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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

MANUEL VIDRIO, an individual, on behalf of himself, and on behalf of all persons similarly situated, Plaintiff, v. HARVEST SHERWOOD FOOD DISTRIBUTORS, INC., a Delaware corporation; HARVEST MEAT COMPANY, INC., a Delaware corporation; and DOES 1-50, Inclusive, Defendants.	Case No: 37-2022-00039626-CU-OE-CTL **DECLARATION OF JEAN-CLAUDE LAPUYADE, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT** Date: February 28, 2025 Time: 9:10 a.m. Judge: Hon. Judy S. Bae Dept.: C-62

I, Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq., declare as follows:

1. I am over eighteen years of age and if called as a witness, I could and would competently testify to the following facts from my own personal knowledge. I am an attorney-at-law and the owner of the law firm of JCL LAW FIRM, APC (hereinafter "Class Counsel"). I am co-counsel of record for Plaintiff MANUEL VIDRIO (hereafter "Plaintiff") in this wage and hour class action filed against Defendant Harvest Sherwood Food Distributors, Inc. and Harvest Meat Company, Inc. (hereinafter "Defendants").

2. This declaration is being submitted in support of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement.

I. EXHIBITS

3. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "1"** is a true and correct copy of the fully executed Stipulation of Settlement of Class and PAGA Action Claims and Release of Claims ("Agreement" or "Settlement Agreement"). Attached as **Exhibit "A"** to the Agreement is a true and correct copy of the proposed Class Notice.

4. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "2"** is a true and correct copy of the proof of filing with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency notice of this settlement with the Settlement Agreement and Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement evidencing Class Counsel's compliance with California Labor Code Section 2699(s)(2).

5. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "3"** is a true and correct copy of the JCL Law Firm "Firm Resume" detailing some of the major cases the JCL Law Firm has undertaken.

6. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "4"** is a true and correct copy of the bid for settlement administration submitted by Apex Class Action LLC, in the amount of $6,750.00.

II. INTRODUCTION

7. An objective evaluation of the Settlement confirms that the relief negotiated on behalf of the Class is fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Settlement was negotiated by the Parties at arm's length. The Settlement confers substantial benefits to the Class Members. The relief offered by the Settlement is particularly impressive when viewed against the difficulties encountered by plaintiffs pursuing wage and hour cases (*see infra).* Indeed, by settling now rather

than proceeding to trial, Class Members will not have to wait (possibly years) for relief, nor will they have to bear the risk of class certification being denied or of Defendants prevailing at trial. The entire Net Settlement Amount will be paid to all Settlement Class Members who do not opt out of the Settlement resulting in an average Individual Class payment of ***$828.35.*** This is based on Defendants' representations that the Class is comprised of an estimated 117 Class Members who collectively worked 11,322 workweeks.

8. As discussed below, the proposed Settlement satisfies all criteria for preliminary settlement approval and falls within the range of reasonableness. The average Individual Class Payment to the Settlement Class Members meets awards in similar wage and hour class actions. Moreover, the proposed Class is appropriate for provisional certification. Accordingly, Plaintiff respectfully requests the Court grant preliminary approval of the Settlement.

III. FACTS AND PROCEDURE

A. Overview of the Litigation

9. Defendants are a food distributor with offices and distribution centers in San Diego County, where Plaintiff worked. Plaintiff was employed by Defendants since 1995 as a non-exempt employee. Throughout his employment, Plaintiff was subject to Defendants' policies and procedures.

10. Generally, Plaintiff claims that Defendants failed to pay overtime and meal period premiums at the correct regular rate of pay, failed to pay for all time worked, failed to provide compliant meal and rest periods, failed to furnish accurate itemized wage statements, and failed to pay all wages upon separation. Defendants deny liability for each of Plaintiff's claims. Further, Defendants asserts that they fully complied with all applicable employment laws and raised several other significant defenses to Plaintiff's claims, including but not limited to timely payment of all wages due upon separation of employment.

11. On September 15, 2023, Plaintiff served Defendants and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") with a Notice of Violations ("PAGA Notice"). Plaintiff's PAGA Notice set forth the facts and theories supporting Defendants' alleged violations of various provisions of the California Labor Code and applicable Industrial Welfare Commissions ("IWC")

Wage Order and of her intent to pursue claims under California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act, Cal. Lab. Code Sections 2698 *et seq* ("PAGA").

12. On October 4, 2022, Plaintiff Manuel Vidrio filed the original Complaint, alleging claims for: (1) Unfair Competition (Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq.); (2) Failure to Pay Minimum Wages (Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197 and 1197.1); (3) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages (Labor Code §§ 510 et seq.); (4) Failure to Provide Required Meal Periods (Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512 and the applicable Wage Order); (5) Failure to Provide Required Rest Periods (Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516 and the applicable wage order); (6) Failure to Provide Wages When Due (Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203); (7) Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Statements (Labor Code § 226 and 226.2 et seq.).

13. On September 17, 2024, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint, which added an Eighth cause of action for violation of the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698 et seq.)

14. After engaging in written discovery, the Parties agreed to mediate this action. To prepare for mediation, the Parties agreed to informally exchange documents and data points subject to the mediation privilege, including but not limited to, the Class Members' time data and certain payroll data points. As discussed *infra,* Plaintiff's counsel retained the forensic consultants at Berger Consulting Group to analyze Defendants' time and payroll data.

15. On April 8, 2023, the Parties participated in an all-day private mediation presided over by Monique Ngo-Bonnici, Esq. (the "Mediator"), an experienced mediator of wage and hour class and PAGA actions. The mediation concluded with a settlement, which was subsequently memorialized in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding. Thereafter, the Parties drafted and negotiated a long-form settlement agreement, which is the subject of the instant motion.

B. Class Counsel Thoroughly Investigated the Factual and Legal Issues

16. Months before filing the Action, Class Counsel began its pre-filing investigation into the Plaintiff's complaints. Class Counsel's investigation started with several lengthy interviews with Plaintiff. As part of the interview process, Plaintiff produced documents related to his

employment, including his wage statements. At the conclusion of the interviews, Class Counsel determined that Plaintiff's complaints justified further inquiry.

17. Class Counsel subsequently requested Plaintiff's employee file from Defendant. In response, Defendants produced additional documents including complete payroll records. Class Counsel reviewed and analyzed the documents and determined the documents appeared to substantiate Plaintiff's claim that Defendants failed to, among other things, Plaintiff's claim for facially non-compliant wage statements.

18. To prepare for mediation, Defendants produced time and payroll records for the Class Members, aggregate workweek and pay period data for the Class Members, average hourly rate for the Class Members, and copies of applicable handbooks, policies, and agreements.

19. Class Counsel then retained the statisticians and economists at Berger Consulting Group ("BCG") to evaluate the Class Members' payroll and time data. BCG provides data analysis and damage modeling consulting services, specializing in wage and hour class actions. BCG's team of financial and data analysts are credentialed and experienced experts in their fields and have provided their expertise on thousands of cases.

20. BCG analyzed Defendants' time and payroll data to assist in the development of various damage models. Among other things, BCG determined the approximate amount of unpaid wages, amount of unpaid overtime wages, number of workweeks, pay periods, average length of shifts and average number of hours worked per week. BCG also estimated the number of missed, late, or truncated meal and rest periods, the amount of unpaid wages, the amount of unpaid and underpaid overtime, and the amount of missed meal and rest period premiums paid during the Class Period.

21. Overall, Class Counsel thoroughly investigated the claims at issue, including: (1) determining Plaintiff's suitability as a putative class representatives through interviews, background investigations, and analysis of his employment files; (2) evaluating all of Plaintiff's potential claims; (3) researching similar wage and hour class actions as to the claims brought, the nature of the positions, and the type of employer; (4) analyzing the Class Members' time and payroll records; (5) analyzing Defendants' labor policies and practices; (6) researching settlements

in similar cases as well as outstanding issues which could affect settlement approval; (7) evaluating Plaintiff's claims and estimating Defendants' liability for purposes of settlement; (8) drafting the mediation brief; and (9) participating in the mediation. This investigation allowed Class Counsel to fully assess the nature and magnitude of the claims being settled, as well as the impediments to recovery, such as to make an independent assessment of the reasonableness of the terms to which the Parties have agreed.

22. Class Counsel only agreed to enter the Settlement following this thorough investigation and evaluation of Plaintiff's claims. Based on its investigation of the facts, applicable law, and marketplace for similar settlements, and considering the risk of significant delay and uncertainty associated with litigation, and the various defenses asserted by Defendant, Class Counsel firmly believe this Agreement to be in the best interests of the Class Members. Because the Settlement's terms are fair, reasonable, and adequate, the Court should preliminarily approve the Settlement.

C. The Parties Settled at Mediation

23. On April 8, 2024, the Parties conducted a full day of mediation with Monique Ngo-Bonnici, Esq. (the "Mediator"). The Mediator helped manage the Parties' expectations and provided a useful, neutral analysis of the issues and risks to both sides. The Parties made substantial progress with the Mediator's assistance. Namely, the Parties exchanged information regarding their respective claims and defenses, including their respective evaluation of the damages. The mediation concluded with a settlement which was subsequently memorialized in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding. The complete and final terms of the Parties' settlement are now set forth in the Agreement. Class Counsel submits that the Settlement constitutes a fair, adequate, and reasonable compromise of the claims at issue.

/ / /

IV. ARGUMENT

A. The Court Should Preliminarily Approve the Settlement

1. The Parties Reached the Settlement Through Arm's-Length Bargaining Led by Experienced Counsel.

24. The Parties participated in mediation mediator Monique Ngo-Bonnici, , Esq (the "Mediator"). The Mediator managed the Parties' expectations and provided a useful, neutral analysis of the issues and risks to both sides. (In re Apple Computer, Inc. Derivative Litig, No. C 06-4128 JF (HRL), 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 108195 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 5, 2008) (mediator's participation weighs considerably against any inference of a collusive settlement); D'Amato v. Deutsche Bank (2d. Cir. 2001) 236 F.3d 78, 85 (a "mediator's involvement in pre-certification settlement negotiations helps to ensure that the proceedings were free of collusion and undue pressure.").) The mediation concluded with a settlement, which was subsequently memorialized in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding.

25. The Parties then engaged in negotiations regarding the written terms of the class action settlement. The Agreement is the final product of the mediated negotiations. Objectively, the Settlement terms are fair, adequate and represent a reasonable compromise of the claims at issue.

2. Class Counsel's Thorough Investigation Provided an Objective Measurement of the Settlement's Reasonableness.

26. As set forth in greater detail above, Class Counsel conducted a very thorough investigation into the factual and legal issues in dispute. In addition to formal and informal discovery, document review, data analysis and legal research, Class Counsel also researched similar wage and hour actions. Although no two cases are identical, this research provided Class Counsel with a marker to inform settlement discussions and, ultimately, to measure this settlement against. The investigation allowed Class Counsel to realistically assess the value of Plaintiff's claims and intelligently engage defense counsel in settlement discussions that culminated in the proposed settlement now before the Court.

3. Class Counsel's Thorough Investigation Provided an Objective Measurement of the Settlement's Reasonableness.

a. The Gross Settlement Amount Meets the Recognized Range of Reasonableness.

27. The Gross Settlement Amount of $250,000.00 is fair and reasonable considering the nature and magnitude of the claims being settled and the various potential impediments to recovery. Prior to mediation, Class Counsel retained Berger Consulting Group to develop economic damage models measuring Defendants' liability exposure while accounting for the uncertainties of continued litigation. The various models were informed by Class Counsel's investigation, including the analysis of a significant sample of time and payroll data. Class Counsel projected Defendants' liability exposure for class claims (excluding PAGA Penalties) ranged between $814,977.28 ("Realistic Damages") and $2,088,725.50 ("Maximum Damages") if successful at trial. This range reflects the uncertainty regarding several of the claims. Thus, the Gross Settlement Amount represents a recovery of between 31% ("Realistic Damages") and 12% ("Maximum Damages") of Defendants' class-wide exposure – well within the recognized range of reasonableness. The following summarizes Defendants' liability exposure.

28. Plaintiff alleged that Defendants failed to include certain non-discretionary payments when calculating the regular rate of pay for purposes of overtime wages and meal period premiums. The regular rate of pay, which can change from pay period to pay period, includes adjustments to the straight time rate, reflecting, among other things, non-discretionary bonuses and awards, shift differentials and the per-hour value of any non-hourly compensation the employee has earned. Alvarado v. Dart Container Corp. of California (2018) 4 Cal.5th 542, 552-554. For overtime work, "an employee must receive a 50 percent premium on top of his or her regular rate of pay[.]" Id. at 553. Here, Plaintiff alleged Defendants failed to include various non-discretionary bonuses when calculating the regular rate of pay when paying Plaintiff and Class Members overtime and meal period premiums. Plaintiff estimates Defendants' exposure for this claim to be between $66,773.50 and $133,547.00.

29. Plaintiff also alleged that Defendants failed to pay its employees for all hours worked. Specifically, Plaintiff alleged that Class Members did not received payments for overtime

hours worked. The Parties disagree as to whether overtime payments are owed. Taking into account Defendants' defenses, Plaintiff estimates Defendants' exposure for this claim to be between $112,715.00 and $245,430.00.

30. Plaintiff alleged that Defendants failed to provide compliant meal periods. Specifically, Plaintiff alleged that because of rigorous work schedules, Plaintiff and Class Members were unable to take timely and duty-free meal periods. An analysis of the Class Members' time and payroll data revealed that nearly all shifts over 10 hours did not include a recorded second meal period. Defendants deny this allegation, and note that Class Members waived their second meal break in shifts lasting in duration between 10 and 12 hours. Taking into account Defendants' defenses, Plaintiff estimates Defendants' exposure for this claim to be between $400,904.28 and $1,002,260.70.

31. Plaintiff alleged that Defendants' alleged violations resulted in derivative violations of Labor Code section 203 and 226. Class Counsel considered these penalties and weighed the potential recoveries against probable defenses. Specifically, Defendants contend that Plaintiff could not prove the "willful" prong needed to obtain waiting time penalties under Labor Code Section 203. Additionally, Defendants contend that Plaintiff cannot show that Class Members suffered an "injury" because of wage statement violations, as required by Labor Code section 226. Plaintiff would have to overcome precedent to prove the Class were entitled to these penalties. See, e.g., Howard v. CVS Caremark Corp., 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 172406 (C.D. Cal. Dec. 9, 2014) (denying class certification for the same penalty claims); Alonzo v. Maximus, Inc., 832 F. Supp.2d 1122, 1134-1137 (C.D. Cal. 2011) (finding insufficient evidence of bad faith or actual injury). These claims represented Plaintiff's most legally precarious and uncertain claims. Taking this into account, Plaintiff estimated Defendants' exposure for waiting time penalties to be between $129,159.50 and $516,638.00, and its exposure for wage statement statutory penalties to be between $95,425.00 and $190,850.00.

32. In all, Class Counsel projected Defendants' liability exposure for PAGA claims ranged between $163,175.00 ("Conservative Model") and $326,350.00 ("Aggressive Model") if successful at trial.

33. Here, the Parties negotiated a good faith PAGA Payment in the amount of $25,000.00 which is 10% of the Gross Settlement Amount. This amount falls well within the range of approved PAGA payments. Seventy-Five percent (75%) of the PAGA Payment ($18,750.00) will be paid to the LWDA ("LWDA PAGA Payment") with the remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of the PAGA Payment ($6,250.00) will be distributed to the Aggrieved Employees ("Aggrieved Employee Payments"), which is within the range of PAGA payments approved by courts and should be approved.

a. Inherent Risks of Continued Litigation Support Preliminary Approval

34. With respect to the most immediate challenge, i.e., class certification, the risks attendant to the certification of similar wage and hour claims are demonstrated by Magadia v. Wal-Mart Associates, Inc. (9th Cir. 2021) 999 F.3d 668. There, the Ninth Circuit vacated, reversed, and remanded a $110 million judgement against an employer for, inter alia, inaccurately paying overtime, and directed the trial court to enter judgement in favor of the employer. See also O'Conner v. Uber Technologies, Inc. (9th Cir. 2018) 904 F.3d 1087 (decertification of wage and hour misclassification action); see also Duran v. U.S. Bank National Association (2014) 59 Cal.4th 1, 31 (reversing a trial verdict in favor plaintiffs in a wage and hour class action)); Tien v. Tenet Healthcare Corp. (2012) 209 Cal.App.4th 1077, 1088 ("[T]he reason, if any, that employees might not take their breaks were predominantly individualized questions of fact not susceptible to class treatment."); a.S.A. Cab Ltd. (2009) 176 Cal.App.4th 1333, 1341 (affirming denial of certification because employees' declarations attesting to having taken meal and rest breaks demonstrated that individualized inquiries were required to show harm); Campbell v. Best Buy Stores, L.P., (C.D. Cal. 2013) 2013 WL 5302217 at *11-13 (following Brinker and denying certification of proposed off-the-clock and rest and meal break classes due to lack of uniform policy); Brown v. Fed Express Corp. (C.D. Cal. 2008) 249 F.R.D. 580, 587-88 (denying certification of driver meal and rest period claims based on the predominance of individual issues). Collectively, the examples cited above illustrate the uncertain nature of class litigation. Consequently, the uncertainty of obtaining certification through a contested motion is a significant risk factor favoring settlement.

35. Finally, continuing to litigate this action would require continued and extensive resources coupled with significant Court time to proceed through trial and post-trial motions; which can often take years. Furthermore, wage and hour litigation is complex and expensive, as it often necessitates extensive expert testimony, particularly with regards to damages. But even if Plaintiff is successful at trial, Plaintiff is acutely aware that a judgment does not end the litigation. Plaintiff fully expects that Defendants would appeal any favorable judgment. As demonstrated by Magadia, supra, 999 F.3d 668, the risk of an appeal and subsequent reversal is real.

36. In this matter, Class Counsel negotiated a Gross Settlement Amount of $250,000.00 that is roughly between approximately 12% - 31% of Defendants' class-wide liability exposure for damages. Given the amount of the settlement here, as compared to potential value of the claims, offset by the various inherent risks to continued litigation, the settlement is fair and reasonable.

