within five (5)

1 calendar days.

2 c. Compliance with the procedures described herein above shall constitute due and
3 sufficient notice to Class Members of the Settlement and shall satisfy the requirements of due process.
4 Nothing else shall be required of or done by the Parties, Class Counsel, or Defendant's Counsel to
5 provide notice of the Settlement.

6 29. Disputes Regarding Workweeks and/or Pay Periods. Class Members will have an
7 opportunity to dispute the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods which have been credited to
8 them, as reflected in their respective Class Notices, by submitting a timely and valid Dispute to the
9 Settlement Administrator, by mail, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline. The date of the
10 postmark on the return mailing envelope will be the exclusive means to determine whether a Dispute
11 has been timely submitted. Absent evidence rebutting the accuracy of Defendant's records and data
12 as they pertain to the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to be credited to a disputing Class
13 Member, Defendant's records will be presumed to be correct and determinative of the dispute.
14 However, if a Class Member produces information and/or documents to the contrary, the Settlement
15 Administrator will evaluate the materials submitted by the Class Member and the Settlement
16 Administrator will resolve and determine the number of eligible Workweeks and/or Pay Periods that
17 the disputing Class Member should be credited with under the Settlement. The Settlement
18 Administrator's decision on such disputes will be final and non-appealable.

19 30. Requesting Exclusion from the Class Settlement. Any Class Member wishing to be
20 excluded from the Class Settlement must submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion to the
21 Settlement Administrator, by mail, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline. The date of the
22 postmark on the return mailing envelope will be the exclusive means to determine whether a Request
23 for Exclusion has been timely submitted. The Settlement Administrator will certify jointly to Class
24 Counsel and Defendant's Counsel the number of timely and valid Requests for Exclusion that are
25 submitted, and also identify the individuals who have submitted a timely and valid Request for
26 Exclusion in a declaration that is to be filed with the Court in advance of the Final Approval Hearing.
27 At no time will any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class Members
28 to request exclusion from the Class Settlement. Any Class Member who submits a Request for

1 Exclusion is prohibited from making any objection to the Class Settlement. Any Class Member who
2 submits a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will not be bound by the Class Settlement and will
3 not be issued an Individual Settlement Payment. Any Class Member who does not affirmatively
4 request exclusion from the Class Settlement by submitting a timely and valid Request for Exclusion
5 will be bound by all of the terms of the Class Settlement, including and not limited to those pertaining
6 to the Released Class Claims, as well as any judgment that may be entered by the Court if it grants
7 Final Approval to the Settlement. Notwithstanding the above, all PAGA Employees will be bound to
8 the PAGA Settlement and will be issued their Individual PAGA Payment, irrespective of whether they
9 submit a Request for Exclusion.

10 31. Objecting to the Class Settlement. To object to the Class Settlement, Settlement Class
11 Members must submit a timely and complete Notice of Objection to the Settlement Administrator, by
12 mail, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline. The date of the postmark on the return mailing
13 envelope will be the exclusive means to determine whether a Notice of Objection has been timely
14 submitted. The Settlement Administrator will certify jointly to Class Counsel and Defendant's
15 Counsel the number of Notices of Objection that are submitted (specifying which ones were timely
16 and complete and which were not), and also attach them to a declaration that is to be filed with the
17 Court in advance of the Final Approval Hearing. At no time will any of the Parties or their counsel
18 seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Settlement Class Members to object to the Class Settlement or
19 appeal from the Final Approval Order and Judgment. Settlement Class Members, individually or
20 through counsel, may also present their objection orally at the Final Approval Hearing, regardless of
21 whether they have submitted a Notice of Objection.

22 32. Reports by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator shall provide
23 weekly reports to counsel for the Parties providing: (a) the number of undeliverable and re-mailed
24 Class Notices; (ii) the number of Class Members who have submitted Disputes; (iii) the number of
25 Class Members who have submitted Requests for Exclusion; and (iv) the number of Settlement Class
26 Members who have submitted Notices of Objection. Additionally, the Settlement Administrator will
27 provide to counsel for the Parties any updated reports regarding the administration of the Settlement
28 Agreement as needed or requested, and immediately notify the Parties when it receives a request from

an individual or any other entity regarding inclusion in the Class and/or Settlement or regarding a Dispute.

33. Defendant's Right to Rescind. If more than ten percent (10%) of the Class Members submit timely and valid Requests for Exclusion, Defendant may elect to rescind the Settlement Agreement. Defendant must exercise this right of rescission in writing that is provided to Class Counsel within fourteen (14) calendar days of the Settlement Administrator notifying the Parties of the number of Class Members who have submitted timely and valid Requests for Exclusion following the Response Deadline. If Defendant exercises this option, Defendant shall pay any costs of settlement administration owed to the Settlement Administrator incurred up to that date.

