

Karen I. Gold (State Bar No. 258360)
kgold@blackstonepc.com
Sara Pezeshkpour (State Bar No. 260240)
spezeshkpour@blackstonepc.com
Noam Reiffman (State Bar No. 299446)
nreiffman@blackstonepc.com
Marissa A. Mayhood (State Bar No. 334376)
mmayhood@blackstonepc.com
Alexandra Rose (State Bar No. 329407)
arose@blackstonepc.com
BLACKSTONE LAW, APC
8383 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 745
Beverly Hills, California 90211
Telephone: (310) 622-4278 / Facsimile: (855) 786-6356

Attorneys for Plaintiff ARIANA CRISAFULLI, individually,
and on behalf of other similarly situated employees,
and GINA MARIE GIOVACCHINI, individually, and on
behalf of aggrieved employees pursuant to the California
Private Attorneys General Act

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SONOMA**

ARIANA CRISAFULLI, individually, and
on behalf of other similarly situated
employees, and GINA MARIE
GIOVACCHINI, individually, and on behalf
of aggrieved employees pursuant to the
California Private Attorneys General Act,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

SONOMA MEDIA INVESTMENTS, LLC;
and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 24CV05458

Honorable Patrick Broderick
Department 16

**DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF
GINA MARIE GIOVACCHINI IN
SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Date:

Time:

Dept:

16

Complaint Filed:

September 13, 2024

FAC Filed:

October 23, 2025

Trial Date:

Not Set

DECLARATION OF GINA MARIE GIOVACCHINI

I, Gina Marie Giovacchini, declare and state as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen (18) and a resident of the State of California. I am one of the named plaintiffs in the above-captioned case. I have personal knowledge of the facts and statements set forth in this declaration, and if called upon to testify, I could and would competently testify thereto.

2. I was employed by Defendant Sonoma Media Investments (“Defendant”) as an hourly-paid, non-exempt Senior Credit Analyst from approximately June 2013 to approximately August 2024.

3. Because I thought the practices at Defendant may not be lawful, I decided to seek legal advice about my work experiences at Defendant and about filing a lawsuit to obtain relief for my grievances. I contacted Blackstone Law, APC and spoke with their attorneys. I wanted to take steps to make sure Defendant was held accountable for not properly compensating its employees for all hours worked and for non-compliant meal and rest breaks. After speaking with the attorneys, I also investigated class and representative action lawsuits on my own. Thereafter, I further consulted with the attorneys at Blackstone Law, APC about my situation, class actions, representative action lawsuits under the Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”), and what it meant to bring a PAGA action so that I understood what I was considering doing.

4. I have regularly conferred with my attorneys regarding the case as part of my responsibilities as a PAGA representative. This process included searching for and providing documents concerning my employment with Defendant, answering any questions my attorneys had about the documents, providing information regarding the company's practices and the duties of other hourly-paid and/or non-exempt employees, and helping my attorneys develop a strategy as to what additional documents and information they could seek to obtain from Defendant.

5. I routinely checked in with my attorneys and their staff to make sure that they had all of my most current information and any additional information that I had obtained. I made myself available to answer any questions my attorneys had about Defendant's practices and treatment of its employees whenever they needed me. I responded to them as quickly as possible and gave them as much information as I could.

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

4 7. I know that I took a sizeable risk by bringing and pursuing this lawsuit for several
5 reasons. First, I understood that if I lost, I would potentially have to pay the costs in the lawsuit. I
6 also understood there was a risk of losing any job and/or income due to the time that I would have to
7 spend fulfilling my responsibilities in this matter, including having to attend the trial, if needed. In
8 contrast, the other employees who will be receiving money from this lawsuit did not have to file a
9 claim or take the risk that I took in bringing this action.

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

12 9. I believe that I have done everything that my attorneys have asked of me and tried, to
13 the best of my ability, to seek relief for the PAGA Employees and the State of California. I have spent
14 approximately 33-37 hours participating in this case as described above. I believe my efforts helped
15 get the result obtained in this case.

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

19 11. I understand that incentive or enhancement awards are discretionary and intended to
20 compensate named plaintiffs for: the quality and quantity of the work done on behalf of the class and
21 other employees, the financial and/or reputational risk undertaken in bringing the class and/or PAGA
22 action, and an acknowledgment of the benefits resulting from the representative's actions. I believe
23 my work in this matter is meritorious on these points for the reasons set forth above.

24 12. I respectfully request that the Court approve and award me an Enhancement Payment
25 in the amount of \$7,500.00 for my efforts and active participation in the case and for the broader,
26 general release of all claims that I have or may have against Defendant in connection with the
27 settlement (other than my pending individual claims against Defendant with JAMS). Taking into
28 consideration the time that I dedicated to this case, I believe that this amount is reasonable.

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

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on 07/25/2025, at Rohnert Park, California.

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Gina Marie Giovacchini