B. Proposed Notice Informs the Class About the Case and Settlement

37. The Parties jointly drafted the Notice Packet which fairly and neutrally informs the Class Members of their rights and remedies. The Settlement Administrator will first verify addresses, then mail the proposed Notice Packet to all Class Members. The Notice will include information regarding the nature of the lawsuit, a summary of the substance of the Settlement's terms, the class definition, the procedure, and time period within which to requests for exclusions or objections to the Settlement, the date for the final approval hearing, the formula used to calculate settlement payments, and the terms and scope of the Released Claims. Agreement at § III(L). The Parties negotiated this method to ensure delivering the most reasonable method of notice to the Class Members while ensuring cost effective administration of the Settlement.

38. Accordingly, both the method of disseminating the Notice Packet and content of the Notice Packet satisfy due process. (See C.R.C. 3.776(e)-(f); State of Cal. v. Levi Strauss (1986) 41 Cal.3d 460,485 (the class notice must "fairly apprise the class members of the terms of the proposed compromise and of the options open to dissenting class members.").)

C. The Court Should Preliminarily Approve the Class Representative Service Award

39. The Settlement provides for an Enhancement Award of $7,500 to Plaintiff. The Enhancement Award is fair and reasonable compensation for the Plaintiff's efforts bringing the action, assisting Class Counsel with the litigation and settlement, regularly conferring with Class Counsel on the status of his case and the strategies for prosecuting the claims, reviewing the proposed Settlement to ensure that its terms are fair and provide adequate relief for the Settlement Class Members, and agreeing to provide Defendants a general release of all claims arising out of his employment.

40. Class Counsel on behalf of Plaintiff will file a formal motion for the negotiated Enhancement Award once preliminary approval of the Settlement is granted. Plaintiff respectfully submits that the above showing is sufficient for preliminary approval of the negotiated Enhancement Award.

D. The Court Should Preliminary Approve the Negotiated Class Counsel Award

41. Class Counsel took this matter on a contingency fee basis and invested significant time and expense successfully prosecuting Plaintiff's claims. As discussed supra, the estimated average Individual Class Payment illustrates the demonstrably positive outcome for the Settlement Class Members. Considering the positive outcome for the Class Members, and in light of the supporting authority, the proposed Attorneys' Fees and Attorneys' Expenses is fair and reasonable.

42. Plaintiff will file a formal motion for the negotiated Attorneys' Fees and Attorneys' Expenses once preliminary approval of the Settlement is granted. Plaintiff respectfully submit that the above showing is sufficient for preliminary approval of the negotiated attorneys' fees and expenses.

E. Provisional Certification for Settlement Purposes Is Appropriate

43. For Settlement purposes only, Plaintiff contends, and Defendants do not dispute, that provisional certification of the Class is appropriate.

44. Because all Class Members are Defendants' current and former employees, the class is readily ascertainable from Defendants' regular business records, i.e., payroll records.

45. The statutes relating to each of Plaintiff's claims apply with equal force and effect to the entire Class. Factually, Defendants' policies and practices apply class-wide and Defendants' liability can be determined by facts common to all members of the class. The wage and hour issues are both numerous and substantial, and a class action is the most advantageous method of dealing with the claims of the Settlement Class Members.

46. Plaintiff's wage and hour claims are typical of the proposed Class because they arise from the same factual basis and are based on the same legal theories applicable to the other Class Members. Likewise, Plaintiff's interests are entirely coextensive with the interests of the Class. Plaintiff alleges he was injured by the same company-wide practices to which the proposed Class Members were subject to and seek the same relief. Plaintiff has already demonstrated their ability to advocate for the interests of the Class Members by initiating this litigation, undertaking extensive class discovery, and evaluating the proposed settlement to assure that it is fair.

F. Class Counsel's Experience

47. Plaintiff, the Class Members and the PAGA Members are represented by competent and experienced counsel to pursue their claims. I established the JCL Law Firm, APC ("Firm"), in 2010. The Firm is a boutique plaintiff firm representing aggrieved employees and consumers throughout California in wage and hour class actions, PAGA Actions and complex multi-party product liability matters. The Firm currently consists of myself, Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq. (Partner/Owner), Sydney Castillo-Johnson, Esq. (Associate Attorney), Perssia Razma (Associate Attorney), John L. Nitti (Associate Attorney), Tesla Stone (Paralegal), Jennifer Heming (Administrative Assistant), Sara Christensen (Legal Assistant), and Andrew Ward (Law Clerk).

48. I am qualified to represent the Plaintiff, the Class Members, the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees. I have extensive experience with wage and hour class and representative actions litigation like this matter, and employment matters in general. Additionally, I have extensive complex mass tort litigation experience and complex construction product liability experience. I can, will and have adequately represented the interests of the Plaintiff, the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees throughout this action.

49. I have represented consumers and employees in California class actions, and complex multi-party product liability actions exclusively for more than 13 years. I have been in practice as a plaintiffs' civil litigation attorney since April 2007.

50. I have significant class counsel and collective action counsel experience. My credentials are reflected in the JCL Law Firm, APC, Firm Resume, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 3.

51. Since 2010, my firm has successfully resolved more than sixty (65) cases and recovered in excess of $75 million on behalf of the Firm's clients.

52. Since 2010, I have successfully tried two (2) cases to conclusion, each resulting in a favorable verdict for the firm's clients.

53. Finally, I have published appellate experience in *William Blanchette et al., v. The Superior Court of Imperial County, (GHA Enterprises)*, 8 Cal.App.5th 521.

54. Consequently, I was named to the prestigious Thomson Reuters, Super Lawyers, Rising Star in 2015, 2016, 2017 and, again, in 2018. According to Thomson Reuters, the Super Lawyers, Rising Star list recognizes the top 2.5% of eligible attorneys. (see https://www.superlawyers.com/about/selection_process.html.)

55. A class action is superior to a multitude of individual lawsuits. Given the size and amount of each individual claim, the Class Members likely have little incentive to litigate their claims on an individual basis because the out-of-pocket expense and personal commitment necessary to litigate each claim outweighs any potential recovery. In sum, class treatment is superior to individual, case-by-case adjudication.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 3rd day of February 2025, at San Diego, California.

JCL LAW FIRM, APC

By: ____________________
Jean-Claude Lapuyade
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

EXHIBIT 1

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(Additional Counsel on Next Page)

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

MANUEL VIDRIO, an individual, on behalf of himself, and on behalf of all persons similarly situated, Plaintiff, v. HARVEST SHERWOOD FOOD DISTRIBUTORS, INC., a Delaware corporation; HARVEST MEAT COMPANY, INC., a Delaware corporation; and DOES 1-50, Inclusive, Defendants.	Case No. 37-2022-00039626-CU-OE-CTL [Complaint Filed: October 4, 2022] **STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT OF CLASS AND PAGA ACTION CLAIMS AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS** Judge: Hon. Judy S. Bae Dept. 62

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Attorneys for PLAINTIFF

This Stipulation of Settlement of Class and PAGA Action and Release of Claims is entered into by and between Plaintiff MANUEL VIDRO (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), an individual, on behalf of the Settlement Class, and in his representative capacity on behalf of the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees, and Defendants HARVEST SHERWOOD FOOD DISTRIBUTORS, INC. and HARVEST MEAT COMPANY, INC. (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Defendants"):

I. DEFINITIONS

A. "Action" shall mean the putative Class and PAGA action lawsuit designated *Manuel Vidrio v. Harvest Sherwood Food Distributors, Inc. et. Al.*, San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2022-00039626-CU-OE-CTL, filed October 4, 2022 and amended July/August 2024.

B. "Administration Costs" shall mean the amount paid to the Settlement Administrator from the Gross Settlement Amount for administering the Settlement pursuant to this Agreement currently estimated not to exceed $7,250.00.

C. "Aggrieved Employees" means all current and former non-exempt employees employed by Defendants in California who worked at any time during the PAGA Release Period.

D. "Aggrieved Employee Payment" means 25% of the PAGA Payment allocated from the Gross Settlement Amount and to be distributed to the Aggrieved Employees on a pro-rata share.

E. "Agreement" or "Settlement Agreement" means this Stipulation of Settlement of Class and PAGA Action Claims and Release of Claims.

F. "Attorneys' Expenses" means the award of expenses that the Court authorizes to be paid to Class Counsel for the expenses they have incurred of up to $30,000.00.

G. "Attorneys' Fees" means the award of fees that the Court authorizes to be paid to Class Counsel for the services they have rendered to Plaintiff and the Settlement Class in the Action, currently not to exceed one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount currently estimated to be $83,333.33 out of $250,000.00. Attorneys' fees will be divided between Class Counsel as follows: 50% to JCL Law Firm, APC, and 50% to Zakay Law Group, APLC.

H. "Class" or "Class Members" shall mean all current and former non-exempt drivers employed by Defendants in California who worked at any time during the Class Period.

I. "Class Counsel" shall mean Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq. of JCL Law Firm, APC and Shani Zakay of Zakay Law Group, APLC.

J. "Class Data" means information regarding Class Members currently in Defendants' possession. It shall be formatted as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and shall include: each Class Member's full name; last known mailing address; Social Security Number; start dates and end dates of employment, including start dates and end dates of leaves of absence, during the Class Period and PAGA Period.

K. "Class Period" means the period between October 4, 2018, through June 1, 2024.

L. "Class Representative" shall mean Plaintiff Manuel Vidrio.

M. "Court" means the Superior Court for the State of California, County of San Diego currently presiding over the Action.

N. "Defendants" mean Harvest Sherwood Food Distributors, Inc. and Harvest Meat Company, Inc.

O. "Effective Date" means the later of either (1) 45 days following the Court's entry of an order granting final approval of the settlement, or (2) if a timely appeal is made, the date of the final resolution of that appeal and any subsequent appeals resulting in final judicial approval of the settlement.

P. "Enhancement Award" means an award in the amount of $7,500.00 or an amount that the Court authorizes to be paid Plaintiff, Manuel Vidrio, in recognition of his efforts and risks in assisting with the prosecution of the Action. Plaintiff will assume full responsibility and liability for any and all taxes owed on his individual Enhancement Award.

Q. "Final Approval" means the Court's order granting final approval of the Settlement.

R. "Final Approval Hearing" means the Court's hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.

S. "Funding Date" shall mean the date by which Defendants have paid the entire Gross Settlement Amount to the Settlement Administrator in accord with the terms of this Agreement. Defendants will pay the Gross Settlement Amount to the Settlement Administrator within fifteen (15) calendar days of the Effective Date.

T. "Gross Settlement Amount" means Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($250,000.00) that Defendants must pay into the QSF in connection with this Settlement, which will be used to pay Individual Settlement Payments, Administration Costs, Attorneys' Fees and Attorneys' Expenses, Enhancement Award, and the PAGA Payment and is ***exclusive*** of the employer's share of payroll taxes owed as calculated in accordance with Section III(M)(3) of this Agreement, if any, triggered by any payment under this Settlement. Each defendant shall be jointly and severally liable for the Gross Settlement Amount.

U. "Individual Settlement Payments" means the amount payable from the Net Settlement Amount to each Settlement Class Member and excludes any amounts distributed to Aggrieved Employees pursuant to PAGA.

V. "Judgment" means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.

W. "Net Settlement Amount" or "NSA" means the Gross Settlement Amount, less Attorneys' Fees and Attorneys' Expenses, Enhancement Award, PAGA Payment, and Administration Costs.

X. "Notice Packet" means the Notice to be provided to the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees by the Settlement Administrator in the form set forth as **Exhibit A** to this Agreement (other than formatting changes to facilitate printing by the Settlement Administrator).

Y. "Operative Complaint" shall mean the First Amended Complaint filed in the Action with the Court in July/August 2024.

Z. "PAGA" means the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Labor Code § 2698 *et seq*.

AA. "PAGA Payment Ratio" means the respective Pay Periods during the PAGA Period for each Aggrieved Employee divided by the total of the Pay Periods for all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period.

BB. "PAGA Pay Periods," for purposes of calculating the distribution of the Aggrieved Employee Payment, as defined herein, means the number of pay periods of employment during the PAGA Period that each Aggrieved Employee worked in California.

CC. "PAGA Period" means the period beginning between September 15, 2022, to June 1, 2024.

DD. "PAGA Payment" shall mean Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) to be allocated from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 25% of the payment going to the Aggrieved Employees ("Aggrieved Employee Payment") and 75% of the payment going to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA Payment"). The amount of the PAGA Payment is subject to Court approval pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699(l). Any reallocation of the Gross Settlement Amount to increase the PAGA Payment will not constitute grounds by either party to void this Agreement, so long as the Gross Settlement Amount remains the same.

EE. "Parties" means Plaintiff and Defendants, collectively, and "Party" shall mean either Plaintiff or Defendants.

FF. "Payment Ratio" means the respective Workweeks for each Class Member divided by the total Workweeks for all Class Members.

GG. "Plaintiff" shall mean Manuel Vidrio.

HH. "Preliminary Approval" means the Court's Order Granting Preliminary approval of the Settlement.

II. "Preliminary Approval Order" means the proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of the PAGA Settlement.

JJ. "QSF" means the Qualified Settlement Fund established, designated, and maintained by the Settlement Administrator to fund the Gross Settlement Amount.

KK. "Released Class Claims" means the claims being released by the Settlement Class Members of all class claims alleged in the Operative Complaint or all claims that reasonably could have been alleged based on the factual allegations contained in the Operative Complaint which occurred during the Class Period, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, and workers' compensation. The period of the Released Class Claims shall extend through June 1, 2024.

LL. "Released PAGA Claims" means all PAGA claims alleged in the Operative Complaint and Plaintiff's PAGA notice to the LWDA or all PAGA claims that reasonably could have been alleged based on the factual allegations contained in the Operative Complaint and notice to the LWDA, which occurred during the PAGA Period, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, and workers' compensation. The period of the Released PAGA Claims shall extend through June 1, 2024.

MM. "Plaintiff's Release" means all claims that were or could have been made by Plaintiff in his individual capacity against the Released Parties, including without limitation a waiver of any and all provisions of California Civil Code section 1542, except only for claims that by law cannot be waived by private agreement, which are more particularly described in Section III(D). Plaintiff's worker's compensation claims are carved out from Plaintiff's Release.

NN. "Released Parties" shall mean Harvest Sherwood Food Distributors, Inc., Harvest Meat Company, Inc., each of their present, former, and future parents, each of their subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, corporations in common control, predecessors, related entities, successors, and assigns, and each of their respective present, past, and future officers, directors, members, investors, employees, partners, shareholders, agents, attorneys, insurers, and any other successors, assigns, or legal representatives, and any other individual or entity which could be liable for any of the Released Class Claims or Released PAGA Claims .

OO. "Response Deadline" means the date forty-five (45) calendar days after the Settlement Administrator mails Notice Packets to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees and the last date on which Class Members may submit requests for exclusion or objections to the Settlement.

PP. "Settlement" means the disposition of the Action pursuant to this Agreement and the Judgment.

QQ. "Settlement Administrator" means APEX Class Action LLC, 18 Technology Drive, Ste. 164, Irvine, CA 92618; Tel: 1-800-355-0700; Fax: 1-949-878-3536. The Settlement Administrator establishes, designates, and maintains, a QSF under

Internal Revenue Code section 468B and Treasury Regulation section 1.468B-1, into which the amount of the Gross Settlement Amount is deposited for the purpose of resolving the claims of Settlement Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. The Settlement Administrator shall maintain the funds until distribution in an account(s) segregated from the assets of Defendants and any person related to Defendants. ***All accrued interest shall be paid and distributed to the Settlement Class Members and Aggrieved Employees as part of their respective Individual Settlement Payment.***

RR. "Settlement Class Members" or "Settlement Class" means all Class Members who have not submitted a timely and valid request for exclusion as provided in this Agreement.

SS. "Workweek" means any seven (7) consecutive days beginning on Sunday and ending on Saturday, in which a Class Member is employed, worked, and earned any wages from Defendants.

II. RECITALS

A. On September 15, 2023, Plaintiff Manuel Vidrio filed a Notice of Violations with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) and served the same on Defendants.

B. On October 4, 2022, Plaintiff Manuel Vidrio filed the original Complaint, alleging claims for: (1) Unfair Competition (Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et seq*.); (2) Failure to Pay Minimum Wages (Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197 and 1197.1); (3) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages (Labor Code §§ 510 *et seq.*); (4) Failure to Provide Required Meal Periods (Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512 and the applicable Wage Order); (5) Failure to Provide Required Rest Periods (Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516 and the applicable wage order); (6) Failure to Provide Wages When Due (Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203); (7)Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Statements (Labor Code § 226 and 226.2 *et seq*.).

C. In July/August of 2024, Plaintiff Manuel Vidrio filed the First Amended Complaint, which added an Eighth cause of action for violation of the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698 et seq.).

D. The Class Representative believes he has claims based on alleged violations of the California Labor Code, and the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, and that class certification is appropriate because the prerequisites for class certification can be satisfied in the Action, and this action is manageable as a PAGA representative action.

E. Defendants deny any liability or wrongdoing of any kind associated with the claims alleged in the Action, dispute any wages, damages and penalties claimed by the Class Representative are owed, and further contend that, for any purpose other than settlement, the Action is not appropriate for class or representative action treatment. Defendants contend, among other things, that at all times it complied with the California Labor Code and the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders.

F. The Class Representative is represented by Class Counsel. Class Counsel investigated the facts relevant to the Action, including conducting an independent investigation as to the allegations, reviewing documents and information exchanged through informal discovery, and reviewing documents and information provided by Defendants pursuant to informal requests for information to prepare for mediation. Defendants produced for the purpose of settlement negotiations certain employment data concerning the Settlement Class and Aggrieved Employees, which Class Counsel reviewed and analyzed with the assistance of an expert. Based on their own independent investigation and evaluation, Class Counsel are of the opinion that the Settlement with Defendants is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in the best interest of the Settlement Class and Aggrieved Employees considering all known facts and circumstances, including the risks of significant delay, defenses asserted by Defendants, uncertainties regarding class certification, federal exemptions and numerous potential appellate issues. Although it denies any liability, Defendants agree to this Settlement solely to avoid the inconveniences and cost of further litigation. The Parties and their counsel have agreed to settle the claims on the terms set forth in this Agreement.