34. Certification of Completion. Upon completion of administration of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will provide a written declaration under oath to certify such completion to the Court and counsel for all Parties.

35. Duties of the Parties with Respect to Obtaining Final Approval of the Settlement. After the Response Deadline, a Final Approval Hearing will be conducted to determine whether Final Approval of the Settlement should be granted, along with the amounts properly payable for: (a) Individual Settlement Shares; (b) Individual PAGA Payments; (c) LWDA Payment; (d) Attorneys' Fees and Costs; (e) Enhancement Payment; and (f) Settlement Administration Costs. The Final Approval Hearing will not be held earlier than thirty (30) calendar days after the Response Deadline. Plaintiff and Class Counsel will be responsible for drafting the motion seeking Final Approval of the Settlement. Class Counsel will provide Defendant's Counsel a draft of the final approval motion before filing it with the Court. By way of said motion, Plaintiff will apply for the entry of the Final Approval Order and Judgment, which will provide for, in substantial part, the following:

- a. Approval of the Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate, and directing consummation of its terms and provisions;
- b. Certification of the Settlement Class;
- c. Approval of the application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Class Counsel;
- d. Approval of the application for Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff;

///

e. Directing Defendant to fund all amounts due under the Settlement Agreement and ordered by the Court; and

f. Entering judgment in the Action, while maintaining continuing jurisdiction, in conformity with California Rules of Court 3.769 and the Settlement Agreement.

36. Funding of the Gross Settlement Amount. No later than twenty (20) business days after the Effective Date, Defendant will deposit the Gross Settlement Amount into a Qualified Settlement Fund (“QSF”) within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.468B-1, *et seq.*, to be established by the Settlement Administrator. Defendant shall provide all information necessary for the Settlement Administrator to calculate necessary payroll taxes including its official name, 8-digit state unemployment insurance tax ID number, and other information requested by the Settlement Administrator, no later than five (5) business days after the Effective Date.

37. Distribution of the Gross Settlement Amount. Within five (5) business days of the funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, the Settlement Administrator will issue the Individual Settlement Payments to Settlement Class Members, Individual PAGA Payments to PAGA Employees, LWDA Payment to the LWDA, Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff, Attorneys’ Fees and Costs to Class Counsel, and Settlement Administration Costs to itself. The Settlement Administrator shall also set aside the Employer Taxes and all employee-side payroll taxes, contributions, and withholding, and timely forward these to the appropriate government authorities.

38. Settlement Checks. The Settlement Administrator will be responsible for undertaking appropriate deductions, required tax reporting, and issuing the Individual Settlement Payments by way of check to the Settlement Class Members and the Individual PAGA Payments by way of check to the PAGA Employees in accordance with this Settlement Agreement. When issuing payments, the Settlement Administrator may combine the Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA Payment into one check if the intended recipient for both payments is one individual. Settlement Class Members and PAGA Employees are not required to submit a claim to be issued an Individual Settlement Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment. Each Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA Payment check will be valid and negotiable for one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days from the date the checks are issued, and thereafter, shall be canceled. Any funds associated with such canceled checks shall be distributed by the Settlement Administrator to the State

of California's Unclaimed Property Division in the name of the Settlement Class Member and/or PAGA Employee. The Parties agree that this disposition results in no "unpaid residue" under California Civil Procedure Code Section 384, as the entire Net Settlement Amount will be paid out to Settlement Class Members, whether or not they cash their settlement checks. Therefore, Defendant will not be required to pay any interest on such amounts. The Settlement Administrator shall undertake amended and/or supplemental tax filings and reporting required under applicable local, state, and federal tax laws that are necessitated due to the cancelation of any Individual Settlement Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment checks. Settlement Class Members whose Individual Settlement Payment checks are canceled shall, nevertheless, be bound by the Class Settlement, and PAGA Employees whose Individual PAGA Payment checks are canceled shall, nevertheless, be bound by the PAGA Settlement.

39. Class Settlement Release. Upon the Effective Date and full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff and all Settlement Class Members will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties of all Released Class Claims.

40. PAGA Settlement Release. Upon the Effective Date and full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff, the State of California with respect to all PAGA Employees, and all PAGA Employees will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties of all Released PAGA Claims.

