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Case Number CVRI2500837 0000181161823 - Jason B. Galkin, Executive Officer/Clerk of the Court By Brian Votruba, Clerk

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Attorneys for Plaintiff ALVIN COUNTS and all others similarly situated

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

ALVIN COUNTS, an individual; on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated and the general public,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

PROFESSIONAL AUTO TRANSPORT, INC., a Nevada corporation; and DOES 1 to 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: CVRI2500837

[Assigned for all purposes to the Hon. Harold W. Hopp, Dept. 1]

Court Reservation ID: 676643143203

DECLARATION OF JONATHAN PAUL IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT

Date: November 12, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept: 1

DECLARATION OF JONATHAN PAUL

I, Jonathan Paul, declare as follows:

1. I am a resident of the United States of America and am over the age of 21. I am the CEO for Xpand Legal Consulting LLC ("Xpand"), a legal administration service provider. I am preparing this declaration at the request of Plaintiffs' Counsel. I have personal knowledge of the facts contained herein, and, if called upon to testify, I could testify accordingly.

2. Xpand has extensive experience in disseminating class action notices and administering class action settlements. This includes direct mail, telephone and online support, foreign language translation, database management, form processing and fund distribution. The cases our team has administered have ranged from 17 to 350,000 Class Members. Attached as **Exhibit A**, is a true and correct copy of Xpand's CV, outlining our core competencies in legal administration. Xpand maintains the highest level of confidentiality of class member data. The data and communication received by Xpand will be held confidential and Xpand will set up a secure folder to allow Defense Counsel to upload class or representative member information. Xpand is insured with E&O and Cyber Insurance policies in excess of the gross settlement value for this matter.

3. Xpand has no financial interest in or affiliation with either Party in this matter.

4. If selected by the Parties and appointed by the Court to handle the administration of this case, Xpand understands its duties will include but are not limited to: (a) performing address location services to locate class member addresses; (b) mailing English and Spanish notices to class members; (c) handling inquiries from class members concerning the class notice; (d) resolving disputes; and (e) performing other such duties as the parties and/or the Court may direct.

5. Once appointed, Xpand will provide a mailing address, website, and toll-free telephone number to receive correspondence and inquiries from class members. After receiving the class data file from Defendant, that should contain the class members' names, last known addresses, and social security numbers, Xpand will upload the data into a database, check for duplicates and other potential inconsistencies.

6. Prior to sending out the notice, Xpand will translate the notice into Spanish, fill in the specific date for the deadline so that all class members will know when any applicable forms, if any, will be due. At the expiration of the deadline, Xpand will inform the parties of the number and name of those individuals who filed a timely opt-out, dispute or objection.

7. While preparing to mail the class notice, Xpand will utilize the National Change of Address ("NCOA") database, maintained by the United States Postal Service ("USPS") to update or confirm the mailing addresses of class members. If an updated address is found, Xpand will use the new address to mail the class notice. If Xpand does not locate an updated address, it will use the original address provided by Defendant to mail the class notice.

8. If any class notices are returned to Xpand's office as undeliverable, Xpand will attempt to locate an updated address using industry standard skip trace databases and will quickly remail the class notice.

9. Prior to Final Approval Hearing, Xpand will provide the parties with copies of exclusions, objections received by class members.

10. Xpand's distribution process will include; (a) applying for case specific Employer Identification Number ("EIN"); (b) establishing Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF"); (c) reconciling the QSF; (d) calculating payment amounts and applicable taxes, if any; (e) distributing payments to eligible class members, attorneys 'fees and costs; class representative enhancement awards; (f) providing applicable tax forms, if any (e.g. W2, 1099-MISC, 1099-INT, etc.); (g) performing other duties directed by the parties or court.

11. The services above are included in Xpand's cost estimate, which is attached to this declaration as **Exhibit B** and reflects a not to exceed amount of $7,500.00. The fees/costs are broken down by category and outlined as hourly or transactional, but the cost above is a flat fee.

