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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HECTOR GARCIA, as an individual and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

FORGIATO INC., a California corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 24STCV31730

[Assigned for all purposes to the Hon. Elaine Lu, Dept. SSC-9]

DECLARATION OF PAUL K. HAINES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Date: January 7, 2027
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept.: SSC-9

I, PAUL K. HAINES, declare as follows:

1. I am the principal of the law firm Haines Law Group, APC, and counsel for the named plaintiff Hector Garcia ("Plaintiff") and the proposed Settlement Class in the above-captioned matter. I am a member in good standing of the bar of the State of California and am admitted to practice in this Court. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration and could testify competently to them if called upon to do so.

2. I am a 2006 graduate of Pepperdine University School of Law, where I graduated cum laude. During law school, I worked as a law clerk for the appellate firm of Horvitz & Levy, located in Encino, California. I also spent a semester in law school working as an extern for the Honorable Edward Rafeedie, District Judge for the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

3. Since graduating from law school, my practice has focused exclusively on employment litigation. In September 2007, I began working as an associate attorney at the international law firm of Littler Mendelson P.C., at its Los Angeles office, which according to its website is the "largest U.S.-based law firm exclusively devoted to representing management in every aspect of labor and employment law." While at Littler Mendelson, I was primarily staffed on wage and hour class actions venued in both state and federal courts, and I also worked on a number of single and multi-plaintiff wage and hour matters as well.

4. During my employment at Littler Mendelson, I played a significant role in the class actions that I was staffed on, as I was often the only associate staffed on such cases. In particular, I received a wide-array of wage and hour class action experience performing the following types of tasks: drafting demurrers, motions to strike and/or dismiss; removing actions from state court to federal court; drafting and responding to written discovery; drafting and opposing discovery related motions; arguing discovery related motions; drafting motions to consolidate related matters; interviewing putative class members and obtaining declarations in connection with class certification; drafting oppositions to motions for class certification; drafting motions for decertification following class certification; conducting exposure analyses to assess

the strengths and weaknesses of asserted claims, the likelihood of prevailing at class certification and potential damages resulting from such claims; drafting mediation briefs; serving as the primary contact to in-house counsel; deposing named plaintiff and putative class members; deposing retained expert witnesses; and defending the depositions of corporate witnesses. In short, I played an integral role in all aspects of litigation from the inception of a matter through and beyond class certification. I also supervised the work of several junior attorneys who were staffed on the same wage and hour class actions.

5. In June 2011, I voluntarily resigned from Littler Mendelson in order to accept an associate attorney position with the international law firm of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, at its Los Angeles office, where I began working in July 2011. During my employment at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, I worked exclusively on the defense of wage and hour class and collective actions. For the vast majority of these cases, I was the only associate staffed on the matter, and I performed the same job duties as described in the immediately preceding paragraph. In addition to working on wage and hour class actions, at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius I also worked on a number of "hybrid" actions asserting nationwide wage and hour claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), as well as California-specific claims under Rule 23 of the Rules of Civil Procedure.

6. In July 2012, I transitioned into litigating wage and hour class actions from the Plaintiff's side, first as a Partner with the law firm of Boren, Osher & Luftman, LLP, and since February 2016, as a Shareholder of the Haines Law Group, APC. Currently, over ninety percent (90%) of my practice is dedicated exclusively to the prosecution of wage and hour class actions, and I am currently responsible for prosecuting over thirty (30) wage and hour class actions filed in both State and Federal courts throughout California. Below are some of the matters in which I have been appointed as Class Counsel, all of which have been granted final approval: *Hilberger v. Eisenhower Medical Center*, Case No. INC1204915, California Superior Court, County of Riverside, Honorable Judge John G. Evans, presiding, (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $500 for work performed in 2012 and 2013); *Lopez v. Cornucopia Tools and Plastics, Inc.*,

