

1 **BLUMENTHAL NORDREHAUG BHOWMIK**
2 **DE BLOUW LLP**

3 Norman B. Blumenthal (State Bar #068687)

4 Kyle R. Nordrehaug (State Bar #205975)

5 Aparajit Bhowmik (State Bar #248066)

6 2255 Calle Clara

7 La Jolla, CA 92037

8 Telephone: (858)551-1223

9 Facsimile: (858) 551-1232

10 Email: Kyle@bamlawca.com

11 Website: www.bamlawca.com

12 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

13 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

14 **COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

15 JACQUELYN CRANTON and KATRENA
16 ARNOLD, individuals, on behalf of
17 themselves and on behalf of all persons
18 similarly situated,

19 Plaintiffs,

20 vs.

21 GROSSMONT HOSPITAL CORPORATION,
22 a California Corporation; and DOES 1 through
23 50, inclusive,

24 Defendants.

CASE NO.: **37-2022-00001574-CU-OE-CTL**

[Consolidated with Case No.
37-2022-00024671-CU-OE-CTL]

**DECLARATION OF JACQUELYN
CRANTON IN SUPPORT OF MOTION
FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
CLASS SETTLEMENT**

Hearing Date: March 29, 2024
Hearing Time: 9:30 a.m.

Judge: Hon. Gregory W. Pollack
Dept.: 71

Date Action Filed: January 13, 2022
Trial Date: Not set

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DECLARATION OF JACQUELYN CRANTON

1 I, Jacquelyn Cranton, declare as follows:

2 1. I am over the age of eighteen, a Plaintiff and a proposed Class Representative in the
3 above-entitled matter. I submit this declaration in support of the Motion for Preliminary Approval
4 of Class Settlement and in support of my application for a Class Representative Service Payment.
5

6 2. I have personal knowledge of all the facts stated herein. I could and would competently
7 testify under oath to these facts in court if requested to do so.

8 3. I worked for defendant Grossmont Hospital Corporation ("Grossmont Hospital") in
9 California from August of 2018 to October of 2021 and during that time period I was classified by
10 Grossmont Hospital as a non-exempt employee.

11 4. I retained my attorneys who are experienced in both class action and PAGA
12 representative action litigation and claims against employers for violations of the California Labor
13 Code. I have no personal relationship or family ties to my attorneys or any officer of the Court. I
14 am not aware of having any actual or potential conflicts of interest with another class member in
15 this case nor am I aware of having any actual or potential conflicts of interest with ILYM Group,
16 Inc., the settlement administrator. I am not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting
17 claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by this settlement.
18

19 5. I decided to pursue this class action lawsuit and be a plaintiff/class representative
20 because I felt that my legal rights as an employee and others like me were violated. For example,
21 on at least one occasion I earned a non-discretionary bonus payment in a pay period where I also
22 worked overtime and this bonus was not factored into my regular rate for purposes of calculating
23 my correct overtime rate. I was underpaid overtime as a result. Also, from time to time I did not
24 receive compliant meal breaks which were either missed, late or short and I did not receive meal
25 break premium payments when these violations occurred. Also, as a matter of policy and practice,
26 Grossmont Hospital did not pay me for the time I spent undergoing Covid-19 screenings while off
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1 the clock. In addition, Grossmont Hospital on many occasions failed to provide relief for rest
2 periods and as a result I did not receive compliant rest breaks.

3 6. I spoke to my attorneys several times and discussed how Grossmont Hospital implemented
4 its company policies and procedures. I also assisted my attorneys in their investigation into my
5 claims by providing them documents and answering their questions. I reviewed the complaint
6 before it was filed and was given access to an electronic file sharing program that alerted me via
7 email when important documents were filed so that I could review them and keep up with the
8 developments in the case which I understood was one of my duties as a class representative. I
9 could also access court filings from this case on my attorney's law firm website. I also assisted my
10 attorneys in responding to Grossmont Hospital's written discovery requests.
11

12 7. Even though this action is in the process of settling, I was and remain prepared to
13 perform all the duties of a class representative. I understand that as a class representative I have
14 assumed a fiduciary responsibility to prosecute this class action on behalf of the absent class
15 members. I have understood that as a fiduciary, I have a duty to prosecute this action for the
16 benefit of the class members and surrender any right to compromise the group action for an
17 individual gain.
18