41. Plaintiff's General Release. Upon the Effective Date and full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff, individually and on her own behalf, and on behalf of her respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties from any and all claims, debts, liabilities, demands, obligations, guarantees, costs, expenses, attorneys' fees, damages, or causes of action of any kind or nature whatsoever, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, asserted or unasserted, which Plaintiff, at any time during the Class Period, had or claimed to have or may have. Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff now

1 knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that this release shall be and remain effective in
2 all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff's discovery of them. It is
3 agreed that this is a general release and is to be broadly construed as a release of all claims, provided
4 that, notwithstanding the foregoing, this Paragraph expressly does not include a release of any claims
5 that cannot be released hereunder by law. Any and all rights granted under any state or federal law or
6 regulation limiting the effect of this Settlement Agreement, including the provisions of Section 1542
7 of the California Civil Code, ARE HEREBY EXPRESSLY WAIVED. Section 1542 of the California
8 Civil Code reads as follows:

9 **A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR**
10 **OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER**
11 **FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM**
12 **OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH**
13 **THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.**

14 42. Final Approval Order and Judgment. The Parties shall provide the Settlement
15 Administrator with a copy of the Final Approval Order and Judgment once it is entered by the Court,
16 and the Settlement Administrator shall post the Final Approval Order and Judgment on its website for
17 sixty (60) calendar days. No individualized notice of the Final Approval Order and Judgment to the
18 Class will be required.

19 43. Continued Jurisdiction. After entry of the judgment pursuant to the Settlement, the
20 Court will have continuing jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 3.769 of the California Rules of Court and
21 Section 664.6 of the California Code of Civil Procedure, for purposes of addressing: (a) the
22 interpretation and enforcement of the terms of the Settlement, (b) settlement administration matters,
23 and (c) such post-judgment matters as may be appropriate under court rules or as set forth in this
24 Settlement Agreement.

25 44. Effects of Termination or Rescission of Settlement. Termination or rescission of the
26 Settlement Agreement shall have the following effects:

27 a. The Settlement Agreement shall be void and shall have no force or effect, and
28 no Party shall be bound by any of its terms;

b. In the event the Settlement Agreement is terminated, Defendant shall have no obligation to make any payments to any Party, Class Member, or attorney, except that the terminating Party shall pay the Settlement Administrator for services rendered up to the date the Settlement Administrator is notified that the Settlement has been terminated;

c. The Preliminary Approval Order and Final Approval Order and Judgment, including any order certifying the Class, shall be vacated;

d. The Settlement Agreement and all negotiations, statements, and proceedings relating thereto shall be without prejudice to the rights of any of the Parties, all of whom shall be restored to their respective positions in the Action prior to the execution of the Settlement Agreement;

e. Neither this Settlement Agreement, nor any ancillary documents, actions, statements, or filings in furtherance of the Settlement (including all matters associated with the mediation) shall be admissible or offered into evidence in the Action or any other action for any purpose whatsoever; and

f. Any documents generated to bring the Settlement into effect, will be null and void, and any order or judgment entered by the Court in furtherance of this Settlement Agreement will likewise be treated as void from the beginning.

45. No Prior Assignments. The Parties and their counsel 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 right herein released and discharged.

46. Exhibits Incorporated by Reference. The terms of this Settlement include the terms set forth in any attached exhibits, which are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein. Any exhibits to this Settlement Agreement are an integral part of the Settlement.

47. Entire Agreement. This Settlement Agreement and any attached exhibits constitute the entirety of the Parties' agreement relating to the settlement and transaction completed thereby, 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 other prior or contemporaneous written or oral agreements may be deemed binding on the Parties. The Parties expressly recognize California Civil Code Section 1625 and California Code of Civil Procedure

1 Section 1856(a), which provide that a written agreement is to be construed according to its terms and
2 may not be varied or contradicted by extrinsic evidence, and the Parties agree that no such extrinsic
3 oral or written representations or terms will modify, vary, or contradict the terms of this Settlement
4 Agreement.

5 48. Interim Stay of Proceedings. The Parties agree to hold in abeyance all proceedings in
6 the Action (including with respect to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 583.310), except
7 such proceedings necessary to implement and complete this Settlement Agreement, pending the Final
8 Approval Hearing to be conducted by the Court.

9 49. Amendment or Modification. Prior to the filing of the motion for preliminary approval
10 of the Settlement, the Parties may not amend or modify any provision of this Settlement Agreement
11 except by written agreement signed by counsel for all Parties. After the filing of the motion for
12 preliminary approval of the Settlement, the Parties may not amend or modify any provision of this
13 Settlement Agreement except by written agreement signed by counsel for all the Parties and subject
14 to Court approval. A waiver or amendment of any provision of this Settlement Agreement will not
15 constitute a waiver of any other provision.

16 50. Authorization to Enter into Settlement Agreement. Counsel for all Parties warrant and
17 represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Settlement
18 Agreement and to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant
19 to this Settlement Agreement to effectuate its terms and to execute any other documents required to
20 effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement. The Parties warrant that they understand and have
21 full authority to enter into this Settlement Agreement, and further intend that this Settlement
22 Agreement will be fully enforceable and binding on all Parties, and agree that it will be admissible
23 and subject to disclosure in any proceeding to enforce its terms, notwithstanding any mediation
24 confidentiality provisions that otherwise might apply under state or federal law.

