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Attorneys for Plaintiff

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

ALMA CASTILLEJOS, on behalf of the State of California, as a private attorney general,

Plaintiff,

v.

BANC OF CALIFORNIA, a Corporation; PACIFIC WESTERN BANK, a Corporation; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. CVRI2501017

DECLARATION OF ALMA CASTILLEJOS IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO APPROVE PAGA SETTLEMENT

[Reservation ID: 869294854852]

Hearing Date: January 05, 2027
Hearing Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept.: 1

Action Filed: February 27, 2025
Trial Date: Not Set

I, Alma Castillejos, declare:

1. I am a competent adult, I have personal knowledge of the facts in this declaration, and I am making this declaration on behalf of myself, as a named plaintiff, and in support of the Motion to Approve Private Attorneys General Act Settlement.

2. I worked in California as a non-exempt employee of Defendants Banc of California and Pacific Western Bank ("Defendant") from February of 2021 to April of 2024, and at all times was classified as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime wages due for all time worked.

3. I retained my attorneys who are experienced in PAGA representative action litigation and claims against employers for violations of the California Labor Code. I have no personal relationship or family ties to my attorneys or any officer of the Court. I am not aware of having any actual or potential conflicts of interest with another PAGA Member in this case nor am I aware of having any actual or potential conflicts of interest with the settlement administrator in this matter.

4. I was subject to Defendant's policies and practices that have been alleged as unlawful in the Complaint and the PAGA notice sent to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency. For example, I was forced to work off the clock, as on all opening shifts, I was required to wait outside for at least five minutes as Defendant performed an exterior and interior search of the building. Once in the building, I would have to start up my assigned computer, wait for it to boot up, enter my credentials to log in, and finally log in, which took at least another three minutes of time off the clock. I was not compensated for this time. Further, I was subject to daily bag checks after clocking out for the day, and before walking out the door of the building. Additionally, I did not always receive compliant meal and rest breaks, which were often late, short, interrupted, or missed entirely – and when these violations occurred, I did not receive all break penalty payments I was entitled to. I was also not reimbursed for the use of my personal cell phone, despite the fact I was required to use my personal cell phone to send and receive calls and texts from co-workers and managers. I was also required to download applications, and use my phone to check updated

employee schedules.

5. In bringing this case for myself, the State of California, and the other employees, I understood a lot of work would be required and I was willing to, and did, do the work to keep the case moving forward. For instance, before the complaint was filed I spoke to my attorneys several times and discussed how Defendant implemented its company policies and procedures. I also assisted my attorneys in their investigation into my claims by providing them documents and answering their questions. I reviewed the complaint before it was filed and after it was filed, I was given access to an electronic file sharing program that alerted me via email when important documents were filed so that I could review them and keep up with the developments in the case.

6. My attorneys explained to me the risks and benefits of bringing a representative action. I understood that I took on the risk, both professionally and financially, in pursuing the case as a representative PAGA action.

7. A mediation took place on July 17, 2026, with Louis Marlin, a well-respected and experienced wage and hour mediator. This mediation resulted in an agreement to settle the action. I communicated with my attorneys regarding the terms of the settlement which was reached between the parties and understood that the recovery in this case was for the benefit of my fellow coworkers, not just for me, and therefore wanted the best possible result to be obtained for the PAGA Members. I reviewed and signed the Memorandum of Understanding on August 7, 2026. When it was ready, I also closely reviewed and signed the PAGA Settlement Agreement on September 28, 2026.

8. I have been actively involved with this lawsuit. Although I did not keep time records, I was in regular contact with my attorneys, reviewed court filings, and spent a significant amount of time on the issues presented during the lawsuit and in the settlement process. I estimate that I spent approximately 30-40 hours working on this case up until this point.

9. I reviewed the final PAGA Settlement Agreement, and I believe it is fair and reasonable given the facts of the case.

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

Executed on 09/28/2026 (date), at Menifee, CA. (city, state).

Alma Castillejos (Sep 28, 2026 11:37:44 PDT)

Alma Castillejos