I declare, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 4th day of September 2026, at Laguna Hills, California.



Jonathan Paul

EXHIBIT A

XPAND

ABOUT XPAND

Xpand is a fast-growing legal administration firm. With over 20 years of industry experience, CEO, Jonathan Paul, leverages his subject matter expertise to ensure excellence is at the core of all we do. Starting his legal administration career as a Project Manager, he later advanced into positions such as Senior Vice President at one of the largest administrators in the country and President of Sales & Marketing for a long-standing boutique firm. He now works closely with the project and case teams to ensure best in class processes are followed.

COO, Tiffany Paul, comes with over a decade of experience at one of the largest consumer goods companies in the world. Coupled with the successful launch and scale of her own startups, Tiffany brings creative solutions to a field that has a tendency to be stuck in its ways and has improved dozens of processes during her tenure running legal administration projects.

The case management team has been involved in projects spanning several practice areas, including:

- Data Breach
- Consumer Protection
- Discrimination
- Mass Tort
- PAGA
- Personal Injury
- Product Liability
- Wage and Hour
- ERISA
- Antitrust

ABOUT OUR STRATEGY

Xpand's taking a fresh look at the processes and procedures that have dominated the legal administration space for decades and quickly finding there is plenty of opportunity to innovate.

We've partnered with industry leaders in HR, IT, printing, telecom, banking, and tax reporting to build solutions that meet the needs of any project. Whether it's a small wage & hour case in need of cost effective administration or a multi-tiered mass tort case in need of sophisticated implementation, Xpand has the solution. We spend the time understanding the clients' needs before deploying the right resources in as quickly as 24 hours, allowing law firms to continue their day to day without disruption.

XPAND

ABOUT OUR SERVICES

Xpand is growing quickly and regularly adding services to our repertoire, but currently offers:

- Notification
- Project Management
- Print & Mail
- Call Center
- Legal Advertising
- Website Development
- Forms Processing
- Client Intake
- Address Location
- Data Management
- Qualified Settlement Fund (QSF) Management
- Fund Distribution
- Tax Reporting
- Medical Record Review
- Lien Resolution

ABOUT OUR EXPERIENCE

Some of the cases Xpand has managed:

- *Ramirez, et al. v. S&E Gourmet Cuts, Inc., Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, Case No. CIVSB2201247*
- *Johnson v Investment Concepts, Superior Court of CA, County of San Diego, Case No. 37-2022-00018300-CU-NP-CTL*
- *Chavis v. Grocery Outlet, Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, Case No. 34-2021-00309003-CU-OE-GDS:*
- *Busby v. Mission Loans, LLC, et al., Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 23STCV07682*
- *Barton v. United Development Group, Inc., Superior Court of CA County of SD, Case No. 37-2021-00039885-CU-OE-CTL*
- *Fleschert v. Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 19STCV05681*
- *Cruz, et al. v. Los Compadres Restaurant, Inc., Superior Court of CA, County of Los Angeles*
- *Aguero, et al. v. SR Long Beach FD, et al., Superior Court of CA, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC650977*
- *Arizmendi v. Diamond Environmental, Superior Court of CA, County of San Diego, Case No. 37-2023-00051655-CU-OE-CTL*
- *Ascencio v. Kumar Hotels, Superior Court of CA, County of Tehama, Case No. 23C1-00020*
- *Betancur v. Pride Conveyance Systems, Inc., Superior Court of CA, County of San Benito, Case No. CU-21-000022*
- *Britton v. Rice Wings, LLC, Superior Court of Washington, County of King at Kent, Case No. 23-2-09301-1 KNT*
- *California Truck Centers, Superior Court for the State of California, San Joaquin County Superior Court, Case No. STK-CV-UOE-2023-0006967*
- *Calkins v. United Security, Superior Court of CA, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 20STCV35391*
- *Clayton v. Soho House, LLC, et al., Superior Court of CA, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 24SMCV02114*
- *Flores v. JR & MRP, Superior Court of CA, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 56-2021-00557205-CU-OE-VTA*

