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Attorneys for Plaintiff OSCAR ALMANZA

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

OSCAR ALMANZA, an individual, on behalf of
himself and on behalf of all persons similarly
situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

HOPE OF THE VALLEY RESCUE MISSION,
a California Nonprofit Corporation; and DOES
1-50, Inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 22STCV17591

**DECLARATION OF JEAN-CLAUDE
LAPUYADE, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Date: September 16, 2024

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Judge: Hon. Stuart M. Rice

Dept.: 1

1 I, JEAN CLAUDE LAPUYADE, declare as follows:

2 1. I am over eighteen years of age and if called as a witness, I could and would competently
3 testify to the following facts from my own personal knowledge. I am the managing partner of JCL
4 LAW FIRM, APC (hereinafter "Class Counsel"). I am counsel of record for Plaintiff OSCAR
5 ALMANZA (hereafter "Plaintiff" or "Class Representative") in this wage and hour class action filed
6 against Defendant HOPE OF THE VALLEY RESCUE MISSION (hereinafter "Defendant").

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

9 3. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "1"** is a true and correct copy of the fully executed Class
10 Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Class Notice.

11 4. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "2"** is a true and correct copy of the conformed April 15,
12 2024, Preliminary Approval Order.

13 5. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "3"** is a true and correct copy of the March 11, 2024, proof
14 of filing the proposed Settlement and Settlement Agreement with the LWDA and a true and correct
15 copy of the April 4, 2024, proof of filing the Amended Settlement Agreement with the LWDA.

16 6. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "4"** is a true and correct copy of the August 21, 2024, proof
17 of filing this motion seeking final approval of this Settlement with the LWDA.

18 7. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "5"** is a true and correct copy of the JCL Law Firm, APC's
19 "Firm Resume" detailing the credentials and a summary of cases on which Counsel has been appointed
20 Class Counsel.

21 **I. INTRODUCTION**

22 8. An objective evaluation of the proposed settlement of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
23 and Zero Cents (\$500,000.00) ("Gross Settlement Amount") confirms that the relief negotiated on
24 behalf of the Settlement Class is fair, reasonable, and valuable. The Settlement is a product of informed,
25 adversarial, and non-collusive negotiations, between experienced counsel, and presided over by Tripper
26 Ortman, Esq., a mediator of wage and hour class and representative actions. After deducting any Court-
27 approved attorneys' fees and litigation costs, class representative incentive payments, settlement
28 administration fees, and the payment to the Labor & Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA"), the

1 net settlement fund shall be distributed to the Settlement Class based on the number of Workweeks they
2 worked while employed by Defendant during the Class Period. *The Class greeted news of the*
3 *Settlement with a 99.75% approval. There are three (3) opt-outs and zero objections to the Settlement.*

4 9. This Settlement provides substantial recovery to Settlement Class Members. Plaintiff
5 estimates that the Settlement, if approved, would result in a Net Settlement Amount of approximately
6 **\$254,333.33**. Apex Dec. at ¶ 14. This will result in an average Individual Class Payment of **\$214.09**,
7 and a high payment of **\$1,109.91**. Apex Dec. at ¶ 15. Aggrieved Employees will receive an average
8 Individual PAGA Payment of **\$8.00** and a high payment of **\$22.90**. Apex Dec. at ¶ 17.

9 10. The relief offered by the Settlement is immediate and is particularly impressive when
10 viewed against the difficulties encountered by plaintiffs pursuing similar wage and hour cases (*see*
11 *infra*). Indeed, by settling now rather than proceeding to trial, the Settlement Class will not have to wait
12 (possibly years) for relief, nor will they have to bear the risks associated with prolonged and uncertain
13 litigation.

14 11. As discussed below, the proposed Settlement satisfies all criteria for final settlement
15 approval under California law and falls well within the range of reasonableness. Accordingly, the Class
16 Representative and Class Counsel respectfully request this Court grant final approval of the Agreement
17 and entry of the proposed Final Approval Order and Judgment.

18 **II. OVERVIEW OF THE LITIGATION**

19 12. Defendant is a nonprofit corporation that owns, operates and manages homeless shelters
20 in the State of California, including in Los Angeles County. Plaintiff worked for Defendant as a non-
21 exempt employee in California from November 2020 to November 2021. At all times during his
22 employment, Plaintiff earned an hourly wage and was entitled to legally complaint meal and/or rest
23 periods, minimum, regular, and overtime wages. Throughout his employment, Plaintiff was subject to
24 Defendant's written policies and procedures.

25 13. Defendant forcefully denies liability for each of Plaintiff's claims. Further, Defendant
26 asserts that it fully complied with all applicable employment laws and raised several other significant
27 defenses to Plaintiff's claims, including but not limited to, facially compliant meal and rest period
28 policies, compliant wage statements, reimbursement for all required business expenses, and payment of

1 all wages upon separation.

2 14. On March 22, 2022, Plaintiff filed a Notice of Violations with the LWDA and served the
3 same on Defendant. On May 27, 2022, Plaintiff filed a Class and Representative Action Complaint
4 against Defendant alleging nine (9) causes of action against Defendant for (1) Unfair Competition in
5 Violation of Bus. & Prof. Code sections 17200 et seq; (2) Failure to pay minimum wages in violation
6 of California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197 and 1197.1; (3) Failure to pay overtime wages in violation
7 of California Labor Code sections 510 et seq; (4) Failure to provide required meal periods in violation
8 of California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and the applicable IWC wage order; (5) Failure to
9 provide required rest periods in violation of California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and the
10 applicable IWC wage order; (6) Failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements in violation of
11 California Labor Code section 226; (7) Failure to provide wages when due in violation of California
12 Labor Code sections 201, 202 and 203; (8) Failure to reimburse employees for required expenses in
13 violation of California Labor Code section 2802; and (9) Violation of the Private Attorneys General Act
14 [Labor Code §§ 2698 et seq].