19 8. I understood that being a plaintiff/class representative in this case meant that I was
20 seeking damages not only for myself but also other current and/or former non-exempt employees
21 working for Grossmont Hospital in California who make up the class. I felt that these individuals
22 were not aware of their labor law rights and even if they were they would probably be
23 apprehensive about speaking up or even simply because of the time, effort and risk involved in
24 filing a class action lawsuit.
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26 9. I understood that being a part of this lawsuit involved risks. For example, my
27 attorneys explained to me that if the case went to trial and we lost, I could be held responsible to
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DECLARATION OF JACQUELYN CRANTON

1 pay for all or part of the attorney fees and costs paid by Grossmont Hospital to defend this lawsuit.
2 Also, I knew there was a risk that future employers, if they ever find out about this lawsuit, could
3 hold it against me or downgrade me as a potential hire. As one of only two named Plaintiffs in
4 this case it would not be difficult for a future employer to become aware that I sued a former
5 employer for labor law violations. Ultimately I decided these risks were worth it and decided to
6 fight for my rights and the rights of others regardless of the risks, time and effort I spent on this
7 case.
8

9 10. During the lawsuit I stayed in touch with my attorneys by phone and email. I also
10 kept up to date on important developments by reviewing court filings that were made available to
11 me electronically as I described above.
12

13 11. A mediation took place on December 20, 2023 with Jeffrey Ross, a well-respected
14 and experienced mediator of wage and hour class actions. After the mediation the parties were
15 able to reach an agreement to settle the action based on a mediator's proposal. I communicated
16 with my attorneys regarding the terms of the settlement which was reached between the parties
17 and understood that I was representing absent class members and therefore wanted the best
18 possible result to be obtained for the class members and I believe a very positive result was in fact
19 achieved via settlement.
20

21 12. I have been actively involved with this lawsuit performing the duties described above.
22 Although I did not keep time records, I was in regular contact with my attorneys, reviewed court
23 filings, assisted my attorneys in responding to written discovery requests and spent a significant
24 amount of time on the issues presented during the lawsuit and in the settlement process. I estimate
25 that I spent approximately 40-50 hours working on this case up until this point. I believe I have
26 been diligent and have done what is expected of a named plaintiff and a proposed class
27 representative to date, and will continue to do so. I have and always will maintain the best interest
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1 of the class members.

2 13. My attorneys explained to me that the settlement process involves a two-step
3 review by the Court to determine whether the settlement is fair before approving the settlement. I
4 know this process also involves notifying all class members of the settlement terms and of their
5 rights to make a claim for their settlement share, to opt out of the settlement or to object to the
6 settlement.
7

8 14. I believe I did the right thing by filing this case on behalf of the class members who,
9 subject to court approval, are in line to receive monetary payments as a result of this case and
10 settlement. This is money they may never have ever gotten if I did not pursue this action on their
11 behalf. I feel significant personal satisfaction to know that I played a role in the class members
12 being entitled to monetary payments as a result of the filing of this lawsuit. I also believe that the
13 requested Class Representative Service Payment of \$12,500 from the settlement is fair
14 compensation for the work I performed and the risks I undertook.
15

16 15. As part of the settlement it was necessary for me to sign a general release of claims I
17 may have against Grossmont Hospital. I believe the Class Representative Service Payment I have
18 requested provides me with some compensation for this agreed release.
19

20 16. In light of all the time and effort I have spent on this case, the risk I undertook by
21 suing a former employer, the exposure to being responsible for paying the defendant's costs in the
22 event we did not win the case, the reputational risk that future employers may hold this lawsuit
23 against me, the general release and in light of the size of the settlement, I believe the request for
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1 \$12,500 as a Class Representative service payment is fair and reasonable.

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

4

5 Executed on Mar 4, 2024, at Atascadero, CA.
6 (city, state)

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7 
8 Jacquelyn Cranton (Mar 4, 2024 04:20 PST)
9 Jacquelyn Cranton

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DECLARATION OF JACQUELYN CRANTON