- *Gatica-Castro v. Specialty Team Plastering, Inc., Superior Court of CA, County of Santa Barbara, Case No. 22CV01120*
- *Guinto v. C&K Market, Superior Court of CA, County of Siskiyou, Case No. SCCV-CVCV-2021-964*
- *Hawkins, et al. v. Ontel Security Services, Inc., Superior Court of CA, County of Stanislaus, Case No. CV-20-005404*
- *Horowitz v. Skywest Airlines, Inc. United States District Court Northern District of CA – San Francisco, Case No, 21-CV-04674-MMC*
- *Huffman v. K&M Casinos, Inc., Superior Court of CA, County of Sacramento, Case No. 34-2021-00300960*
- *Kaiser v. Equity Residencial Management, Superior Court of CA, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 21STCV42487*
- *Lambert v. Dual Diagnosis PAGA, Superior Court of CA, County of Los Angeles – Spring Street Courthouse, Case No. BC616149*
- *Laninovich v. Bear Valley Springs, Superior Court of CA for the County of Kern, Case No. BCV-21-102750-BCB*
- *LaVia v. Curaleaf Holdings, Inc., Supreme Court of the State of NY, County of Nassau, Case No. 610309/2024*
- *Lopez v. DH Long Point Management LLC, Superior Court of CA, County of Los Angeles – Spring Street Courthouse, Case No. 21STCV35029*
- *Mayorga, et al. v. Qualawash Holding, LLC, et al., Superior Court of CA, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 23STCV00914 and 23NWCV00148*
- *McLane v. GoPlus Corp, Superior Court of CA, County of San Bernadino- Civil Division-Complex, Case No. C1VDS1819150*
- *Mireles v. Lodi Memorial Hospital, Superior Court of CA, County of San Joaquin, Case No.STK-CV-UOE-2020-0004458*
- *Moreno, et al. v. Infiniti Group, LLC, et al., Superior Court of CA, County of San Bernadino, Case No. C1VSB2223551*
- *Norfleet v. RevCore Recovery Center, Supreme Court of the State of New York, Case No. 617754/2023*
- *Norris v. CG Hospitality Group, Inc., Superior Court of CA, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 23STCV12946*
- *Pascual v. Heritage on the Marina, Superior Court of CA, County of San Francisco, Case No. CGC-23-607790*
- *Pipich, et al. v. O'Reilly Auto Enterprises, LLC, et. al., United States District Cour for the Southern District of CA, Case No. 3:21-cv-00120-L-JLB*
- *Sanchez v. JR Pierce Plumbing, Superior Court of CA, County of Sacramento, Case No. 34-2021-00300960-CU-OE-GDS*
- *Sanchez v. MiTac Information Systems Corp., et al., Superior Court of CA, County of Alameda, Case No. 22CV005940*
- *Santos v. Replanet Packaging, Superior Court of CA, County of Tulare, Case No. VCU285878*
- *Sim v. Maddox Resources, Inc., Superior Court of CA, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 22STCV20798*
- *Sorensen v. P.F. Automotive, Superior Court of CA, County of San Diego, Case No. 37-2023-0025169-CU-OE-CTL*
- *Sproul v. IKEA, Superior Court of CA, County of Kern, Case No. BCV-20-101600*
- *Tellez v. Mercy Housing Management, Superior Court of CA, County of Alameda, Case No. 23CV031003*
- *Touch v. Cox Automotive, United States District Court Eastern District of CA, Case No. 2:23-cv-09145-TLN-CSK*
- *Trimmer, et al. v. Barclay Water Management, Inc., Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County, Case No. 653139/24*

- *Vasquez v. PJ Farm Labor, Superior Court of CA, County of Kings, Case No. 22C-0382*
- *Wolff v. Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc., Superior Court of CA, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 23STCV16885*
- *Wright v. Home Box Office, Inc., et al, Superior Court of CA, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 21STCV19636*
- Mass Tort: Several medical device, pharmaceutical cases, natural disaster, fire and sexual abuse cases which are confidential.