Case No. CV138049, California Superior Court, County of San Luis Obispo, Honorable Judge Martin J. Tangeman, presiding, (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $425 for work performed in 2013 and 2014); *Tacker v. Compass Health, Inc.*, Case No. CV13-02261 BRO (JCG), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell, presiding, (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $500 for work performed in 2013 and 2014); *Noell v. American Professional Ambulance Corporation, Inc.*, Case No. BC499345, California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Honorable Judge Kenneth R. Freeman, presiding, (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $500 for work performed in 2013 and 2014); *Bautista v. Harvest Management Sub LLC*, Case No. CV12-10004 FMO (CWx), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge Fernando M. Olguin, presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $500 for work performed in 2012, 2013 and 2014); *Davila v. OCB Restaurant Co.*, Case No. CV13-5403 PA (JCG), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge Percy Anderson, presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $500 for work performed in 2013 and 2014); *Abad v. Waste Connections, Inc.*, Case No. CV12-06708 DDP (PJWx), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge Dean D. Pregerson, presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $500 for work performed in 2013 and 2014); *Plantillas v. Snap-On Incorporated*, Case No. CV13-05153 DDP (VBKx), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge Dean D. Pregerson, presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $500 for work performed in 2013 and 2014); *Theodore v. Keyes European, LLC,* Case No. BC521395, California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Honorable Judge Elihu Berle, presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $500 for work performed in 2013 and 2014); *Morales v. Sunset Tower Hotel LLC*, Case No. BC511924, California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Honorable Judge John Shepard Wiley Jr., presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $500 for work performed in 2013 and 2014); *Gonzalez v. Universal Alloy Corp.*, Case No. SACV13-00807 JVS (MRWx), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge James V. Selna, presiding (in which I was approved for

an hourly rate of $500 for work performed in 2013 and 2014); *Morawski v. Milt Guggia Enterprises, Inc.*, Case No. CV13-2349 ABC (RZx), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge Andre Birotte, Jr., presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $500 for work performed in 2013 and 2014); *Thorp v. Alcal Industries, Inc., et al.*, Case No. CV13-02289 YGR, United States District Court, Northern District of California, Honorable Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $500 for work performed in 2013 and 2014); *Myles v. College Hospital,* Case No. BC487206, California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Honorable Judge John Shepard Wiley, Jr., presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $500 for work performed in 2013, 2014 and 2015); *Sarinana v. DS Waters of America, Inc.,* Case No. C13-0905 EMC, United States District Court, Northern District of California, Honorable Edward M. Chen, presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $550 for work performed in 2014 and 2015); *Julio v. Anthony, Inc.*, Case No. CV14-03172 AB (SHx), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge Andre Birotte Jr., presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $550 for work performed in 2014 and 2015); *Litt v. Western Stone & Metal Corp.*, Case No. 3:14-cv-02804-PJH, United States District Court, Northern District of California, Honorable Judge Phyllis J. Hamilton, presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $550 for work performed in 2014 and 2015); *Rubalcava v. United Towing and Transport Burbank, et al.,* Case No. BC518468, California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Honorable Judge Kenneth Freeman, presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $550 for work performed in 2013, 2014 and 2015); *Sanchez v. Res-Care, Inc.*, Case No. BC526175, California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Honorable John S. Wiley, presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $550for work performed in 2013, 2014 and 2015); *Prado v. Warehouse Demo Services, Inc*., Case No. CV14-3170 JFW (Ex), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge John F. Walter, presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $550 for work performed in 2014 and 2015); *Rivera Regalado v. Jaguar Farm Labor Contracting,* Case No. CV 130569, California Superior Court, County of San Luis Obispo,

Honorable Martin J. Tangeman, presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $550 for work performed in 2014 and 2015); *Rodas v. Gateways Hospital and Mental Health Center,* Case No. BC503179, California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Honorable Judge Amy D. Hogue, presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $550 for work performed in 2014 and 2015); *Escobar v. Century West, LLC*, Case No BC564873, California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Honorable Judge Jane L. Johnson, presiding (in which I was approved for an hourly rate of $550 for work performed in 2014 and 2015 and 2016); *Shaw v. Conant Auto Retail, San Diego*, Case No. 37-2014-00044052-CU-OE-CTL, California Superior Court, County of San Diego, Honorable Judge Joan M. Lewis, presiding (approving an hourly rate of $575 for work performed in 2014, 2015, and 2016); *Tirado v. Ricon Corp.*, Case No. BC537042, California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Honorable John S. Wiley, presiding (approving an hourly rate of $575 for work performed in 2014, 2015, and 2016); and *Horta v. Searles Valley Minerals, Inc.*, Case No. CIVDS 1507615, California Superior Court, County of San Bernardino, Honorable Donald Alvarez presiding (approving an hourly rate of $575 for work performed in 2015 and 2016); *Cristobal v. Koos Manufacturing, Inc.,* Case No. BC591484, California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Hon. William F. Highberger presiding (approving an hourly rate of $575 for work performed in 2015 and 2016); *Rodriguez v. Spartan, Inc*., Case No. BCV-15-100007-DRL, California Superior Court, County of Kern, Honorable David R. Lampe presiding (approving hourly rate of $575 for work performed in 2015, 2016, and 2017); *Kostyuk, et al. v. Golden State Overnight Delivery Service, Inc*., Case No. RG14727191, California Superior Court, Alameda County, Honorable Winifred Y. Smith presiding (approving an hourly rate of $575 for work performed in 2015, 2016, and 2017); *Nunez v. CompuCom Systems, Inc.*, Case No. BC618385, California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Honorable Judge John Shepard Wiley, Jr., presiding (approved at an hourly rate of $600 for work performed in 2016 and 2017); *Mansilla v. Haeco Americas Line Services, LLC, et al*, Case No. BC615310, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Honorable Judge Elihu M. Berle presiding (approved at an hourly rate of $600 for work performed in 2016 and 2017); *Morales v. Caremeridian, LLC, et al*.,