G. On April 8, 2023, the Parties participated in mediation presided over by Monique Ngo-Bonnici, Esq., an experienced mediator of wage and hour class and PAGA actions. The mediation concluded with a settlement, which was subsequently memorialized in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding.

H. This Agreement replaces and supersedes the Memorandum of Understanding and any other agreements, understandings, or representations between the Parties. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or will be construed as an admission by Defendants that the claims in the Action of Plaintiff or the Class Members or Aggrieved Employees have merit or that Defendants bear any liability to Plaintiff or the Class or Aggrieved Employees on those claims or any other claims, or as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendants' defenses in the Action have merit.

I. The Parties believe that the Settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate. The Settlement was arrived at through arm's-length negotiations, taking into account all relevant factors. The Parties recognize the uncertainty, risk, expense and delay attendant to continuing the Action through trial and any appeal. Accordingly, the Parties desire to settle, compromise and discharge all disputes and claims arising from or relating to the Action fully, finally, and forever.

J. The Parties agree to certification of the Class for purposes of this Settlement only. If for any reason the Court does not grant Preliminary Approval, Final Approval or enter Judgment, such that the Settlement does not become effective, Defendants reserve the right to contest certification of the class for any reason and Defendants reserve all available defenses to the claims in the Action. This Settlement and the

Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation (except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate this Settlement).

Based on these Recitals that are a part of this Agreement, the Parties agree as follows:

III. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

A. Settlement Consideration and Settlement Payments by Defendants.

1. Settlement Consideration. In full and complete settlement of the Action, and in exchange for the releases set forth below, Defendants will pay the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($250,000.00) and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount to cover the Individual Settlement Payments, the Enhancement Award, the Attorneys' Fees and Attorneys' Expenses, PAGA Payment, and the Administration Costs, as specified in this Agreement. The Parties agree that this is a non-reversionary Settlement and that no portion of the Gross Settlement Amount shall revert to Defendants. Other than the Defendants' share of employer payroll taxes and as provided in Section III(A)(4) below, Defendants shall not be required to pay more than the Gross Settlement Amount.

2. Escalator Provision. Defendants represent that the Settlement Class was comprised of 107 individuals who collectively worked approximately 10,847 Workweeks ("Projected Workweeks") during the Class Period as of the date of the mediation. Should the total number of Projected Workweeks increase by more than 10% of what was represented at the mediation through the end of the Class Period, the Gross Settlement Amount will increase proportionally for the number of Workweeks over 110% of 10,847 count. For example, if the total Workweeks in the Class Period are 115% of 10,847, the Gross Settlement Amount shall increase

by 5%. Defendants will provide the total number of Class Members and their corresponding Workweek count during the Class Period. Workweeks in which Class Members were on leaves of absence will be excluded from the Workweek count. Defendants will provide a declaration under penalty of perjury confirming the number of Class Members and the corresponding Workweeks they worked during the applicable Class Period five court days prior to the hearing on Plaintiffs' motion for preliminary approval of the Settlement.

3. Settlement Payment. Defendants shall deposit the Gross Settlement Amount into the QSF, through the Settlement Administrator within fifteen (15) calendar days of the Effective Date. Any interest accrued will be added to the NSA and distributed to the Settlement Class Members except that if final approval is reversed on appeal, then Defendants are entitled to prompt return of the principal and all interest accrued.

4. Defendants' Share of Payroll Taxes. Defendants' share of employer side payroll taxes is in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount and shall be paid together with the Gross Settlement Amount on the Funding Date.

B. Release by Settlement Class Members. Upon entry of final judgment and funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, in exchange for the consideration set forth in this Agreement, Plaintiff and the Settlement Class Members on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors and assigns, release the Released Parties from the Released Class Claims for the Class Period.

C. Release by the Aggrieved Employees. Upon entry of final judgment and funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, in exchange for the consideration set forth in this Agreement, the Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees, the LWDA and the State of California release the Released Parties from the Released PAGA Claims for the PAGA Period. As a result of this release, the Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors and assigns, shall be precluded from bringing claims against Defendants for the Released PAGA Claims.

D. General Release by Plaintiff. In addition to the Settlement Class Members' Released Claims and the Released PAGA Claims, effective upon entry of final judgment and funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, for the consideration set forth in this Agreement, including without limitation the Enhancement Award, Plaintiff on behalf of himself and his respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors and assigns, waives, releases, acquits and forever discharges the Released Parties from any and all claims, whether known or unknown, which exist or may exist on Plaintiff's behalf as of the date of this Agreement, including without limitation any claims relating to or arising from any aspect of their respective employment, or termination of employment with Defendants, any and all tort claims, contract claims, wage claims, wrongful termination claims, disability claims, benefit claims, public policy claims, retaliation claims, statutory claims, personal injury claims, emotional distress claims, invasion of privacy claims, defamation claims, fraud claims, quantum meruit claims, and any and all claims arising under any federal, state or other governmental statute, law, regulation or ordinance, including, without limitation claims for violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the California Labor Code, the Wage Orders of California's Industrial Welfare Commission, other state wage and hour laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), the Older Workers Benefits Protection Act ("OWBPA"), the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, the California Family Rights Act, the Family Medical Leave Act, California's Whistleblower Protection Act, California Business & Professions Code Section 17200 et seq., and any and all claims arising under any federal, state or other governmental statute, law, regulation or ordinance. Plaintiff also waives and relinquishes any and all claims, rights or benefits that he may have under California Civil Code § 1542, which provides as follows:

> ***A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.***

Thus, notwithstanding the provisions of section 1542, and to implement a full and complete release and discharge of the Released Parties, Plaintiff expressly acknowledges this Settlement Agreement is intended to include in its effect, without limitation, all claims Plaintiff does not know or suspect to exist in Plaintiff's favor at the time of signing this Settlement Agreement, and that this Settlement Agreement contemplates the extinguishment of any such claims. Plaintiff warrants that Plaintiff has read this Settlement Agreement, including this waiver of California Civil Code section 1542, and that Plaintiff has consulted with or had the opportunity to consult with counsel of Plaintiff's choosing about this Settlement Agreement and specifically about the waiver of section 1542, and that Plaintiff understands this Settlement Agreement and the section 1542 waiver, and so Plaintiff freely and knowingly enters into this Settlement Agreement. Plaintiff further acknowledges that Plaintiff later may discover facts different from or in addition to those Plaintiffs now know or believe to be true regarding the matters released or described in this Settlement Agreement, and even so Plaintiff agrees that the releases and agreements contained in this Settlement Agreement shall remain effective in all respects notwithstanding any later discovery of any different or additional facts. Plaintiff expressly assumes any and all risk of any mistake in connection with the true facts involved in the matters, disputes, or controversies released or described in this Settlement Agreement or with regard to any facts now unknown to Plaintiff relating thereto.

Plaintiff Manuel Vidrio is over the age of 40 and by signing this Agreement he individually acknowledges and agrees that he has been informed that he has the right to legal counsel and is entitled to twenty-one (21) calendar days from receipt of this Agreement to consider whether the terms are acceptable to him, and he has consulted with legal counsel about waiving and releasing all rights he may have under the ADEA and the OWBPA. Plaintiff is further hereby notified of his respective right to revoke the release of claims arising, if any, under the ADEA within a period of seven (7) calendar days after he signs this Agreement. In order to be effective, the revocation must (a) be in writing; and (b) be delivered to Class Counsel Shani Zakay of Zakay Law Group, APLC, via electronic mail addressed to: shani@zakaylaw.com within the required period.

E. Conditions Precedent: This Settlement will become final and effective the later of either:

1. 45 days following the Court's entry of an order granting final approval of settlement; or

2. If a timely appeal is made, the date of the final resolution of that appeal and any subsequent appears resulting in final judicial approval of the settlement.

F. Nullification of Settlement Agreement. If this Settlement Agreement is not preliminarily or finally approved by the Court and/or the LWDA, or if the appellate court fails to approve the Settlement, or if the Settlement Agreement is otherwise terminated, fails to become effective, or is reversed, withdrawn or modified by the Court or an appellate court, or in any way prevents or prohibits Defendants from obtaining a complete resolution of the Released Class Claims, the PAGA Released Claims and/or the claims released by the individual Plaintiff, or if Defendants fail to fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount:

1. This Settlement Agreement shall be void *ab initio* and of no force or effect, and shall not be admissible in any judicial, administrative or arbitral proceeding for any purpose or with respect to any issue, substantive or procedural, and the Parties shall be restored to their respective positions prior to entering into the Settlement Agreement, and no party shall be bound by any of the terms of the Settlement Agreement, including Defendants' obligation to make payments to the Settlement Class Members or Aggrieved Employees, the Settlement Administrator, the LWDA, Plaintiffs or Class Counsel;

2. The conditional class certification (obtained for any purpose) shall be void *ab initio* and of no force or effect, and shall not be admissible in any judicial, administrative or arbitral proceeding for any purpose or with respect to any issue, substantive or procedural;

3. None of the Parties to this Settlement will be deemed to have waived any claims, objections, defenses or arguments in the Action, including with respect to the issue of class certification;

4. Any Preliminary Approval Order, final approval order or Judgment, shall be vacated;

5. The Settlement Agreement and all negotiations, statements, proceedings and data relating thereto shall be deemed confidential mediation settlement communications and not subject to disclosure for any purpose in any proceeding;

6. If the settlement is terminated and/or breached due to Defendants' failure to pay the GSA, Defendants shall bear all reasonable costs related to the issuance or reissuance of any curative notice to the Settlement Class Members and Aggrieved Employees and all reasonable Settlement Administration Costs incurred to the date of nullification.

G. Certification of the Settlement Class. The Parties stipulate to conditional class certification of the Class for the Class Period for purposes of settlement only. In the event that this Settlement is not approved by the Court, fails to become effective, or is reversed, withdrawn or modified by the Court or the appellate court, or in any way prevents or prohibits Defendants from obtaining a complete resolution of the Released Class Claims, the PAGA Released Claims and/or the claims released by Plaintiff, the conditional class certification (obtained for any purpose) shall be void *ab initio* and of no force or effect, and shall not be admissible in any judicial, administrative or arbitral proceeding for any purpose or with respect to any issue, substantive or procedural.

H. Tax Liability. The Parties make no representations as to the tax treatment or legal effect of the payments called for, and Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees are not relying on any statement or representation by the Parties in this regard. Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees understand and agree that they will be responsible for the payment of any taxes and penalties assessed on the Individual Settlement Payments and/or Aggrieved Employees' individual shares of the Aggrieved Employee Payment described and will be solely responsible for any penalties or other obligations resulting from their personal tax reporting of Individual Settlement Payments and/or Aggrieved Employees' individual shares of the Aggrieved Employee Payment.

I. Circular 230 Disclaimer. Each Party to this Agreement (for purposes of this section, the "acknowledging party" and each Party to this Agreement other than the acknowledging party, an "other party") acknowledges and agrees that: (1) no provision of this Agreement, and no written communication or disclosure between or among the Parties or their attorneys and other advisers, is or was intended to be, nor shall any such communication or disclosure constitute or be construed or be relied upon as, tax advice within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR part 10, as amended); (2) the acknowledging party (a) has relied exclusively upon his, her or its own, independent legal and tax counsel for advice (including tax advice) in connection with this Agreement, (b) has not entered into this Agreement based upon the recommendation of any other Party or any attorney or advisor to any other Party, and (c) is not entitled to rely upon any communication or disclosure by any attorney or adviser to any other party to avoid any tax penalty that may be imposed on the acknowledging party, and (3) no attorney or adviser to any other Party has imposed any limitation that protects the confidentiality of any such attorney's or adviser's tax strategies (regardless of whether such limitation is legally binding) upon disclosure by the acknowledging party of the tax treatment or tax structure of any transaction, including any transaction contemplated by this Agreement.

J. Preliminary Approval Motion. Class Counsel shall draft and file the motion for preliminary approval within thirty (30) calendar days of execution of this Agreement, or within the statutory timeframe as determined by the Court's setting of the preliminary approval hearing, which shall include this Settlement Agreement. Plaintiff will provide Defendants with a draft of the Motion at least 3 business days prior to the filing of the Motion to give Defendants an opportunity to propose changes or additions to the Motion. Class Counsel agrees to maintain this settlement as confidential until the motion for preliminary approval is filed.

K. Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for: establishing and administering the QSF; using the Class Data to calculate the number of Workweeks worked by the Class Members during Class Period and Pay Periods worked by the Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period, calculating, processing and mailing payments to the Class Representatives, Class Counsel, LWDA, Class Members and Aggrieved Employees; printing and mailing the Notice Packets to the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees as directed by the Court; receiving and reporting the objections and requests for exclusion; calculating, deducting and remitting all legally required taxes from Individual

Settlement Payments and distributing tax forms for the Wage Portion, the Penalties Portion and the Interest Portion of the Individual Settlement Payments and/or Aggrieved Employees' individual shares of the Aggrieved Employee Payment; processing and mailing tax payments to the appropriate state and federal taxing authorities; providing declaration(s) as necessary in support of preliminary and/or final approval of this Settlement; maintaining a webpage hosted on the Settlement Administrator's website that will provide information about the Settlement to the Class Members and Aggrieved Employes throughout the check cashing deadline; and other tasks as the Parties mutually agree or the Court orders the Settlement Administrator to perform. The Settlement Administrator shall keep the Parties timely apprised of the performance of all Settlement Administrator responsibilities by among other things, sending a weekly status report to the Parties' counsel stating the date of the mailing, the of number of Elections Not to Participate in Settlement it receives (including the numbers of valid and deficient), and number of objections received. The Settlement Administrator shall provide Defendants through their counsel of record, a written verification of its operative procedures for protecting the security of Class Data, the amounts of insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance and the name(s) of the insurance companies providing the foregoing insurance coverage.

L. Notice Procedure.

1. Class Data. No later than ten (10) business days after the Preliminary Approval Date, Defendants shall provide the Settlement Administrator with the Class Data for purposes of preparing and mailing Notice Packets to the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees.

2. Notice Packets.

a) The Notice Packet shall contain the Notice of Class Action Settlement in a form substantially similar to the form attached as **Exhibit A**. The Notice of Class Action Settlement shall inform

Class Members and Aggrieved Employees that they need not do anything in order to receive an Individual Settlement Payment and/or Aggrieved Employees' individual shares of the Aggrieved Employee Payment and to keep the Settlement Administrator apprised of their current mailing address, to which the Individual Settlement Payments and/or Aggrieved Employees' individual shares of the Aggrieved Employment Payment will be mailed following the Funding Date. The Notice of Class Action Settlement shall set forth the release to be given by all members of the Class who do not request to be excluded from the Settlement Class and/or Aggrieved Employees in exchange for an Individual Settlement Payment and/or Aggrieved Employees' individual shares of the Aggrieved Employment Payment, the number of Workweeks worked by each Class Member during the Class Period and PAGA Period, if any, and the estimated amount of their Individual Settlement Payment if they do not request to be excluded from the Settlement and each Aggrieved Employees' share of the Aggrieved Employment Payment, if any. The Settlement Administrator shall use the Class Data to determine Class Members' Workweeks and PAGA pay periods. The Notice will also advise the Aggrieved Employees that they will release the Released PAGA Claims and will receive their share of the Aggrieved Employee Payment regardless of whether they request to be excluded from the Settlement.

b) The Notice Packet's mailing envelope shall include the following language: "IMPORTANT LEGAL DOCUMENT- YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO PARTICIPATE IN A CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT; A PROMPT REPLY TO CORRECT YOUR

ADDRESS IS REQUIRED AS EXPLAINED IN THE ENCLOSED NOTICE."

3. Notice by First Class U.S. Mail. Upon receipt of the Class Data, the Settlement Administrator will perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database to update and correct any known or identifiable address changes. No later than twenty-one (21) calendar days after preliminary approval of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator shall mail copies of the Notice Packet to all Class Members and Aggrieved Employees via regular First-Class U.S. Mail. The Settlement Administrator shall exercise its best judgment to determine the current mailing address for each Class Member and Aggrieved Employee. The address identified by the Settlement Administrator as the current mailing address shall be presumed to be the best mailing address for each Class Member and Aggrieved Employee.

4. Undeliverable Notices. Any Notice Packets returned to the Settlement Administrator as non-delivered on or before the Response Deadline shall be re-mailed to any forwarding address provided. If no forwarding address is provided, the Settlement Administrator shall promptly attempt to determine a correct address by lawful use of skip-tracing, or other search using the name, address and/or Social Security number of the Class Member or Aggrieved Employee involved, and shall then perform a re-mailing, if another mailing address is identified by the Settlement Administrator. In addition, if any Notice Packets, which are addressed to Class Members or Aggrieved Employees who are currently employed by Defendants, are returned to the Settlement Administrator as non-delivered and no forwarding address is provided, the Settlement Administrator shall notify Defendants. Defendants will request that the currently employed Class Member or Aggrieved Employee provide a corrected address, and

transmit to the Administrator any corrected address provided by the Class Member or Aggrieved Employee. Class Members who received a re-mailed Notice Packet shall have their Response Deadline extended fifteen (15) days from the original Response Deadline.

5. Disputes Regarding Individual Settlement Payments. The Settlement Administrator will calculate the Class Members' Individual Settlement Payments using the Class Data pursuant to Section III(M)(1) below. Class Members will have the opportunity, should they disagree with Defendants' records regarding the start and end dates of employment to provide documentation and/or an explanation to show contrary dates. If there is a dispute, Defendants' records will be presumed determinative. The Settlement Administrator shall determine the eligibility for, and the amounts of, any Individual Settlement Payments under the terms of this Agreement. The Settlement Administrator's determination of the eligibility for and amount of any Individual Settlement Payment shall be binding upon the Class Member and the Parties.