EXHIBIT B

XPAND LEGAL
Mass Tort • Class Action • Mass Arbitration

Case Name:	**Counts v Professional Auto Transport**
Date:	June 25, 2026
Client Name:	Aaron Bartz
Client Email:	aaron@bartzlawgroup.com
Xpand Contact:	Jonathan Paul
Xpand Contact Email Address:	jonathan@xpandlegal.com
Xpand Contact Phone Number:	310.948.7117

**Cost Estimate for Legal Administration Services*
**Pricing Good for 90 Days*
**Assumes Scope Within - Additional Services Priced Accordingly*

Key Assumptions Used for Pricing	
Class Size	430
Undeliverable Mail (estimated %)	10%
Forwarded Mail (estimated %)	5%
Toll Free Telephone Support	Yes
Website	Yes
Spanish Translation	Yes
National Change of Address (NCOA)	Yes
Wage Tax Reporting	Yes
Number of States for Tax Reporting	1
Number of Payment Distributions	1
Tax Reporting Years	1
Remaining Funds After Distribution	Controller

Case Setup

Service	Type	Cost Per Piece	Volume	Total
Project Manager - Case Setup, Document Review & Timeline	Hourly	$150.00	1	$150.00
Data Analyst - Data Analysis, Formatting, Uploading to Database*	Hourly	$150.00	1	$150.00
NCOA (Includes CASS & LACS)	Flat Fee	$150.00	1	$150.00
Spanish Translation	Flat Fee	$500.00	1	$500.00
Toll Free Telephone Support	Flat Fee	$500.00	1	$500.00
Static Website	Flat Fee	$500.00	1	$500.00
			Total	**$1,950.00**

**Xpand assumes mailing data will be provided in Microsoft Excel or other usable format and will not require substantial manipulation. Additional formatting and manipulation will be billed at $125/hour.*

Notification

Service	Type	Cost Per Piece	Volume	Total
Print & Mail Notice Package	Per Piece	$1.50	430	$645.00
USPS First Class Mail - 1oz	Per Piece	$0.75	430	$322.50
Submission Processing (Opt Outs, Disputes, Objections)	Hourly	$75.00	2	$150.00
Undeliverable Mail Processing	Per Piece	$2.00	43	$86.00
Address Trace Undeliverable Mail	Per Piece	$2.00	43	$86.00
Remail Notice Package (Undeliverable & Forwards)	Per Piece	$2.00	56	$111.80
			Total	**$1,401.30**

Project Management

Service	Type	Cost Per Piece	Volume	Total
Project Manager - Client Inquiries, General Oversight & Management	Hourly	$150.00	2	$300.00
Status Reporting (Ongoing & Final)	Hourly	$75.00	2	$150.00
Declaration (Final Approval & Payment)	Hourly	$125.00	2	$250.00
Executive Oversight	Hourly	$250.00	1	Waived
			Total	**$700.00**

Distribution

Service	Type	Cost Per Piece	Volume	Total
Project Manager - Setup & Preparation	Hourly	$150.00	2	$300.00
Data Analyst - Payment File Production & Quality Review	Hourly	$150.00	2	$300.00
Print & Mail Payments - Round 1	Per Piece	$1.50	430	$645.00
USPS First Class Mail - 1oz	Per Piece	$0.75	430	$322.50
Undeliverable Payment Processing	Per Piece	$2.00	43	$86.00
Address Trace Undeliverable Mail	Per Piece	$2.00	43	$86.00
Remail Payments (Undeliverable & Forwards)	Per Piece	$2.00	56	$111.80
Tax ID Setup & Shutdown	Flat Fee	$500.00	1	$500.00
Qualified Settlement Fund (QSF) Creation, Reporting & Closure	Hourly	$150.00	3	$450.00
QSF Monthly Fees & Account Reconciliation	Per Piece	$75.00	3	$225.00
Process Remaining Funds	Flat Fee	$422.40	1	$422.40
			Total	**$3,448.70**