15 15. Prior to mediation, the Parties engaged in investigation and the exchange of documents
16 and information in connection with the Action. As part of this process, Defendant provided time and
17 payroll records for 276 employees, approximately 25% of the total Class, to Class Counsel to review
18 and analyze. Plaintiff's statistician found this to be sufficient to develop a meaningful damages model.
19 The 25% sample is statistically reliable, resulting in a confidence level of 95% with a margin of error
20 of 5%. As discussed *infra*, Plaintiff's counsel retained the forensic consultants at Berger Consulting
21 Group ("BCG") to analyze Defendant's time and payroll data.

22 16. On June 19, 2023, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by
23 Tripper Ortman, Esq., a mediator of wage and hour class and representative actions. Defendant claimed
24 it is financially unable to pay a class settlement, and the Parties agreed to use a forensic accountant's
25 review of Defendant's financial records to advise on Defendant's ability to fund a settlement. Plaintiff
26 subsequently retained Creal & Creal, an accountancy corporation that regularly performs litigation
27 support and forensic accounting services, including providing opinions related to solvency. Kenneth
28 Creal, CPA, attended the mediation with Plaintiff, and reviewed a number of financial documents.

1 Kenneth Creal also performed an investigation into the assets owned by Defendant, as well as tax
2 returns, balance sheets, and profit and loss statements. The Parties were unable to reach a settlement at
3 mediation, however, the Parties engaged in subsequent settlement negotiations. Following a discussion
4 between Kenneth Creal and Defendant's CFO, presided by Tripper Ortman, the Parties were able to
5 reach a settlement, and executed a binding Memorandum of Understanding. Thereafter, the Parties
6 documented the agreement in the form of a Settlement Agreement, which was signed by the Parties and
7 is now the subject of the instant motion.

8 **III. THE SETTLEMENT BEFORE THE COURT**

9 17. The Court preliminarily approved an initial Gross Settlement Amount of Five Hundred
10 Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$500,000.00) based on an estimated 55,867.29 Workweeks worked
11 by the Class during the Class Period.

12 18. The Gross Settlement Amount shall be used: (1) to satisfy Individual Class Payments; (2)
13 to satisfy the Class Representative Service Payment; (3) to satisfy the Class Counsel Fees and Litigation
14 Expenses Payment; (4) to satisfy the PAGA Penalties; and (5) to satisfy the Administration Expenses
15 incurred in this action.

16 19. After Final Approval and the Judgment becomes final (the "Effective Date," as defined
17 in the Agreement), Defendant will fund the Gross Settlement Amount in four equal installments of
18 \$125,000 paid per installment. Agreement at § 4.3. Defendant shall pay the first payment 21 days after
19 final approval with the second installment due 90 days thereafter, the third installment 90 days after the
20 second installment, and the fourth installment 90 days after the third installment. Agreement at § 4.3.
21 Within ten (10) days after Defendant funds the third installment, including employer-side payroll taxes,
22 the Administrator will mail on a pro rata basis checks for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual
23 PAGA Payments, the PAGA Payment, the Claims Administration Expenses Payment, the Attorneys'
24 Fees Payment, the Attorneys' Expenses Payment, and the Service Award Payments. Disbursements of
25 the pro rata Attorneys' Fees Payment, the Attorneys' Expenses Payment and the Service Award Payment
26 shall not precede disbursement of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments.
27 Agreement at § 4.4.

28 20. The Settlement Administrator will calculate Individual Class Payments by dividing the

1 Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members
2 during the Class Period and multiplying the result by each Participating Class Member's Workweeks
3 during the Class Period. Agreement, § 3.2.4. The estimated average Individual Class Payment is
4 approximately **\$214.09**.

5 21. As explained in further detail below, the Settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable to
6 the class and should be granted final approval. This is evidenced by the unanimous approval of the
7 Settlement by the Settlement Class, the absence of any objections to the Settlement and the average
8 Individual Class Payment of **\$214.09**.

9 **IV. THE SETTLEMENT IS FAIR, REASONABLE, AND ADEQUATE**

10 **A. Class Counsel Conducted a Thorough Investigation**

11 22. As detailed in the motion for preliminary approval, Class Counsel thoroughly
12 investigated the proposed Class Members' claims, applicable law, and potential defenses. Specifically,
13 Class Counsel assessed the value of the class claims using data and documents provided by Defendant
14 through informal discovery. Class Counsel obtained time, payroll, and policy records, as well as data
15 regarding the number of Class Members, workweeks, and average rate of pay to assess damages before
16 mediation. Class Counsel retained Berger Consulting Group ("BCG") to analyze Defendant's time
17 and payroll data to formulate damage models estimating Defendant's liability exposure. Class
18 Counsel's investigation, research, experience, and damage models informed and guided the mediated
19 negotiations that resulted in this settlement. Accordingly, Plaintiff's Counsel fully understood the
20 strengths and weaknesses of the class claims before the parties reached a settlement.