6. Disputes Regarding Individual Aggrieved Employee Payments. The Settlement Administrator will calculate each Aggrieved Employee's share of the Aggrieved Employee Payments using the Class Data pursuant to Section III(M)(2) below. Aggrieved Employees will have the opportunity, should they disagree with Defendants' records regarding the start and end dates of employment to provide documentation and/or an explanation to show contrary dates. If there is a dispute, Defendants' records will be presumed determinative. The Settlement Administrator shall determine the eligibility for, and the amounts of, any share of the Aggrieved Employee Payments under the terms of this Agreement. The Settlement Administrator's determination of the eligibility for and amount of any

individual share of the Aggrieved Employee Payment shall be binding upon the Aggrieved Employee and the Parties.

7. Disputes Regarding Administration of Settlement. Any disputes not resolved by the Settlement Administrator concerning the administration of the Settlement will be resolved by the Court under the laws of the State of California. Before any such involvement of the Court, counsel for the Parties will confer in good faith to resolve the disputes without the necessity of involving the Court.

8. Exclusions. The Notice of Class Action Settlement contained in the Notice Packet shall state that Class Members who wish to exclude themselves from the Settlement must submit a written request for exclusion to the Settlement Administrator by the Response Deadline. The written request for exclusion must state that the Class Member wishes to exclude himself or herself from the Settlement and (1) must contain the name, address, and the last four digits of the Social Security number of the person requesting exclusion; (2) must be signed by the Class Member; (3) must be postmarked or fax stamped by the Response Deadline and returned to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address or fax telephone number; and (4) contain a typewritten or handwritten notice stating in substance that he or she wishes to be excluded from the settlement of the class action lawsuit entitled *Manuel Vidrio v. Harvest Sherwood Food Distribution, et al.*, currently pending in Superior Court of San Diego, Case No. 337-2022-00039626-CU-OE-CTL. The request for exclusion will not be valid if it is not timely submitted, if it is not signed by the Class Member, or if it does not contain the name and address and last four digits of the Social Security number of the Class Member. The date of the postmark on the mailing envelope or fax stamp on the request for exclusion shall be the exclusive means used to determine whether the request for exclusion was

timely submitted. Any Class Member who submits a timely request for exclusion shall be excluded from the Settlement Class will not be entitled to an Individual Settlement Payment and will not be otherwise bound by the terms of the Settlement or have any right to object, appeal or comment thereon. However, any Class Member that submits a timely request for exclusion that is also a member of the Aggrieved Employees will still receive his/her pro rata share of the PAGA Settlement, as specified below, and in consideration, will be bound by the Release by the Aggrieved Employees as set forth herein. Settlement Class Members who fail to submit a valid and timely request for exclusion on or before the Response Deadline shall be bound by all terms of the Settlement and any final judgment entered in this Action if the Settlement is approved by the Court. No later than twenty-one (21) calendar days after the Response Deadline, the Settlement Administrator shall provide counsel for the Parties with a final list of the Class Members who have timely submitted timely requests for exclusion. At no time shall any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage members of the Class to submit requests for exclusion from the Settlement.

9. Objections. The Notice of Class Action Settlement contained in the Notice Packet shall state that Class Members who wish to object to the Settlement may submit to the Settlement Administrator a written statement of objection ("Notice of Objection") by the Response Deadline. The postmark date of mailing shall be deemed the exclusive means for determining that a Notice of Objection was served timely. The Notice of Objection, if in writing, must be signed by the Settlement Class Member and state: (1) the case name and number; (2) the name of the Settlement Class Member; (3) the address of the Settlement Class Member; (4) the last four digits of the Settlement Class Member's Social Security number;

(5) the basis for the objection; and (6) if the Settlement Class Member intends to appear at the Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing. Class Members who fail to make objections in writing in the manner specified above may still make their objections orally at the Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing with the Court's permission. Settlement Class Members will have a right to appear at the Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing to have their objections heard by the Court regardless of whether they submitted a written objection. At no time shall any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class Members to file or serve written objections to the Settlement or appeal from the Order and Final Judgment. Class Members who submit a written request for exclusion may not object to the Settlement. Class Members may not object to the PAGA Payment.

M. Funding and Allocation of the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendants are required to pay the Gross Settlement Amount plus any employer's share of payroll taxes as mandated by law within the time specified hereinabove on the Funding Date.

1. Calculation of Individual Settlement Payments to Class Members. Individual Settlement Payments shall be paid from the Net Settlement Amount and shall be paid pursuant to the formula set forth herein. Using the Class Data, the Settlement Administrator shall add up the total number of Workweeks for all Class Members. The respective Workweeks for each Class Member will be divided by the total Workweeks for all Class Members, resulting in the Payment Ratio for each Class Member. Each Class Member's Payment Ratio will then be multiplied by the Net Settlement Amount to calculate each Class Member's estimated Individual Settlement Payments. Each Individual Settlement Payment will be reduced by any legally mandated employee tax withholdings (e.g., employee payroll taxes, etc.). Individual Settlement Payments for Class Members

who submit valid and timely requests for exclusion will be redistributed to Settlement Class Members who do not submit valid and timely requests for exclusion on a pro rata basis based on their respective Payment Ratios.

2. Calculation of Individual Payments to the Aggrieved Employees. Using the Class Data, the Settlement Administrator shall add up the total number of PAGA Pay Periods for all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period. The respective PAGA Pay Periods for each Aggrieved Employees will be divided by the total PAGA Pay Periods for all Aggrieved Employees, resulting in the "PAGA Payment Ratio" for each Aggrieved Employee. Each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Payment Ratio will then be multiplied by the Aggrieved Employee Payment to calculate each Aggrieved Employee's estimated share of the Aggrieved Employee Payment.

3. Allocation of Individual Settlement Payments. For tax purposes, Individual Settlement Payments shall be allocated and treated as 10% wages ("Wage Portion") and 90% penalties, pre-judgment interest and fees ("Penalties and Interest Portion"). The Wage Portion of the Individual Settlement Payments shall be reported on IRS Form W-2 and the Penalties and Interest Portion of the Individual Settlement Payments shall be reported on IRS Form 1099 issued by the Settlement Agreement.

4. Allocation of Aggrieved Employee Payments. For tax purposes, Aggrieved Employee Payments shall be allocated and treated as 100% penalties and shall be reported on IRS Form 1099.

5. No Credit Toward Benefit Plans. The Individual Settlement Payments and individual shares of the PAGA Payment made to Settlement Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees under this Settlement Agreement, as well as any other payments made pursuant to this Settlement Agreement, will not be utilized to calculate any additional benefits under

any benefit plans to which any Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees may be eligible, including, but not limited to profit-sharing plans, bonus plans, 401(k) plans, stock purchase plans, vacation plans, sick leave plans, PTO plans, and any other benefit plan. Rather, it is the Parties' intention that this Settlement Agreement will not affect any rights, contributions, or amounts to which any Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees may be entitled under any benefit plans.

6. All monies received by Settlement Class Members under the Settlement which are attributable to wages shall constitute income to such Settlement Class Members solely in the year in which such monies actually are received by the Settlement Class Members. It is the intent of the Parties that Individual Settlement Payments and individual shares of the PAGA Payment provided for in this Settlement agreement are the sole payments to be made by Defendants to Settlement Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees in connection with this Settlement Agreement, with the exception of Plaintiff, and that the Settlement Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees are not entitled to any new or additional compensation or benefits as a result of having received the Individual Settlement Payments and/or their shares of the Aggrieved Employee Payment.

7. Mailing. Individual Settlement Payments and Aggrieved Employee Payments shall be mailed by regular First-Class U.S. Mail to Settlement Class Members' and/or Aggrieved Employees' last known mailing address no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the Funding Date.

8. Expiration. Any checks issued to Settlement Class Members and Aggrieved Employees shall remain valid and negotiable for one hundred and eighty (180) days from the date of their issuance. If a Settlement Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee does not cash his or her settlement check within 90 days, the Settlement Administrator will send a letter to

such persons, advising that the check will expire after the 180^{th} day, and invite that Settlement Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee to request reissuance in the event the check was destroyed, lost or misplaced. In the event an Individual Settlement Payment and/or Aggrieved Employees' individual share of the PAGA Payment check has not been cashed within one hundred and eighty (180) days, all funds represented by such uncashed checks, plus any interest accrued thereon, shall be paid to the Community Law Project, a Cy Pres, in accordance with California Code of Civil Procedure section 384.

9. Enhancement Award. In addition to the Individual Settlement Payment as a Settlement Class Member and his individual share of the Aggrieved Employee Payment, Plaintiff Manuel Vidrio will apply to the Court for an award of not more than \$7,500.00, as the Enhancement Award. Defendants will not oppose an Enhancement Award of not more than \$7,500.00 for Plaintiff Manuel Vidrio. The Settlement Administrator shall pay the Enhancement Award, either in the amount stated herein if approved by the Court or some other amount as approved by the Court, to Plaintiff from the Gross Settlement Amount no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the Funding Date. Any portion of the requested Enhancement Award that is not awarded to the Class Representative shall be part of the Net Settlement Amount and shall be distributed to Settlement Class Members as provided in this Agreement. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 — MISC to Plaintiff for his Enhancement Award. Plaintiff shall be solely and legally responsible to pay any and all applicable taxes on his Enhancement Award and shall hold harmless the Released Parties from any claim or liability for taxes, penalties, or interest arising as a result of the Enhancement Award. Approval of this Settlement shall not be conditioned on Court approval of

the requested amount of the Enhancement Award. If the Court reduces or does not approve the requested Enhancement Award, Plaintiff shall not have the right to revoke the Settlement, and it will remain binding.

10. Attorneys' Fees and Attorneys' Expenses. Defendants understand Class Counsel will file a motion for or Attorneys' Fees not to exceed one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount currently estimated to be $83,333.33 ***and*** Attorneys' Expenses supported by declaration not to exceed Thirty Thousand Dollars ($30,000.00). Any awarded Attorneys' Fees and Attorneys' Expenses shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. Any portion of the requested Attorneys' Fees and/or Attorneys' Expenses that are not awarded to Class Counsel shall be part of the Net Settlement Amount and shall be distributed to Settlement Class Members as provided in this Agreement. The Settlement Administrator shall allocate and pay the Attorneys' Fees to Class Counsel from the Gross Settlement Amount no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the Funding Date. Class Counsel shall be solely and legally responsible to pay all applicable taxes on the payment made pursuant to this paragraph. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 — MISC to Class Counsel for the payments made pursuant to this paragraph. In the event that the Court reduces or does not approve the requested Attorneys' Fees, Plaintiffs and Class Counsel shall not have the right to revoke the Settlement, or to appeal such order, and the Settlement will remain binding. Released Parties shall have no liability to Class Counsel arising from any claim to any portion of any Attorney's Fees and/or Attorney's Expenses. Class Counsel will hold Defendants harmless, and protect and indemnify Defendants, from any dispute or controversy regarding division or sharing of these payments.

11. PAGA Payment. Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) shall be allocated from the Gross Settlement Amount for settlement of claims for civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA Payment"). The Settlement Administrator shall pay seventy-five percent (75%) of the PAGA Payment ($18,750.00) to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the Effective Date (hereinafter "LWDA Payment"). Twenty-five percent (25%) of the PAGA Payment ($6,250.00) will be distributed to the Aggrieved Employees as described in this Agreement (hereinafter "Aggrieved Employee Payment"). For purposes of distributing the Aggrieved Employee Payment, each Aggrieved Employee shall receive their pro-rata share of the Aggrieved Employee Payment using the PAGA Payment Ratio as defined above.

12. Administration Costs. The Settlement Administrator shall be paid for the costs of administration of the Settlenement from the Gross Settlement Amount. The estimate of the Administration Costs is $7,250. The Settlement Administrator shall be paid the Administration Costs no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the Effective Date.

N. Defendants' Right to Withdraw. If the number of valid requests for exclusion identified in the exclusion list exceeds 10% of the total of all Class Members, Defendants may, but are not obligated, elect to withdraw from the Settlement. The Parties agree that, if Defendants withdraw, the Settlement shall be void ab initio, have no force or effect whatsoever, and that neither Party will have any further obligation to perform under this Agreement; provided, however, Defendants will remain responsible for paying all Settlement Administration Expenses incurred to that point. Defendants must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its election to withdraw not later than seven days after the Administrator sends the final exclusion list to Defendants' counsel; late elections will have no effect.

O. Final Approval Motion. Class Counsel and Plaintiffs shall use best efforts to file with the Court a Motion for Order Granting Final Approval and Entering Judgment, within twenty-eight (28) days following the expiration of the Response Deadline, which motion shall request final approval of the Settlement and a determination of the amount payable for the Enhancement Award, the Attorneys' Fees and Attorneys' Expenses, the PAGA Payment, and the Administration Costs. Plaintiffs will provide Defendants with a draft of the Motion at least 3 business days prior to the filing of the Motion to give Defendants an opportunity to propose changes or additions to the Motion.

1. Declaration by Settlement Administrator. No later than seven (7) days after the Response Deadline, the Settlement Administrator shall submit a declaration in support of Plaintiffs' motion for final approval of this Settlement detailing the number of Notice Packets mailed and re-mailed to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees, the number of undeliverable Notice Packets, the number of timely requests for exclusion, the number of objections received, the amount of the average Individual Settlement Payment and highest Individual Settlement Payment, the Administration Costs, and any other information as the Parties mutually agree or the Court orders the Settlement Administrator to provide.

2. Final Approval Order and Judgment. Class Counsel shall present an Order Granting Final Approval of Class Action Settlement to the Court for its approval, and Judgment thereon, at the time Class Counsel files the Motion for Final Approval.

N. Review of Motions for Preliminary and Final Approval. Class Counsel will provide an opportunity for Counsel for Defendants to review the Motions for Preliminary and Final Approval, including the Order Granting Final Approval of Class Action Settlement, and Judgment before filing with the Court. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to effect the Court's approval of the Motions for Preliminary and Final Approval of the Settlement, and entry of Judgment.

O. Cooperation. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to implement the Settlement.

P. Interim Stay of Proceedings. The Parties agree to stay all proceedings in the Action, except such proceedings necessary to implement and complete the Settlement, pending the Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing to be conducted by the Court.

Q. Amendment or Modification. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument signed by counsel for all Parties or their successors-in-interest.

R. Entire Agreement. This Agreement and any attached Exhibit constitute the entire Agreement among these Parties, and no oral or written representations, warranties or inducements have been made to any Party concerning this Agreement or its Exhibit other than the representations, warranties and covenants contained and memorialized in this Agreement and its Exhibit.

S. Authorization to Enter into Settlement Agreement. Counsel for all Parties warrant and represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Agreement and to take all appropriate Action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The persons signing this Agreement on behalf of Defendants represents and warrants that he/she is authorized to sign this Agreement on behalf of Defendants. Plaintiffs represent and warrant that they are authorized to sign this Agreement and that they have not assigned any claim, or part of a claim, covered by this Settlement to a third-party.

T. No Public Comment: The Parties and their counsel agree not to issue any press releases, initiate any contact with the press, respond to any press inquiry or make any public communication about the fact, amount or terms of the settlement, except however that this does not prohibit disclosures required by law and/or within Plaintiffs and Plaintiff's counsel and expert, Defendants and Defendants' counsel and expert, and those within Defendants' organization or financial advisors/accountants with a need to know in order to approve or execute the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

U. Binding on Successors and Assigns. This Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors or assigns of the Parties, as previously defined.

V. California Law Governs. All terms of this Agreement and the Exhibit and any disputes shall be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of California.

W. Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronic signature, or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

X. This Settlement Is Fair, Adequate and Reasonable. The Parties believe this Settlement is a fair, adequate and reasonable settlement of this Action and have arrived at this Settlement after extensive arms-length negotiations, taking into account all relevant factors, present and potential.

Y. Continuing Jurisdiction. The Parties agree that the Court shall retain continuing jurisdiction over this case under CCP Section 664.6 to ensure the continuing implementation of the provisions of this Settlement, enforcing Judgment, addressing settlement administration matters, and addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law. The Parties agree that the time within which to bring this Action to trial under CCP Section 583.310 shall be extended from the date of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Parties by all Parties until the entry of the final approval order and judgment or if not entered, the date the Memorandum of Understanding between the Parties shall no longer be of any force or effect.

Z. Court Filings. The Parties agree not to object to any Court filings consistent with this Agreement.

AA. Disputes. Any dispute between the Parties as to the remaining terms of the Settlement Agreement shall be presented to the mediator for resolution and the mediator's decision on all such disputes will be final and non-appealable.

BB. Invalidity of Any Provision. Before declaring any provision of this Agreement invalid, the Court shall first attempt to construe the provisions valid to the fullest extent possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of this Agreement valid and enforceable.

CC. Waiver of Certain Appeals. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Settlement Class Members who did not object to the Settlement as provided in this Agreement, waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs, and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If an objector appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount..

DD. Appellate Court Orders to Vacate, Reverse, or Materially Modify Judgment. If the reviewing Court vacates, reverses, or modifies the Judgment in a manner that requires a material modification of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), this Agreement shall be null and void. The Parties shall nevertheless expeditiously work together in good faith to address the appellate court's concerns and to obtain Final Approval and entry of Judgment, sharing, on a 50-50 basis, any additional Administration Expenses reasonably incurred after remittitur. An appellate decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of the Enhancement Award or any payments to Class Counsel shall not constitute a material modification of the Judgment within the meaning of this paragraph, as long as the Gross Settlement Amount remains unchanged.

EE. <u>No Admissions by the Parties</u>. Plaintiff has claimed and continues to claim that the Released Claims have merit and give rise to liability on the part of Defendants. Defendants claim that the Released Claims have no merit and do not give rise to liability. This Agreement is a compromise of disputed claims. Nothing contained in this Agreement and no documents referred to and no action taken to carry out this Agreement may be construed or used as an admission by or against the Defendants or Plaintiffs or Class Counsel as to the merits or lack thereof of the claims asserted. Other than as may be specifically set forth herein, each Party shall be responsible for and shall bear its/his own attorney's fees and costs.