Total Case Cost Not to Exceed: $7,500.00

Terms & Conditions

All services to be provided by Xpand Legal Consulting LLC (hereinafter, "Xpand") to you (hereinafter, the "Client") shall be subject to the following terms and conditions (these "Terms and Conditions") of this Agreement:

1. **Services:** Subject to the terms hereof, Xpand agrees to provide the Client with administration services (hereinafter, "Services") as specified in the Proposal provided to the Client to which these Terms and Conditions are referenced (the "Proposal" and together with these Terms and Conditions, this "Agreement"). The Services do not constitute legal services or advice.
2. **Independent Contractor Status:** Xpand is performing the Services to the Client as an independent contractor for the purposes of federal, state, and local law, and neither it nor its employees shall be deemed to be employees of the Client. Xpand shall have full control over the methods, techniques, sequences, and procedures of the Services, is free to perform services for other clients, and is not subject to the supervision or control of the Client in the performance of the Services, except as to the results to be achieved.
3. **Fees for Services:** Fees to the Client for Services, including all fees and expenses in accordance with Section 4 below ("Fees") shall be on a time and materials basis at our prevailing rates and are subject to change. Any estimates of Fees set forth in the Proposal are estimates only, based on information provided by the Client to Xpand and the Services referenced in the Proposal, and do not cover any applicable taxes nor third-party fees. Actual Fees payable by the Client may be greater or less than such estimates. Expenses incurred related to corrective files due to voids and re-issues of payments and related correspondence with state and federal taxing authorities will not be charged to the Client to the extent that funds are received from the taxing authorities offset such expenses. The Client acknowledges and agrees that Xpand may derive financial benefits from financial institutions in connection with the deposit and investment of relevant funds with such institutions, including without limitation, income proceeds derived therefrom, discounts on eligible banking services and fees, and loans at favorable rates.
4. **Payment of Fees:** Fees will be invoiced by Xpand and shall be due and payable by the Client upon distribution of the applicable payments to class members and counsel in accordance with the direction of the court in the applicable matter (the "Court"). For all matters where print and postage costs exceed $25,000, such fees shall be due and payable at the time of mailing. For matters that do not involve payment distributions, payment is due within 30 days of completion of mailing. If any invoice remains unpaid for more than thirty (30) days from the invoice date, interest may accrue on the outstanding balance at the rate of 0.8333% per month (10% per annum). The Services are not provided on a contingency fee basis. Xpand's fees are earned as Services are performed and are not contingent upon court approval, settlement approval, settlement funding, distribution of settlement proceeds, recovery by any party, or any other case outcome. For the avoidance of doubt, the Client's obligation to pay for Services rendered shall remain in full force and effect notwithstanding any court order, settlement withdrawal, settlement disapproval, case dismissal, termination of the matter, or other action taken by the Court or any party.
5. **Indemnification:** The Client will indemnify and hold Xpand and its affiliates (and their respective officers, employees, and agents) harmless against any losses, claims, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses) incurred by Xpand, arising out of, in connection with, or related to (i) any breach of the Agreement, including these Terms and Conditions, by the Client; or (ii) the processing and handling of any aspect of the project by Xpand, including but not limited to the Services, in accordance with Client's instructions.
6. **Confidentiality:** Xpand will maintain reasonable and appropriate security measures and safeguards to protect the security and confidentiality of data provided to Xpand by the Client or another party to the action. In the event Xpand is notified of any judicial order or other proceedings in which a third party seeks to obtain access to the confidential data created by or for the Client, Xpand will notify the Client, unless prohibited by applicable law. The Client shall have the option to, within ten (10) business days of receipt of such notification, (1) provide legal representation at the Client's expense to avoid such access, or (2) promptly reimburse Xpand for any of its costs, including attorneys' fees, reasonably incurred in avoiding, attempting to avoid or providing such access and not paid by the entity seeking the data. If the Client does not timely select its option, it shall be irrevocable deemed to have select option (2) and be obligated to reimburse Xpand in accordance therewith. If Xpand is required, pursuant to a court order, to produce documents, disclose data, or otherwise act in contravention of the obligations imposed by this Agreement, or otherwise, with respect to maintaining the confidentiality, proprietary nature and secrecy of the produced documents or disclosed data, Xpand will not be liable for breach of said obligation.