21 **B. The Parties Settled After Mediation**

22 23. On June 19, 2023, the Parties conducted a full-day mediation with Tripper Ortman, Esq.,
23 a mediator of wage and hour class and representative actions. Mr. Ortman helped manage the Parties'
24 expectations and provided a useful, neutral analysis of the issues and risks to both sides. Defendant
25 claimed it is financially unable to pay a class settlement, and the Parties agreed to use a forensic
26 accountant's review of Defendant's financial records to advise on Defendant's ability to fund a
27 settlement. Plaintiff subsequently retained Creal & Creal, an accountancy corporation that regularly
28 performs litigation support and forensic accounting services, including providing opinions related to

1 solvency. Kenneth Creal, CPA, attended the mediation with Plaintiff, and reviewed a number of
2 financial documents. Kenneth Creal also performed an investigation into the assets owned by
3 Defendant, as well as tax returns, balance sheets, and profit and loss statements. The Parties made
4 substantial progress with Mr. Ortman's assistance. Namely, the Parties exchanged information
5 regarding their respective claims and defenses, including their respective evaluations of the damages.
6 The Parties were unable to reach a settlement at mediation, however, the Parties engaged in subsequent
7 settlement negotiations. Following a discussion between Kenneth Creal and Defendant's CFO,
8 presided by Tripper Ortman, the Parties were able to reach a settlement, and executed a binding
9 Memorandum of Understanding. Thereafter, the Parties documented the agreement in the form of a
10 Settlement Agreement. No action would likely have been taken by Class Members individually, and
11 no compensation would have been recovered for them, but for Plaintiff's service on behalf of the Class.

12 **C. Class Counsel if Experienced in Similar Litigation**

13 24. Plaintiff is represented by competent and experienced counsel to pursue his claims. I
14 established the JCL Law Firm, APC ("Firm"), in 2010. The Firm is a boutique plaintiff firm
15 representing aggrieved employees and consumers throughout California in wage and hour class actions
16 and complex multi-party product liability matters. The Firm currently consists of myself, Jean-Claude
17 Lapuyade, Esq. (Partner/Owner), Monnett De La Torre, Esq. (Senior Associate Attorney); Sydney
18 Castillo-Johnson, Esq. (Associate Attorney), Perssia Razma (Associate Attorney), Andrea Amaya,
19 Esq. (Associate Attorney), Tesla Stone (Senior Paralegal), and Jennifer Heming (Paralegal).

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

26 26. I have represented consumers and employees in California class actions, and complex
27 multi-party product liability actions exclusively for more than 17 years. I have been in practice as a
28 plaintiffs' civil litigation attorney since April 2007.

1 27. I am qualified to represent the Plaintiff, the State of California, and the Aggrieved
2 Employees. I have extensive experience with wage and hour class and representative actions litigation
3 like this matter, and employment matters in general. My credentials are reflected in the JCL Law Firm,
4 APC, Firm Resume, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit “5.”** Some of the
5 major cases the Firm has undertaken are also set forth in **Exhibit “5.”**

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

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

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

14 **D. The Settlement Class Responded Positively to the Settlement**

15 31. The reaction of the Settlement Class unequivocally supports approval of the Settlement.
16 Significantly, after dissemination of the notice to the Settlement Class, which provided each class
17 member with the terms of the Settlement, including the specific estimated Individual Class Payments,
18 3 of the 1,192 members of the Class opted-out of the Settlement. Moreover, there are zero objections.
19 Stated differently, 99.75% of the Class have chosen to participate in the Settlement.

20 **E. The Gross Settlement Amount is Fair and Reasonable**

21 32. Here, the Settlement is clearly within the “ballpark” of reasonableness because the
22 Settlement provides a sizeable recovery to the Settlement Class and need not necessarily obtain 100
23 percent of the damages sought to be fair, reasonable, and ultimately, meaningful. *Wershba*, 91
24 Cal.App.4th at 250. While the Gross Settlement Amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero
25 Cents (\$500,000.00) represents a discount on Defendant’s potential exposure if Plaintiff established
26 liability on all claims and was awarded the full amount of the estimated damages at trial, this
27 compromise is reasonable because (1) the formidable defenses raised by Defendant presented a risk
28 that could award significantly less in damages than Plaintiff’s estimate and (2) any theoretical post-

1 trial recovery may require many more years of litigation, resulting in added fees and costs without any
2 guarantee of recovery for the Class.

3 33. As detailed at the time of preliminary approval, the Gross Settlement Amount is fair and
4 reasonable considering the nature and magnitude of the claims being settled and the various potential
5 impediments to recovery. Class Counsel developed an economic damages model measuring
6 Defendant's liability exposure while accounting for the uncertainties of continued litigation. The
7 economic damage model was informed by Class Counsel's investigation, including the analysis of a
8 significant sample of time and payroll data. As detailed in greater depth during the preliminary
9 approval process, Class Counsel projected a range of Defendant's liability exposure for the claims
10 asserted on behalf of the Settlement Class. The Gross Settlement Amount represents approximately
11 28% of Defendant's *class-wide* liability exposure as estimated by Class Counsel at the time of
12 mediation.

13 34. Clearly the goal of this litigation to obtain redress for the class has been met by this
14 Settlement. Given the amount of the Settlement, the risks of litigation and the arm's length negotiations
15 between experienced counsel, the settlement is fair and reasonable, and is therefore entitled to final
16 approval.

17 **F. The Strength of Plaintiff's Case and Risks of Continued Litigation**

18 35. Although Class Counsel believes strongly in Plaintiff's claims, it would be misguided to
19 ignore the asserted defenses. If successful on any one of its defenses, Defendant could defend the
20 action or, at least, drastically undercut Plaintiff's claims.