FF. <u>Use and Return of Class Data</u>. Information provided to Class Counsel pursuant to California Evidence Code section 1152, and all copies and summaries of the Class Data provided to Class Counsel by Defendants in connection with mediation, or in connection with this Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of court. Not later than fifteen (15) days after the date when the Court discharges the Administrator's obligation to provide a declaration confirming the final pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiffs, through Class Counsel and Class Counsel shall destroy, all paper and electronic versions of Class Data received from Defendants.

IT IS SO AGREED, FORM AND CONTENT, BY PLAINTIFF:

DATED: 07/23/2024

MANUEL VIDRIO

IT IS SO AGREED, FORM AND CONTENT, BY DEFENDANTS:

DATED: ________________

HARVEST SHERWOOD FOOD DISTRIBUTORS, INC.

Printed Name

Title

DATED: ________________

HARVEST MEAT COMPANY, INC.

Printed Name

Title

IT IS SO AGREED AS TO FORM BY COUNSEL:

DATED: 7/30/24

JCL LAW FIRM, A.P.C.

By: ________________

Jean Claude Lapuyade, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Settlement Class Members

IT IS SO AGREED, FORM AND CONTENT, BY PLAINTIFF:

DATED: ________________ ________________________________

MANUEL VIDRIO

IT IS SO AGREED, FORM AND CONTENT, BY DEFENDANTS:

DATED: 8/2/2024 DocuSigned by: A472734E7DFE464...

HARVEST SHERWOOD FOOD DISTRIBUTORS, INC.

Karl Berger

Printed Name

CEO

Title

DATED: 8/2/2024 DocuSigned by: A472734E7DFE464...

HARVEST MEAT COMPANY, INC.

Karl Berger

Printed Name

CEO

Title

IT IS SO AGREED AS TO FORM BY COUNSEL:

DATED: ________________ JCL LAW FIRM, A.P.C.

By: ________________________________

Jean Claude Lapuyade, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Settlement Class Members

DATED: ________________ ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC

By: ________________________________

Shani Zakay, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Settlement Class Members

DATED: 8/5/2024 MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

By: Laurie Baddon

Yesenia Gallegos, Esq.
Laurie Baddon, Esq.
Attorneys for Defendant

DATED: 7/30/24

ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC

By: ______________________________

Shani Zakay, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Settlement Class Members

DATED: ________________

MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

By: ______________________________

Yesenia Gallegos, Esq.
Laurie Baddon, Esq.
Attorneys for Defendant

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION SETTLEMENT AND FINAL HEARING DATE

(Manuel Vidrio v. Harvest Sherwood Food Distribution, et al., San Diego County Superior Court Case No. 37-2022-00039626-CU-OE-CTL)

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED WHETHER YOU ACT OR DO NOT ACT. PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

You may be eligible to receive money from an employee class action lawsuit ("Action") against Harvest Sherwood Food Distributors, Inc. and Harvest Meat Company, Inc. ("Defendants") for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by a former employee Manuel Vidrio ("Plaintiff") seeking (1) to represent a class of **hourly drivers** who worked for Defendants in California during the Class Period (October 4, 2018 through June 1, 2024) ("Class Members"); and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA") for **all hourly employees** who worked for Defendants in California during the PAGA Period (September 15, 2022, to June 1, 2024) ("Aggrieved Employees").

You may be a Class Member, Aggrieved Employee, or both.

The proposed Settlement has two main parts: (1) a Class Settlement requiring Defendants to fund Individual Class Payments, and (2) a PAGA Settlement requiring Defendants to fund Individual PAGA Payments and pay penalties to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA").

Based on Defendants' records, and the Parties' current assumptions, your Individual Class Payment, if any, is estimated to be $______ (less withholding) and your Individual PAGA Payment, if any, is estimated to be $______. The actual amount you may receive likely will be different and will depend on a number of factors.

If no amount is stated for your Individual Class Payment, then according to Defendants' records, you are not an eligible Class Member because you were not employed as an hourly driver in California during the Class Period and therefore are not eligible for an Individual Class Payment under the Settlement. If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment, then according to Defendants' records you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you did not work as an hourly employee in California during the PAGA Period.

The above estimates are based on Defendants' records showing that you worked ______ workweeks during the Class Period (if no workweeks are stated then you are not an eligible Class Member) and you worked ______ workweeks during the PAGA Period (if no workweeks are stated then you are not an eligible Aggrieved Employee). If you believe that you worked more workweeks during either period, you can submit a challenge by the deadline date. See Section 5 of this Notice.

The Court has already preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement and approved this Notice. The Court has not yet decided whether to grant final approval. Your legal rights are affected whether you act or not act. Read this Notice carefully. You will be deemed to have carefully read and understood it. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will decide whether to finally approve the Settlement and how much of the Settlement will be paid to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's attorneys ("Class Counsel"). The Court will also decide whether to enter a judgment that requires Defendants to make payments under the Settlement and requires Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against Defendants.

If you are an eligible **Class Member** meaning that you worked for Defendants as an hourly driver in California during the Class Period, you have two basic options under the Settlement:

(1) **Do Nothing**. You don't have to do anything to participate in the proposed Settlement and be eligible for an Individual Class Payment. If you do nothing, though, you will give up your right to assert Class Period wage claims against Defendants.

(2) **Opt-Out of the Class Settlement**. You can exclude yourself from the Class Settlement (opt-out) by submitting the written Request for Exclusion or otherwise notifying the Administrator in writing. If you opt-out of the Settlement, you will not receive an Individual Class Payment. You will, however, preserve your right to personally pursue Class Period wage claims against Defendants.

If you are an eligible **Aggrieved Employee** meaning that you worked for Defendants as an hourly employee in California during the PAGA Period, you do not have to do anything and remain eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

Defendants will not retaliate against you for any actions you take with respect to the proposed Settlement.

SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT:	
Do Nothing and Receive a Payment	If you are an eligible Class Member and do nothing, you will be a Participating Class Member, eligible for an Individual Class Payment. In exchange, you will give up your right to assert the wage claims against Defendants that are covered in this Settlement (Released Claims, defined below). If you are an eligible Aggrieved Employee, you do not have to do anything and remain eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement, and you will give up your right to assert PAGA penalties against Defendants that are covered in this Settlement (Released PAGA Claims, defined below).
Exclude Yourself from the Class Settlement but Not the PAGA Settlement **The Request for Exclusion Deadline is ___________**	If you are an eligible Class Member and wish to exclude yourself from the Class Settlement, you must send a written request for exclusion to the Settlement Administrator as provided below. If you request exclusion, you will receive **no money from the Class Settlement**. Instructions are set forth below. If you are an eligible Aggrieved Employee, you cannot request to be excluded from the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. Defendants must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees and the Aggrieved Employees must give up their rights to pursue Released PAGA Claims.
Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement **Written Objections Must be Submitted by_________________**	If you are a Participating Class Member (Class Members who did not request to be excluded), you may write to the Court about why you believe the settlement should not be approved. Directions are provided below. If you are an eligible Aggrieved Employee, you cannot object to the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

1. Why did I get this Notice?

A proposed class action settlement (the "Settlement") of this lawsuit pending in the Superior Court for the State of California, County of San Diego (the "Court") has been reached between Plaintiff Manuel Vidrio (Plaintiff) and Defendants Harvest Sherwood Food Distributors, Inc. and Harvest Meat Company, Inc. ("Defendants"). The Court has granted preliminary approval of the Settlement. **You may be entitled to receive money from this Settlement.**

You have received this Notice because you have been identified as either:

- **a Class Member, which is defined as:** All current and former non-exempt drivers employed by Defendants in California who worked at any time during the period from October 4, 2018 through June 1, 2024

AND/OR

- **an Aggrieved Employee, which is defined as**: All current and former non-exempt employees employed by Defendants in California who worked at any time during the period from September 15, 2022 through June 1, 2024

This Notice explains the lawsuit, the Settlement, and your legal rights. It is important that you read this Notice carefully as your rights may be affected by the Settlement.

2. What is this class action lawsuit about?

On October 4, 2022, Plaintiff Manuel Vidrio filed the original Complaint, alleging claims for: (1) Unfair Competition (Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*); (2) Failure to Pay Minimum Wages (Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197 and 1197.1); (3) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages (Labor Code §§ 510 *et seq.*); (4) Failure to Provide Required Meal Periods (Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512 and the applicable Wage Order); (5) Failure to Provide Required Rest Periods (Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516 and the applicable wage order); (6) Failure to Provide Wages When Due (Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203); and (7) Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Statements (Labor Code § 226 and 226.2 *et seq.*). On June ___, 2024, Plaintiff Manuel Vidrio filed the First Amended Complaint, which added an Eighth cause of action for violation of the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698 et seq.) ("PAGA").

Defendants expressly deny any liability or wrongdoing of any kind associated with the claims alleged in the Action, dispute any wages, damages and penalties claimed by the Plaintiff on behalf of himself, Class Members, and Aggrieved Employees are owed, and further contend that, for any purpose other than settlement, the Action is not appropriate for class or representative action treatment. Defendants contend, among other things, that at all times they complied with the California Labor Code and the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders.

On April 8, 2024, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation with Monique Ngo-Bonnici, Esq., a mediator of wage and hour class actions. The mediation concluded with a settlement. The Court granted preliminary approval of the Settlement on <<INSERT PRELIMINARY APPROVAL DATE>>. At that time, the Court also preliminarily approved the Plaintiff to serve as the Class Representative, and the law firms of JCL Law Firm, APC and Zakay Law Group, APLC, to serve as Class Counsel.

3. What are the terms of the Settlement?

<u>Gross Settlement Amount</u>. Defendants have agreed to pay an "all in" amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars ($250,000) (the "Gross Settlement Amount") to fund the settlement. The Gross Settlement Amount includes the payment of all Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members, Class Counsel's attorneys'

fees and costs, Settlement Administration Expenses, the PAGA Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment to the Plaintiff.

After the Judgment becomes Final, Defendants will pay the Gross Settlement Amount by depositing the money with the Settlement Administrator. "Final" means the date the Judgment is no longer subject to appeal, or if an appeal is filed, the date the appeal process is completed, and the Judgment is affirmed.

Amounts to be Paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Settlement provides for certain payments to be made from the Gross Settlement Amount, which will be subject to final Court approval, and which will be deducted from the Gross Settlement Amount before settlement payments are made to Class Members, as follows:

- Settlement Administration Costs. Payment to the Settlement Administrator, estimated not to exceed $________ for expenses, including expenses of sending this Notice, processing opt-outs, and distributing settlement payments.

- Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Payment to Class Counsel of Attorneys' Fees of no more than 1/3 of the Gross Settlement Amount (currently $83,333.33) and Attorneys' Costs of not more than $30,000 for all expenses incurred as documented in Class Counsel's billing records, both subject to Court approval. Class Counsel have been prosecuting the Action on behalf of Plaintiff and the Class on a contingency fee basis (that is, without being paid any money to date) and have been paying all litigation costs and expenses.

- Class Representative Service Payment. Class Representative Service Payment of up to Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($7,500.00) to Plaintiff Manuel Vidrio, or such lesser amount as may be approved by the Court, to compensate him for services on behalf of the Class in initiating and prosecuting the Action, and for the risks he undertook.

- PAGA Payment. A payment of $25,0000.00 relating to Plaintiffs' claim under the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA"), $18,750.00 of which will be paid to the State of California's Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and the remaining $6,2500.00 will be distributed to Aggrieved Employees as part of the Net PAGA Amount.

- Calculation of Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members. After all the above payments of the court-approved Attorneys' Fees and Costs, the Class Representative Service Payments, the PAGA Payment, and the Settlement Administration Costs are deducted from the Gross Settlement Amount, the remaining portion, called the "Net Settlement Amount," shall be distributed to class members who do **not** request exclusion ("Participating Class Members"). The Individual Class Payment for each Participating Class Member will be calculated by dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of workweeks for all Participating Class Members that occurred during the Class Period and multiplying the result by each individual Participating Class Member's workweeks that occurred during the Class Period. A "workweek" is defined as a normal seven-day week of work during the Class Period in which, according to Defendants' records, a member of the class worked and earned wages at least one-day during any such workweek.

- Calculation of Individual PAGA Payments to Aggrieved Employees. The PAGA Payment will be divided by the total number of pay periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period, and then taking that number and multiplying it by the number of pay periods worked by each respective Aggrieved Employee during the PAGA Period. "Aggrieved Employee" means all non-exempt employees who are or previously were employed by Defendants and performed work in California during the PAGA Period. The PAGA Period means the period between September 15, 2022, to June 1, 2024.

If the Settlement is approved by the Court, you will automatically be mailed a check for your Individual Settlement Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment to the same address as this Notice. You do not have to do anything to receive a payment. If your address has changed, you must contact the Settlement Administrator to inform them of your correct address to ensure you receive your payment.

Tax Matters. Ten percent (10%) of each Individual Settlement Payment is allocated to wages. Taxes are withheld from this amount, and each Participating Class Member will be issued an Internal Revenue Service Form W-2 for such payment. Ninety percent (90%) of each Individual Settlement Payment is allocated to interest, penalties, and other non-wage payments ("Penalty and Interest Portion"). Each Participating Class Member will be issued an Internal Revenue Service Form 1099 for the Penalty and Interest Portion of the Individual Settlement Payments. In addition, no taxes will be withheld from the Individual PAGA Payment paid to Aggrieved Employees, and each Aggrieved Employee will be issued an Internal Revenue Service Form 1099 for such payment. Neither Class Counsel nor Defendants' counsel intend anything contained in this Settlement to constitute advice regarding taxes or taxability. You may wish to consult a tax advisor concerning the tax consequences of the payments received under the Settlement.

No Credit Toward Benefit Plans. The Individual Settlement Payments and Individual PAGA Payments made to Settlement Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees under this Settlement Agreement, as well as any other payments made pursuant to this Settlement Agreement, will not be utilized to calculate any additional benefits under any benefit plans to which any Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees may be eligible, including, but not limited to profit-sharing plans, bonus plans, 401(k) plans, stock purchase plans, vacation plans, sick leave plans, PTO plans, and any other benefit plan. Rather, it is the Parties' intention that this Settlement Agreement will not affect any rights, contributions, or amounts to which any Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees may be entitled under any benefit plans.

Conditions of Settlement. This Settlement is conditioned upon the Court entering an order granting final approval of the Settlement and entering judgment.

4. What Do I Release Under the Settlement?

Participating Class Members' Released Claims. Upon entry of final judgment and funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, in exchange for the consideration set forth in this Agreement, Plaintiff and the Settlement Class Members on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors and assigns, release the Released Parties from the Released Class Claims for the Class Period. Released Class Claims means the claims being released by the Settlement Class Members of all class claims alleged in the Action or all claims that reasonably could have been alleged based on the factual allegations contained in the Action which occurred during the Class Period, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, and workers' compensation.

This means that, if you do not timely and formally exclude yourself from the settlement, you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendants about the legal issues resolved by this Settlement. It also means that all of the Court's orders in this Action will apply to you and legally bind you.

Aggrieved Employees' Released PAGA Claims. Upon entry of final judgment and funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, in exchange for the consideration set forth in this Agreement, the Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees, the LWDA and the State of California release the Released Parties from the Released PAGA Claims for the PAGA Period. As a result of this release, the Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors and assigns, shall be precluded from bringing claims against Defendants for the Released PAGA Claims. Released PAGA Claims means all PAGA claims alleged in the Action and Plaintiff's PAGA notice to the LWDA or all PAGA claims that reasonably could have been alleged based on the factual allegations contained in the Action and notice to the LWDA, which occurred during the PAGA Period, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, and workers' compensation.

This means that all Aggrieved Employees, including those who are Participating Class Members and those who opt-out of the Class Settlement, cannot sue, continue to sue, or participate in any other PAGA claim against Defendants or its related entities based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

5. How much will my payment be?

Defendants' records reflect that you have <<_____>> Workweeks worked during the Class Period (October 4, 2018 through June 1, 2024).

Based on this information, your estimated Individual Class Payment is <<_______>>.

If no amount is stated for your Individual Class Payment, then according to Defendants' records, you are not an eligible Class Member because you were not employed as an hourly driver in California during the Class Period and therefore are not eligible for an Individual Class Payment under the Settlement.

Defendants' records reflect that you have <<_____>> pay periods worked during the PAGA Period (September 15, 2022 through June 1, 2024).

Based on this information, your estimated Individual PAGA Payment is <<_______>>.

If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment, then according to Defendants' records you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you did not work as an hourly employee in California during the PAGA Period.

If you wish to challenge the information set forth above, then you must submit a written, signed dispute challenging the information along with supporting documents, to the Settlement Administrator at the address provided in this Notice no later than _______________ [forty-five (45) days after the Notice or fifteen (15) days after the re-mailed Notice].

6. How can I get a payment?

To get money from the Settlement, you do not have to do anything. A check for your Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment will be mailed automatically to the same address as this Notice. If your address is incorrect or has changed, you must notify the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator is: Apex Class Action LLC.

The Court will hold a hearing on __________________ to decide whether to finally approve the Settlement. If the Court approves the Settlement and there are no objections or appeals, payments will be mailed within a few months after this hearing. If there are objections or appeals, resolving them can take time, perhaps more than a year. Please be patient. After entry of the Judgment, the Settlement Administrator will provide notice of the final judgment to the Class Members by posting a copy of the Judgment on the administrator's website at www.apexclassaction.com.

7. What if I don't want to be a part of the Settlement?

If you are a Class Member, you will be treated as a Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Class Settlement, unless you notify the Administrator in writing, not later than ______________, that you wish to opt-out. To opt out, you must submit to the Settlement Administrator, by First Class Mail, a written, signed and dated request for exclusion postmarked no later than ______________. The address for the Settlement Administrator is 18 Technology Drive, Suite 164, Irvine, CA 92618; Tel. (800) 355-0700. The request for exclusion must state in substance that the Class Member has read the Class Notice and that he or she wishes to be excluded from the settlement of the class action lawsuit entitled *Manuel Vidrio v. Harvest Sherwood Food Distribution, et al.,* currently pending in Superior Court of San Diego, Case No. 37-2022-00039626-CU-OE-CTL. The request for exclusion must contain your name, address, signature and the last four digits of your Social Security Number for verification purposes. The request for exclusion must be signed by you. No other person may opt out for a member of the Class.