7. **Data Rights:** Xpand does not convey nor does the Client obtain any rights in the programs, system data, or materials utilized or provided by Xpand in the ordinary course of business in the performance of this Agreement.
8. **Document Retention:** Unless directed otherwise in writing by the Client, Xpand will maintain documents and other correspondence for the later of (a) one (1) year after final distribution of relevant funds or benefits, or (b) until the date that the disposition of the relevant case is no longer subject to appeal or review.
9. **Limitation of Damages:** Xpand is not responsible to the Client for any special, consequential, or incidental damages incurred by the Client. Any liability of Xpand to the Client shall not exceed the total amount of Fees billed to the Client for the Services that give rise to such liability.
10. **Termination:** The Services to be provided under this Agreement may be terminated by the Client with or without cause upon at least thirty (30) calendar days' prior written notice to Xpand. The Client's obligation to pay Fees for Services still in progress at the time of notice of termination shall continue throughout that 30-day period. Xpand may terminate this Agreement (i) if the Client has not paid its Fees in accordance with Section 4 of these Terms and Conditions, upon at least ten (10) calendar days' prior written notice; or (ii) in any other event, upon at least three (3) months' prior written notice to the Client. The Client is obligated to pay for all Fees and Services at the time of termination under this paragraph; no deferral period shall take effect.
11. **Notice:** Any notice required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall be delivered personally, or sent by registered mail, postage prepaid, or overnight courier service to the responsible officer or principal of Xpand or the Client, as applicable, and shall be deemed given when so delivered personally, or, if mailed, three (3) business days after the date of deposit in United States mail, or, if sent by courier, two (2) business days after delivery to such courier service.
12. **Force Majeure:** To the extent performance by Xpand of any of its obligations hereunder is substantially prevented by reason of any act of God or by reason of any other matter beyond Xpand's reasonable control, then such performance shall be excused and this Agreement, at Xpand's option, be deemed suspended during the continuation of such condition and for a reasonable time thereafter.
13. **Waiver of Rights:** No failure or delay on the part of either party hereto in exercising any right under these Terms and Conditions will operate as a waiver of, or impair, any right. No single or partial exercise of any such right will preclude any other or further exercise thereof or the exercise of any other right. No waiver of any such right will be effective unless given in writing by the relevant party's authorized representative.
14. **Jurisdiction:** The parties hereto submit to the jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of any suit, action or proceeding to enforce any provision of, or based on any right arising out of, this Agreement. The parties hereto hereby waive any objection to the laying of venue of any such suit, action or proceeding in the Court.
15. **Entire Agreement:** These Terms and Conditions and the Proposal embody the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and cancels and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, and agreements related thereto, either written or oral, except to the extent they are expressly incorporated herein. No changes in, additions to, or waivers of, the Terms and Conditions set forth herein will be binding upon any party, unless approved in writing by such party's authorized representative.
16. **Counterparts:** These Terms and Conditions and the Proposal may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which when executed and delivered shall constitute a duplicate original, but all counterparts together shall constitute a single Agreement. Delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page of these Terms and Conditions and the Proposal by electronic transmission, including DocuSign, shall be effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart of these Terms and Conditions and the Proposal, as applicable.

Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

By commencing services with Xpand, you acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions outlined above. Your continued use of our services signifies your acceptance of these terms.