21 36. With respect to the most immediate challenge, i.e., class certification, the risks attendant
22 to the certification of similar wage and hour claims are demonstrated by *Magadia v. Wal-Mart*
23 *Associates, Inc.* (9th Cir. 2021) 999 F.3d 668. There, the Ninth Circuit, vacated reversed and remanded
24 a \$110 million judgement against an employer for, *inter alia*, inaccurately paying overtime, and
25 directed the trial court to enter judgement in favor of the employer. *See also O'Conner v. Uber*
26 *Technologies, Inc.* (9th Cir. 2018) 904 F.3d 1087 (decertification of wage and hour misclassification
27 action); *see also Duran v. U.S. Bank National Association* (2014) 59 Cal.4th 1, 31 (reversing a trial
28 verdict in favor plaintiffs in a wage and hour class action)); *Tien v. Tenet Healthcare Corp.* (2012) 209

1 Cal.App.4th 1077, 1088 (“[T]he reason, if any, that employees might not take their breaks were
2 predominantly individualized questions of fact not susceptible to class treatment.”); *Ali v. U.S.A. Cab*
3 *Ltd.* (2009) 176 Cal.App.4th 1333, 1341 (affirming denial of certification because employees’
4 declarations attesting to having taken meal and rest breaks demonstrated that individualized inquiries
5 were required to show harm); *Campbell v. Best Buy Stores, L.P.*, (C.D. Cal. 2013) 2013 WL 5302217
6 at *11-13 (following *Brinker* and denying certification of proposed off-the-clock and rest and meal
7 break classes due to lack of uniform policy); *Brown v. Fed Express Corp.* (C.D. Cal. 2008) 249 F.R.D.
8 580, 587-88 (denying certification of driver meal and rest period claims based on the predominance of
9 individual issues). Collectively, the examples cited above illustrate the uncertain nature of class
10 litigation. Consequently, the uncertainty of obtaining certification through a contested motion is a
11 significant risk factor favoring settlement.

12 37. The fast-changing landscape of wage and hour litigation can also drastically affect the
13 value of Plaintiff’s claims and, in fact, already has.

14 38. As demonstrated by the decisions in *Magadia, supra*, 999 F.3d 668, *O’Conner v. Uber*
15 *Technologies* (N.D. Cal. 2018) 82 F.Supp.3d 1133 and *Duran v. U.S. Bank National Assn.* (2014) 59
16 Cal.4th 1, the complexities and duration of further litigation cannot be overstated. There is little doubt
17 that if Defendant faced a large adverse judgement, Defendant undoubtedly have the resources to post
18 a bond and appeal. A post-judgment appeal by Defendant would have required many more years to
19 resolve, assuming the judgment was affirmed. If the judgment was not affirmed in total, then the case
20 could have dragged on for years after the appeal. The benefits of a guaranteed recovery today outweigh
21 an uncertain result three or more years in the future.

22 39. The Class Representative and Class Counsel recognize the expense and length of a trial
23 against Defendant through possible appeals which could take another three years. In arriving at their
24 informed belief that the present settlement is fair and adequate, Class Counsel accounted for the
25 uncertain outcome and risk inherent in complex actions such as this one. Class Counsel is also mindful
26 of and recognize the inherent problems of proof under, and alleged defenses to, the claims asserted in
27 the litigation. Moreover, post-trial motions and appeals would have been inevitable. Costs would have
28 mounted, and recovery would have been delayed if not denied, thereby reducing the benefits of an

1 ultimate victory. Class Representative and Class Counsel believe that the Settlement confers
2 substantial monetary and non-monetary benefits upon the Class. Based upon their evaluation, Class
3 Representative and Class Counsel have determined that the Settlement set forth in the Agreement is in
4 the best interest of the Class, is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and should be granted final approval.

5 **V. THE PENALTIES UNDER THE PRIVATE ATTORNEY GENERAL ACT OF 2004 ARE**
6 **REASONABLE**

7 40. Here, Plaintiff and Defendant negotiated a good faith PAGA Payment in the amount of
8 \$35,000.00 which is 7% of the Gross Settlement Amount. As illustrated above, this amount falls well
9 within the range of approved PAGA Settlements. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the PAGA Payment
10 (\$26,250.00) will be paid to the LWDA ("LWDA Payment") with the remaining twenty-five percent
11 (25%) to be distributed to the Aggrieved Employees, which is within the range of PAGA Payment
12 approved by courts and should be approved.

13 41. Class Counsel gave the LWDA notice of this Settlement and proposed allocation by filing
14 a copy of the Settlement, the Motion for Preliminary Approval, and this motion seeking final approval
15 with the LWDA.

16 I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing
17 is true and correct. Executed this 21st day of August 2024, at San Diego, California.

18
19 **JCL LAW FIRM, APC**

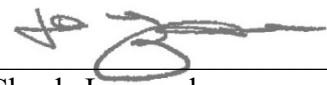
20 By: 
21 Jean-Claude Lapuyade
22 Attorney for Plaintiff
23
24
25
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28

EXHIBIT 1

AMENDED CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE

This Amended Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between Plaintiff Oscar Almanza (“Plaintiff”) and Defendant Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission (“Defendant”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendant collectively as “Parties,” or individually as “Party.”