Written requests for exclusion that are postmarked after ______________, or are incomplete or unsigned will be rejected, and those Class Members will remain bound by the Settlement and the release described above.

Aggrieved Employees cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Class Members who are also Aggrieved Employees and who exclude themselves from the Class Settlement (Non-Participating Class Members) remain eligible for Individual PAGA Payments and are required to give up their right to assert PAGA claims against Defendants based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action.

8. How do I tell the Court that I would like to challenge the Settlement?

Any Class Member who has not opted out and believes that the Settlement should not be finally approved by the Court for any reason, may object to the proposed Settlement. Objections may be in writing and state the Class Member's name, current address, telephone number, and describe why you believe the Settlement is unfair and whether you intend to appear at the final approval hearing. All written objections or other correspondence must also state the name and number of the case, which is ***Manuel Vidrio v. Harvest Sherwood Food Distribution, et al.*, currently pending in Superior Court of San Diego, Case No. 37-2022-00039626-CU-OE-CTL.** You may also object without submitting a written objection by appearing at the final approval hearing scheduled as described in Section 9 below.

If you are a Class Member, to object to the Settlement, you cannot opt out. If the Court approves the Settlement, you will be bound by the terms of the Settlement in the same way as Class Members who do not object. Any Class Member who does not object in the manner provided in this Notice shall have waived any objection to the Settlement, whether by appeal or otherwise.

Aggrieved Employees cannot object to the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

Written objections must be delivered or mailed to the Settlement Administrator no later than ______________. The address for the Settlement Administrator is 18 Technology Drive, Suite 164, Irvine, CA 92618; Tel: (800) 355-0700.

The addresses for the Parties' counsel are as follows:

Class Counsel:
Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq.
JCL Law Firm, APC
5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600
San Diego, CA 92121
Tel.: (619) 599-8292
Fax: (619) 599-2891
E-Mail: jlapuyade@jcl-lawfirm.com

Class Counsel:
Shani O. Zakay, Esq.
Zakay Law Group, APLC
5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600
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Counsel for Defendants:
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E-Mail: ygallegos@mwe.com
Lbaddon@mwe.com

9. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the Settlement?

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing at 00:00 AM/PM on ________________, at the San Diego County Superior Court, Department XX, located at XXXXXX before Judge XXXX. At this hearing, the Court will consider whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate. The purpose of this hearing is for the Court to determine whether to grant final approval to the Settlement. If there are objections, the Court will consider them. The Court will listen to people who have made a timely written request to speak at the hearing or who appear at the hearing to object. This hearing may be rescheduled by the Court without further notice to you. **You are not required to attend** the Final Approval Hearing, although any Class Member is welcome to attend the hearing.

10. How do I get more information about the Settlement?

You may call the Settlement Administrator at 1-800-355-0700 or write to ***Manuel Vidrio v. Harvest Sherwood Food Distribution, et al.*, currently pending in Superior Court of San Diego, Case No. 37-2022-00039626-CU-OE-CTL**, Settlement Administrator, 18 Technology Drive, Suite 164, Irvine, CA 92618 c/o ____________________.

This notice summarizes the proposed Settlement. More details are in the Settlement Agreement. You may receive a copy of the Settlement Agreement, the Final Judgment or other Settlement documents by writing to JCL Law firm, APC, 5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600, San Diego, CA 92121 or by visiting the administrator's website at www.apexclassaction.com.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE COURT ABOUT THIS NOTICE.

IMPORTANT:

- You must inform the Settlement Administrator of any change of address to ensure receipt of your Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment.
- Settlement checks will be null and void 180 days after issuance if not deposited or cashed. In such event, the Settlement Administrator shall pay all funds from such uncashed checks to the State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund. If your check is lost or misplaced, you should contact the Settlement Administrator immediately to request a replacement.

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION SETTLEMENT AND FINAL HEARING DATE

(Manuel Vidrio v. Harvest Sherwood Food Distribution, et al., San Diego County Superior Court Case No.* 37-2022-00039626-CU-OE-CTL*)

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED WHETHER YOU ACT OR DO NOT ACT. PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

You may be eligible to receive money from an employee class action lawsuit ("Action") against Harvest Sherwood Food Distributors, Inc. and Harvest Meat Company, Inc. ("Defendants") for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by a former employee Manuel Vidrio ("Plaintiff") seeking (1) to represent a class of **hourly drivers** who worked for Defendants in California during the Class Period (October 4, 2018 through June 1, 2024) ("Class Members"); and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA") for **all hourly employees** who worked for Defendants in California during the PAGA Period (September 15, 2022, to June 1, 2024) ("Aggrieved Employees").

You may be a Class Member, Aggrieved Employee, or both.

The proposed Settlement has two main parts: (1) a Class Settlement requiring Defendants to fund Individual Class Payments, and (2) a PAGA Settlement requiring Defendants to fund Individual PAGA Payments and pay penalties to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA").

Based on Defendants' records, and the Parties' current assumptions, your Individual Class Payment, if any, is estimated to be $______ (less withholding) and your Individual PAGA Payment, if any, is estimated to be $______. The actual amount you may receive likely will be different and will depend on a number of factors.

If no amount is stated for your Individual Class Payment, then according to Defendants' records, you are not an eligible Class Member because you were not employed as an hourly driver in California during the Class Period and therefore are not eligible for an Individual Class Payment under the Settlement. If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment, then according to Defendants' records you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you did not work as an hourly employee in California during the PAGA Period.

The above estimates are based on Defendants' records showing that you worked ______ workweeks during the Class Period (if no workweeks are stated then you are not an eligible Class Member) and you worked ______ workweeks during the PAGA Period (if no workweeks are stated then you are not an eligible Aggrieved Employee). If you believe that you worked more workweeks during either period, you can submit a challenge by the deadline date. See Section 5 of this Notice.

The Court has already preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement and approved this Notice. The Court has not yet decided whether to grant final approval. Your legal rights are affected whether you act or not act. Read this Notice carefully. You will be deemed to have carefully read and understood it. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will decide whether to finally approve the Settlement and how much of the Settlement will be paid to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's attorneys ("Class Counsel"). The Court will also decide whether to enter a judgment that requires Defendants to make payments under the Settlement and requires Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against Defendants.

If you are an eligible **Class Member** meaning that you worked for Defendants as an hourly driver in California during the Class Period, you have two basic options under the Settlement:

(1) **Do Nothing**. You don't have to do anything to participate in the proposed Settlement and be eligible for an Individual Class Payment. If you do nothing, though, you will give up your right to assert Class Period wage claims against Defendants.

(2) **Opt-Out of the Class Settlement**. You can exclude yourself from the Class Settlement (opt-out) by submitting the written Request for Exclusion or otherwise notifying the Administrator in writing. If you opt-out of the Settlement, you will not receive an Individual Class Payment. You will, however, preserve your right to personally pursue Class Period wage claims against Defendants.

If you are an eligible **Aggrieved Employee** meaning that you worked for Defendants as an hourly employee in California during the PAGA Period, you do not have to do anything and remain eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

Defendants will not retaliate against you for any actions you take with respect to the proposed Settlement.

SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT:	
Do Nothing and Receive a Payment	If you are an eligible Class Member and do nothing, you will be a Participating Class Member, eligible for an Individual Class Payment. In exchange, you will give up your right to assert the wage claims against Defendants that are covered in this Settlement (Released Claims, defined below). If you are an eligible Aggrieved Employee, you do not have to do anything and remain eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement, and you will give up your right to assert PAGA penalties against Defendants that are covered in this Settlement (Released PAGA Claims, defined below).
Exclude Yourself from the Class Settlement but Not the PAGA Settlement **The Request for Exclusion Deadline is ___________**	If you are an eligible Class Member and wish to exclude yourself from the Class Settlement, you must send a written request for exclusion to the Settlement Administrator as provided below. If you request exclusion, you will receive **no money from the Class Settlement**. Instructions are set forth below. If you are an eligible Aggrieved Employee, you cannot request to be excluded from the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. Defendants must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees and the Aggrieved Employees must give up their rights to pursue Released PAGA Claims.
Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement **Written Objections Must be Submitted by_________________**	If you are a Participating Class Member (Class Members who did not request to be excluded), you may write to the Court about why you believe the settlement should not be approved. Directions are provided below. If you are an eligible Aggrieved Employee, you cannot object to the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

1. Why did I get this Notice?

A proposed class action settlement (the "Settlement") of this lawsuit pending in the Superior Court for the State of California, County of San Diego (the "Court") has been reached between Plaintiff Manuel Vidrio (Plaintiff) and Defendants Harvest Sherwood Food Distributors, Inc. and Harvest Meat Company, Inc. ("Defendants"). The Court has granted preliminary approval of the Settlement. **You may be entitled to receive money from this Settlement.**

You have received this Notice because you have been identified as either:

- **a Class Member, which is defined as:** All current and former non-exempt drivers employed by Defendants in California who worked at any time during the period from October 4, 2018 through June 1, 2024

AND/OR

- **an Aggrieved Employee, which is defined as**: All current and former non-exempt employees employed by Defendants in California who worked at any time during the period from September 15, 2022 through June 1, 2024

This Notice explains the lawsuit, the Settlement, and your legal rights. It is important that you read this Notice carefully as your rights may be affected by the Settlement.

2. What is this class action lawsuit about?

On October 4, 2022, Plaintiff Manuel Vidrio filed the original Complaint, alleging claims for: (1) Unfair Competition (Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*); (2) Failure to Pay Minimum Wages (Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197 and 1197.1); (3) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages (Labor Code §§ 510 *et seq.*); (4) Failure to Provide Required Meal Periods (Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512 and the applicable Wage Order); (5) Failure to Provide Required Rest Periods (Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516 and the applicable wage order); (6) Failure to Provide Wages When Due (Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203); and (7) Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Statements (Labor Code § 226 and 226.2 *et seq*.). On June ___, 2024, Plaintiff Manuel Vidrio filed the First Amended Complaint, which added an Eighth cause of action for violation of the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698 et seq.) ("PAGA").

Defendants expressly deny any liability or wrongdoing of any kind associated with the claims alleged in the Action, dispute any wages, damages and penalties claimed by the Plaintiff on behalf of himself, Class Members, and Aggrieved Employees are owed, and further contend that, for any purpose other than settlement, the Action is not appropriate for class or representative action treatment. Defendants contend, among other things, that at all times they complied with the California Labor Code and the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders.

On April 8, 2024, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation with Monique Ngo-Bonnici, Esq., a mediator of wage and hour class actions. The mediation concluded with a settlement. The Court granted preliminary approval of the Settlement on <<INSERT PRELIMINARY APPROVAL DATE>>. At that time, the Court also preliminarily approved the Plaintiff to serve as the Class Representative, and the law firms of JCL Law Firm, APC and Zakay Law Group, APLC, to serve as Class Counsel.

3. What are the terms of the Settlement?

<u>Gross Settlement Amount</u>. Defendants have agreed to pay an "all in" amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars ($250,000) (the "Gross Settlement Amount") to fund the settlement. The Gross Settlement Amount includes the payment of all Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members, Class Counsel's attorneys'

fees and costs, Settlement Administration Expenses, the PAGA Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment to the Plaintiff.

After the Judgment becomes Final, Defendants will pay the Gross Settlement Amount by depositing the money with the Settlement Administrator. "Final" means the date the Judgment is no longer subject to appeal, or if an appeal is filed, the date the appeal process is completed, and the Judgment is affirmed.

Amounts to be Paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Settlement provides for certain payments to be made from the Gross Settlement Amount, which will be subject to final Court approval, and which will be deducted from the Gross Settlement Amount before settlement payments are made to Class Members, as follows:

- Settlement Administration Costs. Payment to the Settlement Administrator, estimated not to exceed $________ for expenses, including expenses of sending this Notice, processing opt-outs, and distributing settlement payments.

- Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Payment to Class Counsel of Attorneys' Fees of no more than 1/3 of the Gross Settlement Amount (currently $83,333.33) and Attorneys' Costs of not more than $30,000 for all expenses incurred as documented in Class Counsel's billing records, both subject to Court approval. Class Counsel have been prosecuting the Action on behalf of Plaintiff and the Class on a contingency fee basis (that is, without being paid any money to date) and have been paying all litigation costs and expenses.

- Class Representative Service Payment. Class Representative Service Payment of up to Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($7,500.00) to Plaintiff Manuel Vidrio, or such lesser amount as may be approved by the Court, to compensate him for services on behalf of the Class in initiating and prosecuting the Action, and for the risks he undertook.

- PAGA Payment. A payment of $25,0000.00 relating to Plaintiffs' claim under the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA"), $18,750.00 of which will be paid to the State of California's Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and the remaining $6,2500.00 will be distributed to Aggrieved Employees as part of the Net PAGA Amount.

- Calculation of Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members. After all the above payments of the court-approved Attorneys' Fees and Costs, the Class Representative Service Payments, the PAGA Payment, and the Settlement Administration Costs are deducted from the Gross Settlement Amount, the remaining portion, called the "Net Settlement Amount," shall be distributed to class members who do **not** request exclusion ("Participating Class Members"). The Individual Class Payment for each Participating Class Member will be calculated by dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of workweeks for all Participating Class Members that occurred during the Class Period
and multiplying the result by each individual Participating Class Member's workweeks that occurred during the Class Period. A "workweek" is defined as a normal seven-day week of work during the Class Period in which, according to Defendants' records, a member of the class worked and earned wages at least one-day during any such workweek.

- Calculation of Individual PAGA Payments to Aggrieved Employees. The PAGA Payment will be divided by the total number of pay periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period, and then taking that number and multiplying it by the number of pay periods worked by each respective Aggrieved Employee during the PAGA Period. "Aggrieved Employee" means all non-exempt employees who are or previously were employed by Defendants and performed work in California during the PAGA Period. The PAGA Period means the period between September 15, 2022, to June 1, 2024.

If the Settlement is approved by the Court, you will automatically be mailed a check for your Individual Settlement Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment to the same address as this Notice. You do not have to do anything to receive a payment. If your address has changed, you must contact the Settlement Administrator to inform them of your correct address to ensure you receive your payment.

Tax Matters. Ten percent (10%) of each Individual Settlement Payment is allocated to wages. Taxes are withheld from this amount, and each Participating Class Member will be issued an Internal Revenue Service Form W-2 for such payment. Ninety percent (90%) of each Individual Settlement Payment is allocated to interest, penalties, and other non-wage payments ("Penalty and Interest Portion"). Each Participating Class Member will be issued an Internal Revenue Service Form 1099 for the Penalty and Interest Portion of the Individual Settlement Payments. In addition, no taxes will be withheld from the Individual PAGA Payment paid to Aggrieved Employees, and each Aggrieved Employee will be issued an Internal Revenue Service Form 1099 for such payment. Neither Class Counsel nor Defendants' counsel intend anything contained in this Settlement to constitute advice regarding taxes or taxability. You may wish to consult a tax advisor concerning the tax consequences of the payments received under the Settlement.

No Credit Toward Benefit Plans. The Individual Settlement Payments and Individual PAGA Payments made to Settlement Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees under this Settlement Agreement, as well as any other payments made pursuant to this Settlement Agreement, will not be utilized to calculate any additional benefits under any benefit plans to which any Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees may be eligible, including, but not limited to profit-sharing plans, bonus plans, 401(k) plans, stock purchase plans, vacation plans, sick leave plans, PTO plans, and any other benefit plan. Rather, it is the Parties' intention that this Settlement Agreement will not affect any rights, contributions, or amounts to which any Class Members and/or Aggrieved Employees may be entitled under any benefit plans.

Conditions of Settlement. This Settlement is conditioned upon the Court entering an order granting final approval of the Settlement and entering judgment.

4. What Do I Release Under the Settlement?

Participating Class Members' Released Claims. Upon entry of final judgment and funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, in exchange for the consideration set forth in this Agreement, Plaintiff and the Settlement Class Members on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors and assigns, release the Released Parties from the Released Class Claims for the Class Period. Released Class Claims means the claims being released by the Settlement Class Members of all class claims alleged in the Action or all claims that reasonably could have been alleged based on the factual allegations contained in the Action which occurred during the Class Period, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, and workers' compensation.

This means that, if you do not timely and formally exclude yourself from the settlement, you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendants about the legal issues resolved by this Settlement. It also means that all of the Court's orders in this Action will apply to you and legally bind you.

Aggrieved Employees' Released PAGA Claims. Upon entry of final judgment and funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, in exchange for the consideration set forth in this Agreement, the Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees, the LWDA and the State of California release the Released Parties from the Released PAGA Claims for the PAGA Period. As a result of this release, the Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors and assigns, shall be precluded from bringing claims against Defendants for the Released PAGA Claims. Released PAGA Claims means all PAGA claims alleged in the Action and Plaintiff's PAGA notice to the LWDA or all PAGA claims that reasonably could have been alleged based on the factual allegations contained in the Action and notice to the LWDA, which occurred during the PAGA Period, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, and workers' compensation.

This means that all Aggrieved Employees, including those who are Participating Class Members and those who opt-out of the Class Settlement, cannot sue, continue to sue, or participate in any other PAGA claim against Defendants or its related entities based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

5. How much will my payment be?

Defendants' records reflect that you have <<_____>> Workweeks worked during the Class Period (October 4, 2018 through June 1, 2024).

Based on this information, your estimated Individual Class Payment is <<_______>>.

If no amount is stated for your Individual Class Payment, then according to Defendants' records, you are not an eligible Class Member because you were not employed as an hourly driver in California during the Class Period and therefore are not eligible for an Individual Class Payment under the Settlement.

Defendants' records reflect that you have <<_____>> pay periods worked during the PAGA Period (September 15, 2022 through June 1, 2024).

Based on this information, your estimated Individual PAGA Payment is <<_______>>.

If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment, then according to Defendants' records you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you did not work as an hourly employee in California during the PAGA Period.

If you wish to challenge the information set forth above, then you must submit a written, signed dispute challenging the information along with supporting documents, to the Settlement Administrator at the address provided in this Notice no later than _______________ [forty-five (45) days after the Notice or fifteen (15) days after the re-mailed Notice].