25 51. Signatories. It is agreed that because the members of the Class are so numerous, it is
26 impossible or impractical to have each Settlement Class Member or PAGA Employee execute this
27 Settlement Agreement. The Class Notice will advise all Class Members of the binding nature of the
28 Class Settlement as to the Settlement Class Members and the binding nature of the PAGA Settlement
as to the PAGA Employees, and the releases provided for by this Settlement Agreement shall have
the same force and effect as if this Settlement Agreement were executed by each Settlement Class

1 Member and PAGA Employee.

2 52. Binding on Successors and Assigns. This Settlement Agreement will be binding upon,
3 and inure to the benefit of, the successors or assigns of the Parties hereto, as previously defined.

4 53. California Law Governs. All terms of this Settlement Agreement and attached exhibits
5 hereto will be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of California.

6 54. Execution and Counterparts. This Settlement Agreement is subject only to the
7 execution of all Parties. However, this Settlement Agreement may be executed in one or more
8 counterparts. All executed counterparts and each of them, including facsimile, electronic, and scanned
9 copies of the signature page, will be deemed to be one and the same instrument.

10 55. Acknowledgement that the Settlement is Fair and Reasonable. The Parties believe this
11 Settlement Agreement is a fair, adequate, and reasonable settlement of the Action and have arrived at
12 this Settlement after arm's length negotiations and in the context of adversarial litigation, taking into
13 account all relevant factors, present and potential. The Parties further acknowledge that they are each
14 represented by competent counsel and that they have had an opportunity to consult with their counsel
15 regarding the fairness and reasonableness of this Settlement Agreement. In addition, if necessary to
16 obtain approval of the Settlement, the Mediator may execute a declaration supporting the Settlement
17 and the reasonableness of the Settlement and the Court may, in its discretion, contact the Mediator to
18 discuss the Settlement and whether or not the Settlement is objectively fair and reasonable.

19 56. Invalidity of Any Provision. Before declaring any provision of this Settlement
20 Agreement invalid, the Court will first attempt to construe the provision as valid to the fullest extent
21 possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of this Settlement
22 Agreement valid and enforceable.

23 57. Plaintiff's Cooperation. Plaintiff agrees to sign this Settlement Agreement and, by
24 signing this Settlement Agreement, is hereby bound by the terms herein and agrees to fully cooperate
25 to implement the Settlement.

26 58. Non-Admission of Liability. The Parties enter into this Settlement Agreement to
27 resolve the dispute that has arisen between them and to avoid the burden, expense, and risk of
28 continued litigation. In entering into this Settlement Agreement, Defendant does not admit, and

specifically denies, it has violated any federal, state, or local law; violated any regulations or guidelines promulgated pursuant to any statute or any other applicable laws, regulations, or legal requirements; breached any contract; violated or breached any duty; engaged in any misrepresentation or deception; or engaged in any other unlawful conduct with respect to its employees. Neither this Settlement Agreement, nor any of its terms or provisions, nor any of the negotiations connected with it, shall be construed as an admission or concession by Defendant of any such violations or failures to comply with any applicable law. Except as necessary in a proceeding to enforce the terms of this Settlement Agreement, this Settlement Agreement and its terms and provisions shall not be offered or received as evidence in any action or proceeding to establish any liability or admission on the part of Defendant or to establish the existence of any condition constituting a violation of, or a non-compliance with, federal, state, local, or other applicable law.

59. Captions. The captions and paragraph numbers in this Settlement Agreement are inserted for the reader's convenience, and in no way define, limit, construe, or describe the scope or intent of the provisions of this Settlement Agreement.

60. Mutual Preparation. The Parties have had a full opportunity to negotiate the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement. Accordingly, this Settlement Agreement will not be construed more strictly against one Party than another merely by virtue of the fact that it may have been prepared by counsel for one of the Parties, it being recognized that, because of the arms-length negotiations between the Parties, all Parties have contributed equally to the preparation of this Settlement Agreement.

61. Representation By Counsel. The Parties acknowledge that they have been represented by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Settlement Agreement, and that this Settlement Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel, and reviewed in full.

62. All Terms Subject to Final Court Approval. All amounts and procedures described in this Settlement Agreement herein will be subject to final Court approval.

63. Notices. All notices, demands, and other communications to be provided concerning the Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third

business day after mailing by First Class U.S. Mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff and Class Counsel:

Jonathan M. Genish

jgenish@blackstonepc.com

Barbara DuVan-Clarke

BDC@blackstonepc.com

P.J. Van Ert

pjvanert@blackstonepc.com

Danielle Ling GruppChang

dgruppchang@blackstonepc.com

Alexandra Rose

arose@blackstonepc.com

Shawn Bahmani

sbahmani@blackstonepc.com

BLACKSTONE LAW, APC

8383 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 745

Beverly Hills, California 90211

Tel: (310) 622-4278 / Fax: (855) 786-6356

To Defendant:

Dina S. Glucksman

dglucksman@grsm.com

Leslie H. Joyner

ljoyner@grsm.com

Emilie MacLean

emaclean@grsm.com

GORDON REES SCULLY MANSUKHANI, LLP

633 West Fifth Street, 52nd Floor

Los Angeles, California 90071

Tel: (213) 576-5000 / Fax: (213) 680-4470

64. Cooperation and Execution of Necessary Documents. All Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other in good faith and use their best efforts to implement the Settlement, including and not limited to, executing all documents to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement Agreement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement, the Parties may seek the assistance of the Mediator and then the Court to resolve such disagreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto knowingly and voluntarily executed this Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement between Plaintiff and Defendant:

1 **IT IS SO AGREED.**

2
3
4 Dated: 08/11/2025

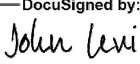
PLAINTIFF DIANNA FLORES



Plaintiff Dianna Flores

6 **DEFENDANT CAPITOL DISTRIBUTION**
7 **COMPANY LLC dba CAPITOL FOOD**
8 **COMPANY**

9 Dated: August 4, 2025

DocuSigned by:


202A632BC50A438...

10 Full Name: JOHN LEVI

11 Title: PRESIDENT

12 On behalf of Defendant Capitol Distribution
Company LLC dba Capitol Food Company

13 **APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:**

BLACKSTONE LAW, APC

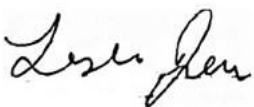
15 Dated: 08/11/2025



Alexandra Rose
Attorneys for Plaintiff Dianna Flores
and Proposed Class Counsel

19 **GORDON REES SCULLY MANSUKHANI,**
20 **LLP**

21 Dated: August 4, 2025



Dina S. Glucksman
Leslie H. Joyner
Emilie MacLean
Attorneys for Defendant Capitol Distribution
Company LLC dba Capitol Food Company

Exhibit A

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

***Dianna Flores v. Capitol Distribution Company LLC dba Capitol Food Company* Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles, Case No. 24STCV20477**

PLEASE READ THIS CLASS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

You have received this Class Notice because Defendant's records indicate that you may be eligible to take part in the class action settlement reached in the above-referenced case.

You do not need to take any action to receive a settlement payment.

This Class Notice is designed to advise you of your rights and options with respect to the settlement, and how you can request to be excluded from the Class Settlement, object to the Class Settlement, and/or dispute the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods that you are credited with, if you so choose.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT: A class and representative action settlement has been reached between Plaintiff Dianna Flores ("Plaintiff") and Defendant Capitol Distribution Company LLC dba Capitol Food Company ("Defendant") (Plaintiff and Defendant are collectively referred to as the "Parties") in the case entitled *Dianna Flores v. Capitol Distribution Company LLC dba Capitol Food Company*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 24STCV20477 ("Action"), which may affect your legal rights. On [date of Preliminary Approval], the Court granted preliminary approval of the settlement and scheduled a hearing on [hearing date] at [hearing time] ("Final Approval Hearing") to determine whether or not the Court should grant final approval of the settlement.

I. IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

"Class" or "Class Member(s)" means all current and former non-exempt employees (excluding drivers) who worked for Defendant in the State of California at any time during the Class Period.

"Class Period" means the period from August 13, 2020 to August 11, 2025.

"Class Settlement" means the settlement and resolution of all Released Class Claims.

"PAGA Employee(s)" means all current and former non-exempt employees (excluding drivers) who worked for Defendant in the State of California at any time during the PAGA Period.

"PAGA Period" means the period from August 6, 2023 to August 11, 2025.

"PAGA Settlement" means the settlement and resolution of all Released PAGA Claims.

II. BACKGROUND OF THE ACTION

On August 6, 2024, Plaintiff provided written notice to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and Defendant of the specific provisions of the California Labor Code that Plaintiff contends were violated ("PAGA Letter"). On August 13, 2024, Plaintiff commenced a putative class action lawsuit by filing a Class Action Complaint in the Action. On _____, 2025, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint ("Operative Complaint") in the Action, which added a cause of action under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 pursuant to California Labor Code Section 2698, *et seq.* ("PAGA").

Plaintiff contends that Defendant failed to properly pay minimum and overtime wages, provide compliant meal and rest breaks and associated premiums, timely pay wages during employment and upon termination of employment and associated waiting-time penalties, provide one day's rest in seven, provide accurate wage statements, and reimburse business expenses, and thereby engaged in unfair business practices in violation of the California Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*, and conduct that gives rise to penalties under PAGA. Plaintiff seeks, among other things, recovery of unpaid wages and meal and rest period premiums, unreimbursed business expenses, restitution, penalties, interest, and attorneys' fees and costs.

Defendant denies all of the allegations in the Action or that it violated any law.

The Parties participated in mediation with a respected class action mediator, and as a result, the Parties reached a settlement. The Parties have since entered into a Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement (“Settlement” or “Settlement Agreement”).