1. DEFINITIONS.

- 1.1. “Action” means the Plaintiff’s lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned *Almanza v. Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission*, Case Number 22STCV17591, initiated on May 27, 2022, and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles.
- 1.2. “Administrator” means Apex Class Action LLC, located at 20371 Irvine Avenue, Newport Beach, CA 92660; Tel: (800) 355-0700, the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.
- 1.3. “Administration Expenses Payment” means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s “not to exceed” bid submitted to the Court in connection with Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.4. “Aggrieved Employee” means all non-exempt employees who are or previously were employed by Defendant and performed work in California during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5. “Attorneys’ Fees and Litigation Costs” means ” the amounts allocated to Class Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action, including their pre-filing investigation, their filing of the Action, all related litigation activities, all Settlement work, all post-Settlement compliance procedures in an amount of up to one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount. The Attorneys’ Fees Payment shall be divided between Class Counsel as follows: 50% to JCL Law Firm, APC, and 50% to Zakay Law Group, APLC.
- 1.6. “Class Counsel” means Jean Claude Lapuyade, Esq. of JCL Law Firm, APC, and Shani Zakay of Zakay Law Group, APLC.
- 1.7. “Class” shall mean all non-exempt employees who are or previously were employed by Defendant and performed work in California during the Class Period.

- 1.8. “Class Data” means Class Member identifying information in Defendants’ possession that Defendants will provide to the Administrator. To the extent available, the Class Data shall include the Class Member’s full name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, telephone number (if accessible to Defendant), and number of Class Period Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods.
- 1.9. “Class Member” or “Settlement Class Member” means a member of the Class, as either a Participating Class Member or Non-Participating Class Member (including a Non- Participating Class Member who qualifies as an Aggrieved Employee).
- 1.10. “Class Member Address Search” means the Administrator’s investigation and search for current Class Member mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address database, skip traces, and direct contact by the Administrator with Class Members.
- 1.11. “Class Notice” means the means the Court-approved Notice of Class Action Settlement in a form substantively similar to **Exhibit A**, to be mailed to Class Members in English, , informing them of the settlement, including their rights to request exclusion or to object to the Settlement, the right to dispute their estimated workweeks/payment, of their estimated payment to be received without the need to return a claim form, and the date set for the Final Approval Hearing.
- 1.12. “Class Period” means the period from May 27, 2018, to August 23, 2023.
- 1.13. “Class Representative” means the named Plaintiff in the operative complaint in the Action seeking Court approval to serve as Class Representative.
- 1.14. “Class Representative Payment” means the payment to the Class Representative for initiating the Action and providing services in support of the Action.
- 1.15. “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.
- 1.16. “Defendant” means named Defendant Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission.
- 1.17. “Defense Counsel” means Lonnie D. Giamela, Esq. and Areen Babajanian, Esq. of Fisher & Phillips, LLP.
- 1.18. “Effective Date” means the date by when both of the following have occurred:
- (a) the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement; and (b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (a) if no Participating Class Member objects to the Settlement, the day the Court enters Judgment; (b) if one or more Participating Class Members objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment; or if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur.

- 1.19. “Final Approval” means the Court’s order granting final approval of the Settlement.
- 1.20. “Final Approval Hearing” means the Court’s hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.21. “Final Judgment” means the Judgment Entered by the Court upon Granting Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.22. “Funding Date” means the date on which Defendant shall fund the Gross Settlement Amount to the Administrator.
- 1.23. “Gross Settlement Amount” means Five Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$500,000.00) which is the total amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph 8 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA Payment, Class Counsel Fees, Class Counsel Expenses, Class Representative Payment, and the Administrator’s Expenses.
- 1.24. “Individual Class Payment” means the Participating Class Member’s pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the Class Period. Any Class Member who submits a timely and valid request for exclusion pursuant to the procedures set forth herein, is not eligible to receive an Individual Class Payment, but shall remain an Aggrieved Employee.
- 1.25. “Individual PAGA Payment” means the Aggrieved Employee’s pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Payment calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the PAGA Period.
- 1.26. “Judgment” means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.
- 1.27. “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.28. “LWDA Payment” means the 75% of the PAGA Payment paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.29. “Net Settlement Amount” means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: the PAGA Payment, Class Representative Payment, Attorneys’ Fees and Litigation Costs, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members as Individual Class Payments.
- 1.30. “Non-Participating Class Member” means any Class Member who opts out of the Settlement by sending the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.
- 1.31. “PAGA Pay Period” means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Period.

- 1.32. “PAGA Period” means the period between March 22, 2021, and August 23, 2023.
- 1.33. “PAGA” means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).
- 1.34. “PAGA Notice” means Plaintiff’s March 22, 2022, letter to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a).
- 1.35. “PAGA Payment” means Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$35,000.00) which is the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees (\$8,750.00) and the 75% to LWDA (\$26,250.00) in settlement of PAGA claims.
- 1.36. “Participating Class Member” means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.
- 1.37. “Plaintiff” means Oscar Almanza, the named Plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.38. “Preliminary Approval” means the Court’s Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.39. "Preliminary Approval Order" means the proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement.
- 1.40. “Released Class Claims” means all class claims alleged in the operative complaint, or which could have reasonably been alleged in the operative complaint based on the facts alleged, which occurred during the Class Period, including claims under California Labor Code Sections 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, and 2804, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers’ compensation, and class claims outside of the Class Period.
- 1.40.1. “Released PAGA Claims” means all PAGA claims alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts alleged in the operative complaint and Plaintiff’s PAGA notice to the LWDA which occurred during the PAGA Period, including claims for PAGA penalties arising from California Labor Code Sections 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, and 2804, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers’ compensation, and PAGA claims outside of the PAGA Period.
- 1.41. “Released Parties” means Defendant and all of its respective current and former partners, parents, subsidiaries, predecessors and successors, joint employers, and their affiliated entities, and each of their respective owners, officers, directors, managing agents, exempt-employees, partners, shareholders, and agents, and any

other successors, heirs, assigns, or legal representatives, any attorneys, insurers, and claims representatives.