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To get money from the Settlement, you do not have to do anything. A check for your Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment will be mailed automatically to the same address as this Notice. If your address is incorrect or has changed, you must notify the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator is: Apex Class Action LLC.

The Court will hold a hearing on __________________ to decide whether to finally approve the Settlement. If the Court approves the Settlement and there are no objections or appeals, payments will be mailed within a few months after this hearing. If there are objections or appeals, resolving them can take time, perhaps more than a year. Please be patient. After entry of the Judgment, the Settlement Administrator will provide notice of the final judgment to the Class Members by posting a copy of the Judgment on the administrator's website at www.apexclassaction.com.

7. What if I don't want to be a part of the Settlement?

If you are a Class Member, you will be treated as a Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Class Settlement, unless you notify the Administrator in writing, not later than ______________, that you wish to opt-out. To opt out, you must submit to the Settlement Administrator, by First Class Mail, a written, signed and dated request for exclusion postmarked no later than _______________. The address for the Settlement Administrator is 18 Technology Drive, Suite 164, Irvine, CA 92618; Tel. (800) 355-0700. The request for exclusion must state in substance that the Class Member has read the Class Notice and that he or she wishes to be excluded from the settlement of the class action lawsuit entitled *Manuel Vidrio v. Harvest Sherwood Food Distribution, et al.,* currently pending in Superior Court of San Diego, Case No. 37-2022-00039626-CU-OE-CTL. The request for exclusion must contain your name, address, signature and the last four digits of your Social Security Number for verification purposes. The request for exclusion must be signed by you. No other person may opt out for a member of the Class.

Written requests for exclusion that are postmarked after _____________, or are incomplete or unsigned will be rejected, and those Class Members will remain bound by the Settlement and the release described above.

Aggrieved Employees cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Class Members who are also Aggrieved Employees and who exclude themselves from the Class Settlement (Non-Participating Class Members) remain eligible for Individual PAGA Payments and are required to give up their right to assert PAGA claims against Defendants based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action.

8. How do I tell the Court that I would like to challenge the Settlement?

Any Class Member who has not opted out and believes that the Settlement should not be finally approved by the Court for any reason, may object to the proposed Settlement. Objections may be in writing and state the Class Member's name, current address, telephone number, and describe why you believe the Settlement is unfair and whether you intend to appear at the final approval hearing. All written objections or other correspondence must also state the name and number of the case, which is ***Manuel Vidrio v. Harvest Sherwood Food Distribution, et al.*, currently pending in Superior Court of San Diego, Case No. 37-2022-00039626-CU-OE-CTL.** You may also object without submitting a written objection by appearing at the final approval hearing scheduled as described in Section 9 below.

If you are a Class Member, to object to the Settlement, you cannot opt out. If the Court approves the Settlement, you will be bound by the terms of the Settlement in the same way as Class Members who do not object. Any Class Member who does not object in the manner provided in this Notice shall have waived any objection to the Settlement, whether by appeal or otherwise.

Aggrieved Employees cannot object to the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

Written objections must be delivered or mailed to the Settlement Administrator no later than _______________. The address for the Settlement Administrator is 18 Technology Drive, Suite 164, Irvine, CA 92618; Tel: (800) 355-0700.

The addresses for the Parties' counsel are as follows:

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9. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the Settlement?

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing at 00:00 AM/PM on _______________, at the San Diego County Superior Court, Department XX, located at XXXXXX before Judge XXXX. At this hearing, the Court will consider whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate. The purpose of this hearing is for the Court to determine whether to grant final approval to the Settlement. If there are objections, the Court will consider them. The Court will listen to people who have made a timely written request to speak at the hearing or who appear at the hearing to object. This hearing may be rescheduled by the Court without further notice to you. **You are not required to attend** the Final Approval Hearing, although any Class Member is welcome to attend the hearing.

10. How do I get more information about the Settlement?

You may call the Settlement Administrator at 1-800-355-0700 or write to ***Manuel Vidrio v. Harvest Sherwood Food Distribution, et al.*, currently pending in Superior Court of San Diego, Case No. 37-2022-00039626-CU-OE-CTL**, Settlement Administrator, 18 Technology Drive, Suite 164, Irvine, CA 92618 c/o __________________.

This notice summarizes the proposed Settlement. More details are in the Settlement Agreement. You may receive a copy of the Settlement Agreement, the Final Judgment or other Settlement documents by writing to JCL Law firm, APC, 5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600, San Diego, CA 92121 or by visiting the administrator's website at www.apexclassaction.com.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE COURT ABOUT THIS NOTICE.

IMPORTANT:

- You must inform the Settlement Administrator of any change of address to ensure receipt of your Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment.

- Settlement checks will be null and void 180 days after issuance if not deposited or cashed. In such event, the Settlement Administrator shall pay all funds from such uncashed checks to the State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund. If your check is lost or misplaced, you should contact the Settlement Administrator immediately to request a replacement.

EXHIBIT 2

EXHIBIT 3

JCL LAW FIRM, APC
5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600
San Diego, CA 92121
Tel: (619) 599-8292
Fax: (619) 599-8291

FIRM RESUME

Areas of Practice: Employee Class Actions, Wage and Hour Class Actions, Civil Litigation, and Unlawful Housing Practices.

ATTORNEY BIOGRAPHIES

Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq.
California Bar Number 248676
Founding Partner

Biography:

Mr. Lapuyade is a San Diego based labor and employment attorney representing aggrieved California employees and the victims of unlawful housing practices throughout the State of California. Mr. Lapuyade's litigation practice focuses on representing California employees in wage and hour class actions for unpaid wages, missed meal and rest breaks, and misclassification, wrongful termination cases and tenants in unlawful housing class actions. Mr. Lapuyade prides himself on providing his clients with aggressive, attentive and result driven representation through the litigation process, trial and arbitration. Since 2007, Mr. Lapuyade successfully recovered in excess of $200 million in monetary awards for his clients.

Mr. Lapuyade served as co-editor of the Insurance Column for Consumer Attorneys of San Diego from 2011 to 2014. As editor, Mr. Lapuyade was responsible for publishing monthly articles in the Trial Bar News periodical analyzing complex insurance coverage issues. Mr. Lapuyade is a four-time recipient of the Super Lawyers Rising Star by Thomson Reuters. To be eligible for inclusion in Rising Stars, a candidate must be either 40 years old or younger or in practice for 10 years or less. While up to 5 percent of the lawyers in a state are named to Super Lawyers, no more than 2.5 percent are named to Rising Stars.

Bar Admissions:

- California
- U.S. District Court Southern District of California
- U.S. District Court Central District of California
- U.S. District Court Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court Northern District of California

Professional Associations:

- California Employment Lawyers Association, 2007 to Present
- Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, 2007 to 2020
- American Bar Association, Section of Litigation, Member, 2007 to 2020
- American Bar Association, Labor & Employment Section, Member, 2007 to 2020
- American Bar Association, Tort, Trial & Insurance Section, Member, 2007 to 2020
- California Bar Association, Labor & Employment Section, Member, 2007 to Present
- California Bar Association, Litigation Section, Member, 2007 to Present

Education:

- **California Western School of Law**
  - J.D. - 2006
  - Honors: Deans Merit Scholarship, California Western School of Law 2005 - 2006
- **University of Arizona**
  - B.A. - 2001
  - Major: History

Honors:

- Super Lawyers Rising Star, Thomson Reuters, 2015 - 2018
- Distinguished Advocate Award for Outstanding Oral Advocacy, 2005 – 2006

Perssia Razma, **Esq**.
California Bar Number 351398
Associate Attorney

Biography:

Ms. Razma is a San Diego based labor and employment attorney representing California employees throughout the state of California. Ms. Razma's litigation practice focuses on representing current and former employees in wage and hour class actions for unpaid wages, missed meal and rest breaks, misclassification, and wrongful termination.

Perssia was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2020 at San Diego State University in Psychology. In 2023, Perssia earned her Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego School of Law.

Education:

- **University of San Diego School of Law**
    - J.D. - 2023
- **San Diego State University**
    - B.A. – 2020
    - Major: Psychology

Sydney Castillo-Johnson, **Esq**.
California Bar Number 343881
Associate Attorney

Biography:

Ms. Castillo-Johnson is a San Diego based labor and employment attorney representing California employees throughout the state of California. Ms. Castillo-Johnson's litigation practice focuses on representing current and former employees in wage and hour class actions for unpaid wages, missed meal and rest breaks, misclassification, and wrongful termination.

Ms. Castillo-Johnson volunteered her time at California Wester School of Law first as a student intern and later as a student manager with the Community Law Project which offers legal services to the low-income community of San Diego.

Education:

- **California Western School of Law**
    - J.D.- 2022
    - Honors:
        - Dean's Honor List: Spring 2021, Fall 2021
        - Public Service Honor Society Fall 2021
        - 3L Academic Merit Scholarship
        - Dean's Diversity, Service, and Leadership Scholarship
    - Activities: Community Law Project Student Manager
- **Azusa Pacific University**
    - B.A. – 2018
    - Major: Criminal Justice

JCL Law Firm, APC - REPORTED CASES

- *Blanchette et al., v. Superior Court (GHA Homes)*, 8 Cal.App.5th 521 (2017).
- *Duran v. Employbridge Holding Co.*, 92 Cal.App.5th 59 (2023).

EXAMPLES OF THE JCL LAW FIRM'S
REPRESENTATIVE CLASS ACTION & REPRESENTATIVE CASES

- *Ware v. Shake Shack Enterprises, LLC,* Alameda Superior Court Case No. 21CV002063 (October 19, 2023) Hon. Brad Seligman approved a $1,330,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for violations of California wage and hour laws. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Trinh v. Precision Metal Products, Inc., et al.,* San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2022-00000965-CU-OE-CTL (October 16, 2023) Hon. Matthew C. Braner approved a $450,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, unpaid off the clock work. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Anderson v. Barton Myers Associates, Inc., et al.,* Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV43314 (October 12, 2023) Hon. Elihu M. Berl approved a $900,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for meal and rest period violations. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *DeSanctis v. Douglas Products and Packaging Company, LLC,* Contra Costa Superior Court Case No. C21-01874 (October 11, 2023) Hon. Charles S. Treat approved a $372,500.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia,* failure to pay for all hours worked. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Jackson v. White Fir, LLC, et al.,* Sacramento Superior Court Case No. 34-2021-00301656 (October 6, 2023) Hon. Lauri A. Damrell approved a $750,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for violations of California wage and hour laws. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Kneisly v. SR Machining, Inc., et al.,* Riverside Superior Court Case No. CVRI2201491 (October 5, 2023) Hon. Harold W. Hopp approved a $220,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for meal and rest period violations. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Mendez v. Bondz, Inc., et al.,* San Joaquin Superior Court Case No. STK-CV-UOE-2020-0007486 (September 14, 2023) Hon. George J. Abdallah, Jr. approved a $180,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia,* failure to comply with piece-rate laws. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Baray v. Curation Foods, Inc., et al.,* Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. 21CV02834 (August 29, 2023) Hon. James F. Rigali approved a $495,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for meal and rest period violations. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Rodriguez, et al. v. Ferma Greenbox, In*c., *et al.,* Alameda Superior Court Case No. RG21101104 (August 23, 2023) Hon. Evelio Grillo approved a $200,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia,* unpaid off-the-clock work. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *O'Quinn v. Laugh Factory, Inc.,* Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV28155 (August 1, 2023) Hon. Carolyn B. Kuhl approved a $144,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia,* unlawful tip pooling. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Toler v. Total Testing Solutions, LLC,* Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV38452 (July 27, 2023) Hon Elihu M. Berle approved a $160,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for meal and rest period violations. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Rodriguez v. EAH, Inc.,* Santa Cruz Superior Court Case No. 21CV00884 (July 25, 2023) Hon. Marjorie Carter approved a $1,450,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia,* failure to compensate overtime and redeemed sick pay at the regular rate of pay. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Neutall v. Urban Alchemy,* San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CGC-20-588622 (July 13, 2023) Hon. Richard B. Ulmer approved a $980,000.00 class action settlement for violations of California wage and hour laws. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel.
- *Rodriguez v. RM Parks Place, Inc.,* San Joaquin Superior Court Case No. STK-CV-UOE-2021-6050 (June 7, 2023) Hon. Erin Guy Castillo approved a $175,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia,* wage statement violations. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.

- *Chrestensen v. Northeastern Rural Health Clinics* Lassen, Superior Court Case No. 63703 (April 13, 2023) Hon. Leonard J. La Casse approved a $270,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, unpaid overtime wages. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Hernandez, et al. v. Parenting Network, Inc.,* Tulare Superior Court Case No. VCU287027 (March 14, 2023) Hon. Bret Hilman approved a $225,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, unpaid off-the-clock work. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Sarmiento v. Caduceus Healthcare Inc.*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2021-00002597 (March 10, 2023) Hon. Richard S. Whitney approved a $315,000.00 class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, unpaid off-the-clock work. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Garces, et al. v. DriverDo, LLC*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV32773 (January 24, 2023) Hon. Carolyn B. Kuhl approved a $700,000 class action and PAGA settlement for meal and rest period violations. The JCL Law Firm, APC, represented the plaintiff, the State of California, and the Aggrieved Employees.
- *De Jesus v. Guardian Angel Home Care, Inc.,* San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2020-00021049-CU-OE-CTL (July 29, 2022) Hon. Ronald F. Frazier approved a $300,000 class action and PAGA settlement for meal and rest period violations. The JCL Law Firm, APC, represented the plaintiff, the State of California, and the Aggrieved Employees.
- *Kaur v. Aces 2020 I, LLC, et al.*, Contra Costa Superior Court Case No. MSC20-02482 (December 22, 2022) Hon. Edward G. Weil approved a $585,000 class action and PAGA settlement for meal and rest period violations. The JCL Law Firm, APC, represented the plaintiff, the State of California, and the Aggrieved Employees.
- *Molina v. Hawaiian Airlines, Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV28079 (November 23, 2022) Hon. Maren Nelson approved a $250,000 class action settlement for meal and rest period violations. The JCL Law Firm, APC, represented the Plaintiff.
- *Lang Jr. v. Pathways Community Services LLC*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2019-00049969-CU-OE-CTL (September 9, 2022) Hon. James A. Mangione approved a $160,000 class action and PAGA settlement for meal and rest period violations. The JCL Law Firm, APC, represented the plaintiff, the State of California, and the Aggrieved Employees.
- *Martinello v. Century Wilshire, Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV32613 (March 1, 2022) Hon. Carolyn Kuhl approved a $550 billing rate and appointed Jean Claude Lapuyade, Esq. of the JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel.
- *Wilson v. Spreen Inc. (dba Spreen Honda),* San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVSB2119857 (April 6, 2022) Hon. David Cohn approved a $300,000 PAGA action settlement for meal and rest period violations. The JCL Law Firm, APC, represented the plaintiff, the State of California, and the Aggrieved Employees.
- *Ledesma v. TVJ Sons I, Inc.; Porter and Howard, Inc.* Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. 20CV03573 (November 10, 2021) Hon. Jed Beebe approved a $350,000 PAGA action settlement for meal and rest period violations. The JCL Law Firm, APC represented the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees.
- *Jacobs v. Rush Media Company, LLC; XLT Management Services, Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV32350 (May 2, 2022) Hon. Daniel J. Buckley appointed the JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and approved a $330,000 class action settlement for, *inter alia*, independent contractor misclassification.
- *Chavez v. HTL Conrad Domestic, LLC; HTL Conrad Domestic Employer, LLC*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2020-00016193-CU-OE-CTL (June 9, 2022) Hon. John S. Meyer approved a $850,000 PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, failure to compensate overtime at the regular rate of pay. The JCL Law Firm, APC acted as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees.
- *Renteria v. Love's Country Stores of California,* San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS20164481 (June 14, 2022) Hon. David Cohn approved a $2.2 million dollar class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia,* unpaid overtime and sick pay. The JCL Law Firm, APC acted as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Lopez v. Adidas America, Inc.,* Ventura Superior Court Case No. 56-2021-005498444-CU-OE-VTA (April 4, 2022) Hon. Mark Borrell approved a $1.5 million dollar class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, inaccurate overtime calculations, and appointed the JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel.
- *Felix v. TVI, Inc., d.b.a. Savers*, Santa Clara Superior Court Case No. 21CV376407 (February 18, 2022) Hon. Sunil R. Kulkarni approved a $1.8 million dollar class action and PAGA action settlement for, *inter alia*, unpaid off-the-clock work. The Court appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and as representative PAGA counsel for the State of California.
- *Munoz v. AMTCR*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIV-DS2001914 (August 24, 2021) Hon. David Cohn approved a $1.8 million dollar class and PAGA settlement for, *inter alia*, inaccurate itemized wage statements. The JCL Law Firm, APC acted as class counsel for the settlement class and as representative PAGA counsel the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees.)