On [Date of Preliminary Approval], the Court entered an order preliminarily approving the Settlement. The Court has appointed CPT Group, Inc. as the administrator of the Settlement (“Settlement Administrator”), Plaintiff Dianna Flores as representative of the Class (“Class Representative”), and the following Plaintiff’s attorneys as counsel for the Class (“Class Counsel”):

Barbara DuVan-Clarke
P.J. Van Ert
Danielle Ling GruppChang
Alexandra Rose
Shawn Bahmani
Blackstone Law, APC
8383 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 745
Beverly Hills, California 90211
Tel: (310) 622-4278 / Fax: (855) 786-6356

If you are a Class Member, you need not take any action to receive an Individual Settlement Payment, but you have the opportunity to request exclusion from the Class Settlement (in which case you will not receive an Individual Settlement Payment), object to the Class Settlement, and/or dispute the Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you, if you so choose, as explained more fully in Sections III and IV below. If you are a PAGA Employee, you do not need to take any action to receive an Individual PAGA Payment; you will not have the opportunity to object or seek exclusion from the PAGA Settlement and all PAGA Employees will be bound to the PAGA Settlement if the Court grants final approval of the Settlement.

The Settlement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in the Settlement is intended or will be construed as an admission by Defendant that the claims in the Action have merit or that Defendant has any liability to Plaintiff, Class Members, or PAGA Employees. Plaintiff and Defendant, and their respective counsel, have concluded and agree that, in light of the risks and uncertainties to each side of continued litigation, the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in the best interests of the Class Members, the State of California, and PAGA Employees.

III. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

A. Settlement Formula

The total gross settlement amount is Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$450,000.00) (the “Gross Settlement Amount”). The portion of the Gross Settlement Amount that is available for payment to Class Members is referred to as the “Net Settlement Amount.” The Net Settlement Amount will be the Gross Settlement Amount less the following payments which are subject to approval by the Court: (1) attorneys’ fees, in an amount not to exceed thirty-five percent (35%) of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$157,500.00), and reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses, in an amount not to exceed Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$25,000.00) to Class Counsel; (2) Enhancement Payment in an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$10,000.00) to Plaintiff for her services in the Action; (3) the amount of Twenty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$22,500.00) allocated toward civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA Amount”), of which the LWDA will be paid 65% (\$14,625.00) (“LWDA Payment”) and the remaining 35% (\$7,875.00) will be distributed to PAGA Employees (“PAGA Employee Amount”); and (4) Settlement Administration Costs in an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$10,000.00) to the Settlement Administrator.

Class Members are eligible to receive payment under the Class Settlement of their *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Amount (“Individual Settlement Share”) based on the number of weeks each Class Member worked for Defendant as a non-exempt employee in California during the Class Period (“Workweeks”). The Settlement Administrator has divided the Net Settlement Amount by the Workweeks of all Class Members to yield the “Estimated Workweek Value,” and multiplied each Class Member’s individual Workweeks by the Estimated Workweek Value to yield an estimated Individual Settlement Share that each Class Member may be entitled to receive under the Class Settlement (which is listed in Section III.C below).

Class Members who do not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion (“Settlement Class Members”) will be issued their final Individual Settlement Payment.

Each Individual Settlement Share will be allocated as twenty percent (20%) as wages, which will be reported on an IRS Form W-2, and eighty percent (80%) as penalties, interest, and non-wage damages, which will be reported on an IRS Form 1099 (if applicable). Each Individual Settlement Share will be subject to reduction for the employee’s share of payroll taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Shares resulting in a net payment to the Settlement Class Member (“Individual Settlement Payment”). The employer’s share of taxes and contributions in connection with the wages portion of Individual Settlement Shares (“Employer Taxes”) will be paid by Defendant separately and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount.

PAGA Employees are eligible to receive payment under the PAGA Settlement of their *pro rata* share of the PAGA Employee Amount (“Individual PAGA Payment”) based on the number of pay periods each PAGA Employee worked for Defendant as a non-exempt employee in California during the PAGA Period (“Pay Periods”). The Settlement Administrator had divided the PAGA Employee Amount, i.e., 35% of the PAGA Amount, by the Pay Periods of all PAGA Employees to yield the “PAGA Pay Period Value,” and multiplied each PAGA Employee’s individual Pay Periods by the Pay Period Value to yield each PAGA Employee’s Individual PAGA Payment.

Each Individual PAGA Payment will be allocated as one hundred percent (100%) penalties, will not be subject to taxes or withholdings, and will be reported on IRS Form 1099 (if applicable).