- 1.42. “Request for Exclusion” means a Class Member’s submission of a written request to be excluded from the Class Settlement signed by the Class Member.
- 1.43. "Response Deadline" means forty-five (45) days after the Administrator mails Notice to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees and shall be the last date on which Class Members may: (a) fax, email, or mail Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, or (b) fax, email, or mail his or her Objection to the Settlement. Class Members to whom Notice Packets are resent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator shall have an additional fourteen (14) calendar days beyond the Response Deadline has expired.
- 1.44. “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.45. “Workweek” means any week during which a Class Member worked for Defendants for at least one day, during the Class Period.

2. RECITALS.

- 2.1. On March 22, 2022, Plaintiff filed a Notice of Violations with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) and served the same on Defendant.
- 2.2. On May 27, 2022, Plaintiff filed a Class and Representative Action Complaint against Defendant alleging nine (9) causes of action against Defendants for (1) Unfair Competition in Violation of Bus. & Prof. Code sections 17200 et seq; (2) Failure to pay minimum wages in violation of California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197 and 1197.1; (3) Failure to pay overtime wages in violation of California Labor Code sections 510 et seq; (4) Failure to provide required meal periods in violation of California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and the applicable IWC wage order; (5) Failure to provide required rest periods in violation of California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and the applicable IWC wage order; (6) Failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements in violation of California Labor Code section 226; (7) Failure to provide wages when due in violation of California Labor Code sections 201, 202 and 203; (8) Failure to reimburse employees for required expenses in violation of California Labor Code section 2802; and (9) Violation of the Private Attorneys General Act [Labor Code §§ 2698 et seq]. Plaintiff’s complaint named two defendants: Meadowbrook Assisted Living LLC, and SLH Agoura Hills Manager, LLC. Defendant denies the allegations in the Operative Complaint, denies any failure to comply with the laws identified in in the Operative Complaint and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged.
- 2.3. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.
- 2.4. On June 19, 2023, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by

Tripper Ortman, Esq., a mediator of wage and hour class and representative actions, which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.

- 2.5. Prior to mediation, Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery, timekeeping records, and payroll records for the Class Members. Plaintiff's investigation was sufficient to satisfy the criteria for court approval set forth in *Dunk v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1801 and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116, 129-130 ("*Dunk/Kullar*").
- 2.6. The Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by the Settlement.

3. MONETARY TERMS.

- 3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 9 below, Defendants promises to pay Five Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$500,000.00) and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount and to separately pay any and all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount (or any payroll taxes) prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 4.3 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant.
- 3.2. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Final Approval:
- 3.2.1. To Plaintiff: Class Representative Payment to the Class Representative of not more than \$10,000.00. Defendant will not oppose Plaintiff's request for a Class Representative Payment that does not exceed this amount. As part of the motion for Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs, Plaintiff will seek Court approval for any Class Representative Payments no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Representative Payment less than the amount requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will pay the Class Representative Payment using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiff assumes full responsibility and liability for employee taxes owed on the Class Representative Payment.
- 3.2.2. To Class Counsel: Attorneys' Fees of not more than one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount, which is currently estimated to be One Hundred, Sixty-Six Thousand Dollars and Sixty-Seven Cents (\$166,666.67) and Litigation Costs of up to Twenty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$20,000.00). Defendant will not oppose requests for these payments provided that do not

exceed these amounts. Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will file a motion for Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a payment for Attorneys' Fees and/or Litigation Costs less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to Class Counsel or any other Class Counsel arising from any claim to any portion any Attorneys' Fees and/or Litigation Costs. The Administrator will pay the Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. Class Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs and holds Defendant harmless, and indemnifies Defendant, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these Payments.

3.2.3. To the Administrator: The Administration Expenses Payment not to exceed \$14,000 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. Defendants will not oppose requests for these payments provided that do not exceed this amount. To the extent the Administration Expenses Payment are less or the Court approves payment less than \$14,000, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.

3.2.4. To Each Participating Class Member: An Individual Class Payment calculated by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Participating Class Member's Workweeks worked during the Class Period.

3.2.4.1. Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. Twenty percent (20%) of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portions are subject to tax withholding and will be reported on an IRS W-2 Form. Eighty percent (80%) of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of claims for interest and penalties (the "Non-Wage Portion"). The Non-Wage Portions are not subject to wage withholdings and will be reported on IRS 1099 Forms. Participating Class Members assume full responsibility and liability for any employee taxes owed on their Individual Class Payment.

3.2.4.2. Effect of Non-Participating Class Members on Calculation of Individual Class Payments. Non-Participating Class Members will not receive any Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will retain amounts equal to their Individual Class Payments in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis.

3.2.5. To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Payment in the amount of \$35,000.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75%

(\$26,250.00) allocated to the LWDA Payment and 25% (\$8,750.00) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.

3.2.5.1. The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Payment (\$8,750.00) by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

3.2.5.2. If the Court approves PAGA Payment of less than the amount requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

4. SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.

4.1. Class Workweeks and Aggrieved Employee PAGA Pay Periods. Based on a review of its records as of the date of mediation, Defendant estimates that there are 1,121 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 53,909 Workweeks, and 895 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total of 18,585 PAGA Pay Periods.