- *Nunes v. Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.,* San Joaquin Superior Court Case No. STK-CV-UOE-2020-0011011 (October 20, 2021 – Hon. Roger Ross approved a $1.5 million dollar class and PAGA settlement for, *inter alia*, miscalculated meal period premiums and appointed Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq, as Class Counsel.)
- *Pillsbury v. T&T Restaurants CA, Inc.,* Del Norte Superior Court Case No. CVUJ-20-1214 (December 14, 2021 – Hon. Darren McElfresh approved $550 billing rate and appointed Jean-Claude Lapuyade, Esq, as Class Counsel in a wage and hour class action settlement.)
- *Latin v. OneMain General Service Corporation,* Stanislaus County Superior Court Case No. CV-20-002498 (October 22, 2021) Hon. Stacy Speiller approved a PAGA action settlement for $700,000 wage statement violations. The JCL Law Firm, APC acted as counsel for the plaintiff, the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees.
- *Elias Kaser v. Aviation Consultants, Inc.,* Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01191204-CU-OE-CXC (September 22, 2021 – Hon. Peter J. Wilson approved $550 billing rate in a representative California Labor Code Private Attorney General Act settlement).
- *Rodriguez* v. *RSI Home Products, Inc.,* San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS2023354 (July 30, 2021 – Hon. David Cohn approved a $1.45 million class and PAGA settlement for, *inter alia*, failure to comply with piece-rate laws, and appointed the JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel)
- *Jer Vang v. Bridge Property Management,* Alameda County Superior Court, Case No RG19047434 (January 8, 2021 – Hon. Winifred Smith approved a class and PAGA settlement for, *inter alia*, unpaid off the clock work. The JCL Law Firm, APC acted as class counsel for the settlement class and as representative PAGA counsel the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees.)
- *Johnson v. Volt Management Corp., Inc. et al.,* Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV16466 (December 11, 2020 – Hon. Amy Hogue approved a PAGA Settlement negotiated on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees by the JCL Law Firm, APC.)
- *Salazar v. Frontier Auto Sales Inc., dba Frontier Toyota*, Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV20382 (November 24, 2020 – Hon. John P. Doyle appointed the JCL Law Firm, APC as class counsel and approved a class and PAGA settlement for, *inter alia*, missed meal and rest periods.)
- *Villalobos v. Alterra Group, LLC et al.,* Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 19STCV19448 (November 11, 2020 – Hon. Richard Fruin approved a PAGA Settlement for, *inter alia,* unreimbursed business expenses. The JCL Law Firm, APC acted as counsel for the plaintiff, the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees.)
- *Stevens et al., v. Bank of England,* San Diego County Superior Court Case No. 37-2019-00018662-CU-OE-CTL (October 16, 2020 – Hon. John Meyer appointed JCL Law Firm as Class Counsel and granted final approval of wage and hour class action for, *inter alia*, off-the-clock work.)
- *Frazier v. ASA Carlton, Inc.,* San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2019-00036147 (October 9, 2020 Hon. Kenneth Medel appointed the JCL Law Firm as Class Counsel and granted final approval of wage and hour class action for off-the-clock work.)
- *Krake et al., v. Central Valley Diner, Inc.,* Placer County Superior Court Case No. SCV0041645 (September 4, 2020 – Hon. Michael Jones appointed JCL Law Firm as class counsel and granted final approval of wage and hour class action for meal period violations.)
- *Conner v. Ascendant Marketing, LLC et al.,* San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2019-00026864-CU-OE-CTL (July 24, 2020 Hon. Joel Wohlfeil granted approval of PAGA Settlement for, among other things, off-the-clock work. JCL Law Firm, APC acted as lead counsel.)
- *Guerrero v. Estancia Operations, LLC.,* San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2019-00028963 (August 25, 2020 – Hon. Katherine Bacal approved PAGA Settlement for, *inter alia,* missed meal and rest periods. JCL Law Firm, APC, acted as lead counsel.)
- *Moreno v. Dash Lube, et al.,* United States District Court, Southern District of California, Case No. 18cv1922 DMS (AHG) (December 13, 2019 – Granted class certification of Labor Code Section 226 claim and appointed JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel.)
- *Perkins et al., v. Tahiti Enterprises, Inc., et al.,* Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2016-00863095 (October 22, 2019 – Hon. Peter Wilson appointed JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel and granted final approval for an unlawful housing class action settlement arising out of Civil Code Section 1940.1.)
- *Hill v. Stemak Holdings, Ltd.,* San Diego Superior Court Case No., 37-2018-00000747 (January 28, 2020 – Hon. Kenneth Medel appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as class counsel and granted final approval of wage and hour class action for unpaid overtime.)
- *Shachno et al., v. KT Hotels, LLC, et al.* San Diego Superior Court Case No Case No. 37-2018-00043601 (May 31, 2019 – Hon, Gregory Pollack appointed JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel and granted preliminary approval for the wage and hour class action settlement involving nearly 900 current and former employees. Final approval scheduled for October 4, 2019)
- *Almanza v. The Express Group, Inc.,* San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS1722542 (April 19, 2019 – Hon. David Cohn appointed the JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel and granted final approval for a wage and hour class action settlement for *inter alia,* missed meal and rest periods and independent contractor misclassification.)

- *Moschetto v. Pillow Global, Inc. San Diego Superior Court*, Case No. 37-2017-00024031-CU-OE-CTL (April 5, 2019 – Hon. John S. Meyer appointed JCL LAW Firm, APC, as Class Counsel and granted final approval for a wage and hour wage class action settlement involving misclassified house cleaners.)
- *Burke v. Friendship Hotel, LLC*, San Diego County Superior Court Case No. 37-2017-00022517-CU-OE-CTL (March 10, 2019 – final approval granted on for an unlawful housing class action arising under Civil Code Section 1940.2)
- *Terrado et al., v. Accredited Debt Relief, LLC*, San Diego County Superior Court Case No. 37-2018-00014181-CU-OE-CTL (February 8, 2019 – Hon. Gregory W. Pollock appointed JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel and granted final approval for a wage and hour class action settlement for meal and rest period violations);
- *Macaspac v. San Antonio Regional Hospital*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS1512625, (July 27, 2018 – Hon. Thomas S. Garza appointed JCL Law Firm, APC, as Class Counsel and granted final approval for a wage and hour class action settlement involving claims for on duty meal and rest periods.);
- *Summerlin et al. v. Maplebear, Inc. dba Instacart*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC603030 (2018 - certified and settled wage and hour class action.)
- *Ortega v. Prime Healthcare*, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2014-00011240-CU-OE-CTL (2018 – Approved PAGA only settlement for on duty meal and rest periods)
- *Engstrom v. Bender-Rosenthal*, Inc. San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2016-00012373-CU-OE-CTL (2017 - Certified and settled class action for employee misclassification);
- *Crawford v. Outlook Amusements*, Inc., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC617160 (2017 - Certified and settled wage and hour class action.);
- *Hernandez v. Sunglass Hut Trading, LLC*, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVDS1505181 (2016 - Certified and settled wage and hour class action);
- *Burns v. Shalom, LLC*, San Diego Superior Court, Case No., 37-2013-00058356-CU-BT-CTL (2015 - certified and settled class action for unlawful housing practices arising out of Civil Code Section 1940.1);

EXHIBIT 4

APEX
CLASS ACTION ADMINISTRATION

Quotation Request:		**Case Name:**	**Vidrio v. Harvest**
Claude Lapuyade		Date:	Monday, July 1, 2024
JCL Law Firm A.P.C		RFP Number:	16652008
jlapuyade@jcl-lawfirm.com			
619-599-8292			

Prepared By:
Sean Hartranft
Apex Class Action LLC
Sean@apexclassaction.com
949.878.3676

Settlement Specifications	
Estimated Class Size:	**107**
Estimated Number of Aggrieved Employees	**219**
Certified Language Translation:	**No**
Static Settlement Website	**Yes**
Percentage of Undeliverable Mail	**20%**

Professional Services	Fee Calculation	Rate(s)	Quantity	Estimated Cost
Data Analytics and Standardization				
Import and Standardize Data*	Per Hour	$125.00	2	$250.00
Data Analyst	Per Hour	$150.00	2	$300.00
*Data provided must be in a workable format. Apex can standardize provided data at an additional cost of $150/hr.				
			Sub Total:	$550.00
Mailing of Class Notice				
Form Set Up	Per Hour	$120.00	1	$120.00
Print & Mail Class Notice	Per Piece	$1.50	107	$160.50
USPS First Class Postage	Per Piece	$0.66	107	$70.62
Remail Undeliverable Mail (Skip-Trace)	Per Piece	$2.00	21	$42.80
Receive and Process Undeliverable Mail	Per Hour	$75.00	1	$75.00
Process Class Member Correspondence via mail, e-mail & fax	Per Piece	$75.00	1	$75.00
NCOA Address Update (USPS)	Static Rate	$41.72	1	$41.72
			Sub Total:	$585.64
Project Management				
Project Management	Per Hour	$150.00	2	$300.00
Project Coordinator	Per Hour	$90.00	2	$180.00
Data Analyst and Reporting	Per Hour	$140.00	1	$140.00
			Sub Total:	$620.00

APEX CLASS ACTION ADMINISTRATION

Professional Services	Fee Calculation	Rate(s)	Quantity	Estimated Cost
Toll-Free Contact Center, Website & Reporting				
Bilingual Toll-Free Contact Center	Static Rate	$65.00	1	$65.00
Settlement Website: Static Apex URL	Static Rate	$500.00	1	$500.00
Settlement Status Reports	Static Rate	$750.00	1	Waived
			Sub Total:	$565.00
Distribution & Settlement Fund Management				
Settlement Calculations (Preliminary and Final)	Per Hour	$120.00	3	$360.00
Account Management and Reconciliation	Per Hour	$140.00	3	$420.00
Print & Mail Distribution Settlement Check (W-2/1099)	Per Piece	$1.50	326	$489.00
USPS First Class Postage	Per Piece	$0.66	326	$215.16
Remail Distribution to Updated Address (Skip Trace)	Per Piece	$2.00	33	$65.20
Individual Income Tax Preparation & Reporting	Per Hour	$100.00	8	$800.00
QSF Income Tax Reporting (per calendar year)	Per Year	$1,250.00	1	$1,250.00
			Sub Total:	$3,599.36
Post Distribution Reconciliation				
Bank Account Reconciliation	Per Hour	$135.00	2	$270.00
Project Management Reconciliation	Per Hour	$100.00	2	$200.00
Declarations	Per Hour	$120.00	3	$360.00
			Sub Total:	$830.00
			WILL NOT EXCEED:	**$6,750.00**

Thank you for your business!

APEX
CLASS ACTION ADMINISTRATION

Terms & Conditions

The following Terms and Conditions govern the provision of all services to be provided by Apex Class Action and its affiliates ("Apex") to the Client. These terms and conditions are binding and shall apply to all services provided by Apex in relation to any related services or products.

1. Services: Apex commits to providing the Client with the administrative services detailed in the attached Proposal (the "Services").

2. Payment Terms: As compensation for the legal services to be provided, the Client agrees to pay Apex all fees detailed in the Proposal. The fees quoted in the Proposal (and any subsequent proposals for additional services) are estimates based on the information provided to Apex by the Client. Apex makes no representation that the estimated fees in the Proposal or any subsequent proposals for additional services shall equal the actual fees charged by Apex to the Client, which fees (including individual line items) may be greater or less than estimated. If additional services are requested on an hourly basis and are not specifically detailed in the Proposal, Apex will prepare estimates for such services subject to approval by the Client. In the performance of such additional services, Apex will charge standard hourly fees which shall apply.

3. Incurred Expenses: In relation to the provision of services outlined in this agreement, the Client agrees to reimburse Apex for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred. Such expenses may include, but are not limited to, costs associated with postage, media production or publication, banking fees, brokerage fees, messenger and delivery service expenses, travel expenses, filing fees, office supplies, meals, staff overtime expenses, and other related costs and expenses. If not otherwise specified in writing, fees for print notice and certain expenses, such as media publication and postage, must be paid immediately upon invoicing and, in certain cases, at least ten (10) days prior to the date on which such expenses will be incurred.

4. Invoicing: Apex shall present invoices for its fees and expenses on a monthly basis, except as provided in Section 3. The Client agrees to pay each invoice within 30 days of receipt. In case of non-payment within 90 days of the billing date, an additional service charge of 1.5% per month may apply. Apex reserves the right to increase its prices, charges, and rates annually, subject to reasonable adjustments. If any price increases exceed 10%, Apex shall give thirty (30) days' notice to the Client. In the event of any unpaid invoices beyond 120 days of the due date, Apex reserves the right to withhold services and reports until payment is received, subject to notice to the Client. It is important to note that Apex's failure to provide services and reports in such instances shall not constitute a default under this agreement.

5. Case Duration: The duration of these Terms and Conditions, except for the data storage obligations stated in Section 13, shall be in effect until 30 days following the completion of the Services as described in the Proposal. The parties may extend these Terms and Conditions in writing for a mutually agreed-upon period beyond this initial 30-day period.

6. Termination of Services: Either party may terminate the Services by providing thirty (30) days written notice to the other party. Alternatively, termination may occur immediately upon written notice for Cause, as defined below. Cause means (I) Apex's gross negligence or willful misconduct that causes serious and material harm to the Client; (ii) the Client's failure to pay Apex invoices for more than one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of the invoice; or (iii) the accrual of invoices or unpaid services where Apex reasonably believes it will not be paid. Termination of the Services shall not relieve the Client of its obligation to pay Apex for services rendered prior to the termination.

7. Independent Contractor: As an independent contractor, Apex will provide services under the terms of this agreement. It is agreed that neither Apex nor any of its employees will be considered an employee of the Client. Consequently, Apex and its employees will not be eligible for any benefits provided by the Client to its employees. The Client will not make any tax deductions from the payments due to Apex for state or federal tax purposes. Apex will be solely responsible for paying all taxes and other payments due on payments received from the Client under this agreement.

8. Apex warrants that the Services outlined in the Proposal will be performed in accordance with the standards generally adhered to by professionals providing similar services. It is acknowledged that the Services may entail the likelihood of some human and machine errors, omissions, delays, and losses that may result in damage. However, Apex shall not be held liable for such errors, omissions, delays, or losses unless they are caused by its gross negligence or willful misconduct. In the event of any breach of this warranty by Apex, the Client's sole remedy will be limited to Apex's rerunning, at its expense, any inaccurate output provided that such inaccuracies occurred solely as a result of Apex's gross negligence or willful misconduct under this agreement.

9. Limitation of Liability: The Client acknowledges that Apex shall not be held liable for any consequential, special, or incidental damages incurred by the Client in relation to the performance of Services, whether the claim is based on breach of warranty, contract, tort (including negligence), strict liability, or any other grounds. Under no circumstances shall Apex's liability to the Client, for any Losses (including court costs and reasonable attorney's fees), arising out of or in connection with these Terms and Conditions, exceed the total amount charged or chargeable to the Client for the specific service(s) that caused the Losses.

10. Indemnification: The Client agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Apex from any losses, suits, actions, judgments, fines, costs, liabilities, or claims arising from any action or proceeding relating to the Services provided by Apex, regardless of whether or not it results in liability (collectively referred to as "Indemnified Claims"). However, this indemnification provision shall not apply to the extent that such Indemnified Claims are caused by Apex's willful misconduct, gross negligence, or breach of these Terms and Conditions. This provision shall survive termination of the Services.

11. Confidentiality: Apex will uphold strict confidentiality between Apex and the Client and applies to all non-public records, documents, systems, procedures, processes, software, and other information received by either party in connection with the performance of services under these terms. Both Apex and the Client agree to keep confidential all such non-public information, including any material marked or identified as confidential or proprietary. Any such confidential information shall not be disclosed, provided, disseminated, or otherwise made available to any third party, except as required to fulfill the parties' obligations under these terms. The parties acknowledge that in the event of any request to disclose any confidential information in connection with a legal or administrative proceeding, or otherwise to comply with a legal requirement, prompt notice of such request must be given to the other party to enable that party to seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy or to waive compliance with the relevant provisions of these terms. If the Client seeks a protective order or another remedy, Apex, at the Client's expense, will cooperate with and assist the Client in such efforts. If the Client fails to obtain a protective order or waives compliance with the relevant provisions of these terms, Apex will disclose only that portion of the confidential information that it determines it is required to disclose. This confidentiality provision shall survive termination of the services provided. Both parties acknowledge and agree that any breach of this these terms may cause irreparable harm to the non-breaching party and that injunctive relief may be necessary to prevent any actual or threatened breach. The terms set forth between the parties supersede all prior negotiations, understandings, and agreements between the parties concerning confidentiality. These terms may only be amended in writing and signed by both parties.

12. Ownership of the programs, system data, and materials provided by Apex to the Client during the course of providing services herein shall solely belong to Apex. It is acknowledged that fees and expenses paid by the Client do not confer any rights in such property. It is also understood that the said property is made available to the Client solely for the purpose of using it during and in connection with the services provided by Apex.

13. Apex may derive financial benefits from financial institutions in connection with the deposit and investment of funds with such institutions, including without limitation, discounts on eligible banking services and fees, and loans at favorable rates.

14. COMPLETE AGREEMENT. These Terms and Conditions, along with the attached Proposal, represent the complete agreement and understanding between the parties and override any prior agreements (whether written or oral) between Apex and the Client regarding the subject matter. Any modification to these Terms and Conditions may only be made in writing and must be signed by both Apex and the Client. The headings in this document are included for convenience only and do not alter or restrict any provisions in these Terms and Conditions. They may not be used in the interpretation of these Terms and Conditions.

15. This provision outlines the requirements for providing notice or other communication under this agreement. All such communications must be in writing and can be delivered either by personal delivery or through U.S. Mail with prepaid postage or overnight courier. Once delivered personally or sent through the mail, the notice will be considered given after five (5) days from the deposit date in the U.S. Mail. Alternatively, if sent through an overnight courier, the notice will be considered given one business day after delivery to the such courier. It's important to note that the notice must be provided to a responsible officer or principal of the Client or Apex, depending on the case.

16. Force Majeure: In the event of any failure or delay in performance due to circumstances beyond Apex's control, including but not limited to strikes, lockouts, fires, floods, acts of God or public enemy, riots, civil disorders, insurrections, war or war conditions, or interference by civil or military authorities, Apex shall not be held liable for any resulting loss or damage. The time for performance under this agreement shall be extended for a period equal to the duration of the disabling cause and a reasonable time thereafter. This provision shall constitute a force majeure clause and shall be construed accordingly.

17. The applicable state and federal laws shall govern the interpretation and enforcement of these Terms and Conditions. No choice of law or conflict of laws provisions shall affect this governing law provision.

18. Severability: This applies to all clauses and covenants contained within these Terms and Conditions. In the event that any clause or covenant is deemed invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permissible by law. The validity, legality, and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall in no way be affected or impaired by the invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability of any provision deemed so.

19. Nonwaiver: This applies to these Terms and Conditions. This means that any failure by one party to enforce a provision of these terms on one or more occasions shall not be construed as a waiver of that provision. In other words, any failure to enforce a provision does not give up the right to enforce it in the future. All provisions of these Terms and Conditions remain in full force and effect, regardless of any prior failure to enforce them.