Case No. BC593191, California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Judge William F. Highberger presiding (granting final approval of settlement on behalf of direct support professionals involving claims for unpaid wages, meal and rest period violations, wage statement violations, and other claims).

7. I have also moved to certify and have received an order certifying a class action and/or conditionally certifying a collective action, in the following cases:

- *Medeiros v. Vortex Financial Management Inc.*, Case No. 30-2013-00644741-CU-OE-CXC, California Superior Court, County of Orange, Honorable Judge Gail A. Andler, presiding (certifying a class of employees who were misclassified as independent contractors);
- *Javine v. San Luis Ambulance Service, Inc.*, Case No. CV13-07480 BRO (SSx), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell, presiding (conditionally certifying an unpaid FLSA overtime wage class);
- *Prado v. Warehouse Demo Services, Inc.*, Case No. CV14-3170 JFW (Ex), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Judge John F. Walter, presiding (certifying a rest period violation class and conditionally certifying an FLSA unpaid overtime wage class);
- *Bower v. Cycle Gear, Inc.*, Case No. CV14-2712 HSG, United States District Court, Northern District of California, Honorable Judge Haywood S. Gilliam, Jr., presiding (conditionally certifying an unpaid FLSA overtime wage class);
- *Vega v. Weatherford U.S., Limited Partnership*, Case No. CV14-1790-JLT, United States District Court, Eastern District of California, Honorable Jennifer L. Thurston, presiding (conditionally certifying an unpaid FLSA overtime wage class);
- *Galvan v. AMVAC Chemical Corporation*, Case No. 30-2014-00716103-CU-OE-CXC, California Superior Court, County of Orange, Honorable Judge William Claster, presiding (certifying unpaid overtime wage class and waiting time penalty class); and

- *Ontiveros v. Safelite Fulfillment, Inc., et al,* Case No. CV 15-7118-DMG (RAOx), United States District Court, Central District of California, Honorable Dolly M. Gee presiding (certifying six classes of employees for rest period violations, wage statement violations, meal period violations, and overtime and double-time violations);
- *Vazquez, et al v. Kraft Heinz Foods Company*, Case No. 16-cv-2749-WQH-BLM, United States District Court, Southern District of California, Honorable William Q. Hayes presiding (certifying six classes of employees for unpaid wages, meal period violations, wage statement violations, and waiting time penalties); and
- *Caudle, et al. v. Sprint/United Management Company, et al*. Case No. C 17-06874-WHA, United States District Court, Northern District of California, Honorable William H. Alsup presiding (certifying three classes of employees for unlawful wage deduction violations, wage statement violations, and waiting time violations).

8. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, Thomson Reuters and Los Angeles Magazine recognized me as a Top Young Attorney in Southern California in the annual Rising Star Edition of Super Lawyer. This is an honor awarded to no more than two and a half percent of attorneys under the age of forty in Southern California each year. In 2018 and 2019 Thomson Reuters recognized me as a "Super Lawyer" in the annual Super Lawyer magazine, an honor awarded to no more than five percent of all attorneys in Southern California each year.

9. As co-counsel for Plaintiff and the proposed Settlement Class, I have been intimately involved in every aspect of this case from its inception through the present, and believe that the proposed Settlement is a good result for the Settlement Class.

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10. The details of the worked completed by my firm and/or my co-counsel are set forth in the declaration of Scott M. Lidman filed concurrently herewith.

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

Executed on November 20, 2026 at El Segundo, California.



Paul K. Haines