4.2. Class Data. Not later than fifteen (15) days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendant will simultaneously deliver the Class Data to the Administrator, in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Class Members' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Class Data in confidence, use the Class Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Class Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Class Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify Class Counsel if it discovers that the Class Data omitted class member identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Class Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendant must send the Class Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Class Data.

4.3. Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount, and also fund the amounts necessary to fully pay Defendants' share of payroll taxes as follows: Defendant will make the first payment in the amount of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$125,000) into an escrow account on July 1, 2024 and make quarterly payments thereafter until June 30, 2025. Defendant will make four (4) equal payments in the amount of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$125,000) ("Settlement Installment Payments"). The payment timeline will be as follows:

- July 1, 2024: Defendant to pay \$125,000 ("The First Installment");

- October 1, 2024: Defendant to pay \$125,000 (“The Second Installment”);
- January 1, 2025: Defendant to pay \$125,000 (“The Third Installment”);
- April 1, 2025: Defendant to pay \$125,000 (“The Fourth Installment”).

To the extent final approval is not made by June 15, 2025, the first payment shall be due 21 days after final approval with the second installment due 90 days thereafter, the third installment 90 days after the second installment, and the fourth installment 90 days after the third installment.

4.4. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Based on the installment scheduled outlined above in Section 4.3, Defendants will have funded \$375,000 by the Third Installment. Accordingly, there will be sufficient funds at this stage to allow the Settlement Administrator to mail checks for all categories of payments except for Class Counsel’s attorneys’ fees and costs. Thus, within ten (10) days after Defendant funds the Third Installment, including required employer-side payroll taxes, the Administrator will mail on a pro rata basis checks for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the PAGA Payment, the Claims Administration Expenses Payment, , and the Service Award Payment. Disbursements of the pro rata Attorneys’ Fees Payment, the Attorneys’ Expenses Payment and the Service Award Payment shall not precede disbursement of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments.

4.4.1. The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual Class Payments and/or Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Class Members via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (180 days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided. The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. The Administrator will send checks for Individual Settlement Payments to all Participating Class Members (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator will send checks for Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees including Non-Participating Class Members who qualify as Aggrieved Employees (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator may send Participating Class Members a single check combining the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment. Before mailing any checks, the Settlement Administrator must update the recipients’ mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.

4.4.2. The Administrator must conduct a Class Member Address Search for all other Class Members whose checks are returned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within seven (7) days of receiving a returned check the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Class Member Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to deliver checks to Class Members whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Class

Member whose original check was lost or misplaced, requested by the Class Member prior to the void date.

4.4.3. For any Class Member whose Individual Class Payment check or Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to the State Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Class Member who did not claim the funds.

4.4.4. The payment of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendants to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to Class Members (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses) beyond those specified in this Agreement.

5. RELEASES OF CLAIMS. Effective once the Settlement is fully funded, Plaintiff, Participating Class Members, and the Aggrieved Employees will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

5.1 Plaintiff's Release. Plaintiff and his respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all claims, transactions, or occurrences that occurred during the Class Period, including, but not limited to: (a) all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained, in the Operative Complaint and (b) all PAGA claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged based on facts contained in the Operative Complaint, Plaintiff's PAGA Notice ("Plaintiff's Release"). Plaintiff's Release does not extend to any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time, or based on occurrences outside the Class Period. Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff's Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff's discovery of them.

5.1.1 Plaintiff's Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542. For purposes of Plaintiff's Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

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.

5.2 Release by Participating Class Members: All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives,

agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from all class claims alleged in the operative complaint, or which could have reasonably been alleged in the operative complaint based on the facts alleged, which occurred during the Class Period, including claims under California Labor Code Sections 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, and 2804 and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, and class claims outside of the Class Period.

- 5.3 Release by Aggrieved Employees: Once the Settlement is fully funded, all Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties from all PAGA claims alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts alleged in the operative complaint and Plaintiff's PAGA notice to the LWDA which occurred during the PAGA Period, including claims for PAGA penalties arising from California Labor Code Sections 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, and 2804, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, and PAGA claims outside of the PAGA Period.

6. MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL. The Parties agree to jointly prepare and file a motion for preliminary approval ("Motion for Preliminary Approval") that complies with the Court's current checklist for Preliminary Approvals.

- 6.1 Defendant's Declaration in Support of Preliminary Approval. Within thirty (30) days of the full execution of this Agreement, Defendant will prepare and deliver to Class Counsel a signed Declaration from Defendant and Defense Counsel disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with the Administrator. In their Declarations, Defense Counsel and Defendant shall aver that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.
- 6.2 Plaintiff's Responsibilities. Plaintiff will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all documents necessary for obtaining Preliminary Approval, including: (i) a draft of the notice, and memorandum in support, of the Motion for Preliminary Approval that includes an analysis of the Settlement under *Dunk/Kullar* and a request for approval of the PAGA Settlement under Labor Code Section 2699, subd. (f)(2)); (ii) a draft proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement; and (iii) a draft proposed Class Notice; (iv) a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its "not to exceed" bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve; competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Class Data; amounts of insurance coverage for any data

breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members; and the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiff, Class Counsel or Defense Counsel; (v) a signed declaration from Plaintiff confirming willingness and competency to serve and disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members; (v) a signed declaration from each Class Counsel firm attesting to its competency to represent the Class Members; its timely transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (initial notice of violations (Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a)), Operative Complaint (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(2)); (vi) a redlined version of the parties' Agreement showing all modifications made to the Model Agreement ready for filing with the Court; and (vii) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members and the Administrator. In their Declarations, Plaintiff and Class Counsel Declaration shall aver that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.