If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, Individual Settlement Payments will be mailed to Settlement Class Members and Individual PAGA Payments will be mailed to PAGA Employees at the address that is on file with the Settlement Administrator. **If the address to which this Class Notice was mailed is not correct, or if you move after you receive this Class Notice, you must provide your correct mailing address to the Settlement Administrator as soon as possible to ensure you receive any payment that you may be entitled to under the Settlement.**

B. Your Workweeks and Pay Periods (if applicable) Based on Defendant’s Records

According to Defendant’s records:

From August 13, 2020 to August 11, 2025 (i.e., the Class Period), you are credited as having worked [] Workweeks.

From August 6, 2023 to August 11, 2025 (i.e., the PAGA Period), you are credited as having worked [] Pay Periods.

If you wish to dispute the Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you, you must submit your dispute in writing to the Settlement Administrator (“Dispute”). The Dispute must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action (*Flores v. Capitol Distribution Company LLC dba Capitol Food Company*, Case No. 24STCV20477); (b) contain your full name, signature, address, telephone number, and the last four (4) digits of your Social Security number; (c) clearly state that you dispute the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you and what you contend is the correct number; and (d) be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address listed in Section IV.B below, postmarked **on or before [Response Deadline]**.

C. Your Estimated Individual Settlement Share and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable)

As explained above, your estimated Individual Settlement Share and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable) is based on the number of Workweeks and Pay Periods (if applicable) credited to you.

Under the terms of the Settlement, your Individual Settlement Share is estimated to be \$ _____. The Individual Settlement Share is subject to reduction for the employee’s share of taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Share and will only be distributed if the Court approves the Settlement and after the Settlement goes into effect.

Under the terms of the Settlement, your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$ _____ and will only be distributed if the Court approves the Settlement and after the Settlement goes into effect.

The settlement approval process may take multiple months. Your Individual Settlement Share and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable) reflected in this Class Notice is only an estimate. Your actual Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable) may be higher or lower.

D. Release of Claims

Upon the Effective Date and full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff and all Settlement Class Members will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties of all Released Class Claims.

Upon the Effective Date and full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff, the State of California with respect to all PAGA Employees, and all PAGA Employees will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties of all Released PAGA Claims.

“Released Class Claims” means any and all claims, debts, liabilities, demands, obligations, guarantees, costs, expenses, attorneys’ fees, damages, or causes of action which were alleged or which could have been reasonably alleged based on the factual allegations in the Operative Complaint, arising during the Class Period under any federal, state, or local law, which shall specifically include claims for Defendant’s alleged failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, provide compliant meal and rest periods and associated premium payments, timely pay wages during employment and upon termination, provide one day’s rest in seven, provide accurate wage statements, and reimburse necessary business-related expenses in violation of California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, and 2802, the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order, California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*, and all claims for attorneys’ fees and costs and statutory interest in connection therewith.

“Released PAGA Claims” means any and all claims arising from any of the factual allegations in the PAGA Letter and the Operative Complaint, arising during the PAGA Period, for civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code Sections 2698 *et seq.*, which shall specifically include claims for Defendant’s alleged failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, provide compliant meal and rest periods and associated premium payments, timely pay wages during employment and upon termination, provide one day’s rest in seven, provide compliant wage statements, maintain complete and accurate payroll records, and reimburse necessary business-related expenses in violation of California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, and 2802, and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order, and all claims for attorneys’ fees and costs in connection therewith.

“Released Parties” means Defendant and its current and former officers, directors, members, attorneys, insurers, shareholders, representatives, and agents during the Class Period and their respective parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors, successors, and assigns.

E. Attorneys’ Fees and Costs to Class Counsel

Class Counsel will seek attorneys’ fees in an amount not to exceed thirty-five (35%) of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$157,500.00) and reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses in an amount not to exceed Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$25,000.00) (collectively, “Attorneys’ Fees and Costs”), subject to approval by the Court. The Attorneys’ Fees and Costs granted by the Court will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. Class Counsel has been prosecuting the Action on behalf of Plaintiff, Class Members, and PAGA Employees on a contingency fee basis (that is, without being paid any money to date) and has been paying all litigation costs and expenses.

F. Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff

Plaintiff will seek the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$10,000.00) (“Enhancement Payment”), in recognition of her services in connection with the Action. The Enhancement Payment will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, subject to approval by the Court, and if awarded, it will be paid to Plaintiff in addition to her Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA Payment that she is entitled to under the Settlement.

G. Settlement Administration Costs to Settlement Administrator

Payment to the Settlement Administrator is estimated not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$10,000.00) (“Settlement Administration Costs”) for the costs of the notice and settlement administration process, including and not limited to, the expense of notifying the Class Members of the Settlement, processing Requests for Exclusion, Notices of Objection, and Disputes, calculating Individual Settlement Shares, Individual Settlement Payments, and Individual PAGA Payments, and distributing payments and tax forms under the Settlement, and shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, subject to approval by the Court.

IV. WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS AS A CLASS MEMBER?

A. Participate in the Settlement

If you want to participate in the Class Settlement and receive money from the Class Settlement, you do not have to do anything. You will automatically be included in the Class Settlement and issued your Individual Settlement Payment unless you decide to exclude yourself from the Class Settlement.

Unless you elect to exclude yourself from the Class Settlement and if the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, you will be bound by the terms of the Class Settlement and any judgment that may be entered by the Court based thereon, and you will release the Released Class Claims against the Released Parties as described in Section III.D above.

If you are a PAGA Employee and the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, you will automatically be included in the PAGA Settlement and issued your Individual PAGA Payment. This means you will be bound by the terms of the PAGA Settlement and any judgment that may be entered by the Court based thereon, and you will release the Released PAGA Claims against the Released Parties as described in Section III.D above.

As a Class Member and PAGA Employee (if applicable), you will not be separately responsible for the payment of attorney’s fees or litigation costs and expenses, unless you retain your own counsel, in which event you will be responsible for your own attorney’s fees and expenses.

B. Request Exclusion from the Class Settlement

Class Members may request to be excluded from the Class Settlement by submitting a letter (“Request for Exclusion”) to the Settlement Administrator, at the following address:

[Settlement Administrator]
[Mailing Address]

A Request for Exclusion must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action (*Flores v. Capitol Distribution Company LLC dba Capitol Food Company*, Case No. 24STCV20477); (b) contain your full name, signature, address, telephone number, and last four (4) digits of your Social Security number; (c) clearly state that you do not wish to be included in the Class Settlement; and (d) be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address above, postmarked **on or before [Response Deadline]**.

If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, any Class Member who submits a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will not be issued an Individual Settlement Payment, will not be bound by the Class Settlement (and the release of Released Class Claims described in Section III.D above), and will not have any right to object to, appeal, or comment on the Class Settlement. Class Members who do not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will be deemed Settlement Class Members and will be bound by all terms of the Class Settlement, including those pertaining to the release of claims described in Section III.D above, as well as any judgment that may be entered by the Court based thereon. PAGA Employees will be bound to the PAGA Settlement (and the release of Released PAGA Claims described in Section III.D above) and will still be issued an Individual PAGA Payment, irrespective of whether they submit a Request for Exclusion.

C. Object to the Class Settlement

You can object to the Class Settlement as long as you have not submitted a Request for Exclusion by submitting a written objection (“Notice of Objection”) to the Settlement Administrator.

The Notice of Objection must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action (*Flores v. Capitol Distribution Company*

LLC dba Capitol Food Company, Case No. 24STCV20477); (b) contain your full name, signature, address, telephone number, and the last four (4) digits of your Social Security number; (c) contain a written statement of all grounds for the objection accompanied by any legal support for such objection; (d) contain copies of any papers, briefs, or other documents upon which the objection is based; and (e) be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address listed in Section IV.B above, postmarked **on or before [Response Deadline]**.

You may also appear at the Final Approval Hearing and present your objection orally, regardless of whether you have submitted a Notice of Objection.

V. FINAL APPROVAL HEARING

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing in Department 1 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, located at Spring Street Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012 on **[date]**, at **[time]**, to determine whether the Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court also will be asked to approve and grant the Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Class Counsel, Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff, and Settlement Administration Costs to the Settlement Administrator.

The Final Approval Hearing may be continued without further notice to the Class Members and PAGA Employees. It is not necessary for you to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, although you may appear if you wish to.

You can find more information regarding appearing remotely through LA Court Connect online at: <https://www.lacourt.org/lacceligibility/ui/civil.aspx?casetype=ci>

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The above is a summary of the basic terms of the Settlement. For the precise terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement, you should review the detailed Settlement Agreement and other papers, which are on file with the Court.

You may view the Settlement Agreement and other documents filed in the Action by visiting Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 North Hill Street, California 90012, during normal business hours, or by online by visiting the following website: <https://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/>

You may also visit the Settlement Administrator's website at _____ for key documents in the Action.

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT OR THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS SETTLEMENT.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU MAY CALL THE SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR AT THE FOLLOWING TOLL-FREE NUMBER: [INSERT], OR YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT CLASS COUNSEL.

EXHIBIT 4



Thank you for your Proposed Settlement Submission

Desde no-reply@formassembly.com <no-reply@formassembly.com>

Fecha Vie 12/09/2025 16:45

Para Lorena Bautista <lbautista@blackstonepc.com>

[External Email].

09/12/2025 02:45:25 PM

Thank you for your submission to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

Item submitted: Proposed Settlement

On 09/12/2025 02:45:25 PM your Proposed Settlement was successfully processed for case number LWDA-CM-1043896-24

If you have questions or concerns regarding this submission or your case, please send an email to pagainfo@dir.ca.gov.

DIR PAGA Unit on behalf of
Labor and Workforce Development Agency

Website: [http://labor.ca.gov/Private Attorneys General Act.htm](http://labor.ca.gov/Private_Attorneys_General_Act.htm)