- 6.3 Responsibilities of Counsel. Class Counsel is responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than seventy-five (75) days after the full execution of this Agreement; obtaining a prompt hearing date for the Motion for Preliminary Approval; and for appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the Motion for Preliminary Approval. Class Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Preliminary Approval to the Administrator.
- 6.4 Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed Motion for Preliminary Approval and/or the supporting declarations and documents, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does not grant Preliminary Approval or conditions Preliminary Approval on any material change to this Agreement, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

7. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

- 7.1 Selection of Administrator. The Parties have jointly selected Apex Class Action LLC to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, Apex Class Action LLC agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for Administration Expenses Payment. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.
- 7.2 Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports to state and federal tax authorities.

- 7.3 Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund (“QSF”) under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1.
- 7.4 Notice to Class Members.
- 7.4.1 No later than three (3) business days after receipt of the Class Data, the Administrator shall notify Class Counsel that the list has been received and state the number of Class Members, PAGA Members, Workweeks, and PAGA Pay Periods in the Class Data.
- 7.4.2 Using best efforts to perform as soon as possible, and in no event later than fourteen (14) days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator will send to all Class Members identified in the Class Data, via first-class United States Postal Service (“USPS”) mail, the Class Notice, , if applicable, substantially in the form attached to this Agreement as Exhibit A. The first page of the Class Notice shall prominently estimate the dollar amounts of any Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment payable to the Class Member, and the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if applicable) used to calculate these amounts. Before mailing Class Notices, the Administrator shall update Class Member addresses using the National Change of Address database.
- 7.4.3 Not later than three (3) business days after the Administrator’s receipt of any Class Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the Class Notice using any forwarding address provided by the USPS. If the USPS does not provide a forwarding address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class Member Address Search, and re-mail the Class Notice to the most current address obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further attempts to locate or send Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by the USPS a second time.
- 7.4.4 The deadlines for Class Members’ written objections, Challenges to Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional fourteen (14) days beyond the forty-five (45) days otherwise provided in the Class Notice for all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.
- 7.4.5 If the Administrator, Defendant or Class Counsel is contacted by or otherwise discovers any persons who believe they should have been included in the Class Data and should have received Class Notice, the Parties will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, in an effort to agree on whether to include them as Class Members. If the Parties agree, such persons will be Class Members entitled to the same rights as other Class Members, and the Administrator will send,

via email or overnight delivery, a Class Notice requiring them to exercise options under this Agreement not later than fourteen (14) days after receipt of Class Notice, or the deadline dates in the Class Notice, which ever are later.

7.5 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs).

- 7.5.1 Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) the Class Settlement must send the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail, a signed written Request for Exclusion not later than forty-five (45) days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional fourteen (14) days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed). A Request for Exclusion is a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative that reasonably communicates the Class Member's election to be excluded from the Settlement and includes the Class Member's name, address and email address or telephone number. To be valid, a Request for Exclusion must be timely faxed, emailed, or postmarked by the Response Deadline.
- 7.5.2 The Administrator may not reject a Request for Exclusion as invalid because it fails to contain all the information specified in the Class Notice. The Administrator shall accept any Request for Exclusion as valid if the Administrator can reasonably ascertain the identity of the person as a Class Member and the Class Member's desire to be excluded. The Administrator's determination shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. If the Administrator has reason to question the authenticity of a Request for Exclusion, the Administrator may demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity. The Administrator's determination of authenticity shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.
- 7.5.3 Every Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion is deemed to be a Participating Class Member under this Agreement, entitled to all benefits and bound by all terms and conditions of the Settlement, including the Participating Class Members' Releases under Paragraphs 5.2 of this Agreement, regardless of whether the Participating Class Member actually receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.
- 7.5.4 Every Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion is a Non-Participating Class Member and shall not receive an Individual Class Payment or have the right to object to the class action components of the Settlement. Because future PAGA claims are subject to claim preclusion upon entry of the Judgment, Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release the claims identified in Paragraph 5.3 of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.
- 7.5.5 Any funds allocated to Class Members who opted out will be added to the

Net Settlement Amount for distribution to the Participating Class Members.

7.6 Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks. Each Class Member shall have forty-five (45) days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional fourteen (14) days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if any) allocated to the Class Member in the Class Notice. The Class Member may challenge the allocation by communicating with the Administrator via fax, email, or mail. The Administrator must encourage the challenging Class Member to submit supporting documentation. In the absence of any contrary documentation, the Administrator is entitled to presume that the Workweeks contained in the Class Notice are correct so long as they are consistent with the Class Data. The Administrator's determination of each Class Member's allocation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. The Administrator shall promptly provide copies of all challenges to calculation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel and the Administrator's determination the challenges.

7.7 Objections to Settlement.

7.7.1 Only Participating Class Members may object to the class action components of the Settlement and/or this Agreement, including contesting the fairness of the Settlement, and/or amounts requested for the Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs and/or Class Representative Payment.

7.7.2 Participating Class Members may send written objections to the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail. In the alternative, Participating Class Members may appear in Court (or hire an attorney to appear in Court) to present verbal objections at the Final Approval Hearing. A Participating Class Member who elects to send a written objection to the Administrator must do so not later than forty-five (45) days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional fourteen (14) days for Class Members whose Class Notice was re-mailed).

7.7.3 Non-Participating Class Members have no right to object to any of the class action components of the Settlement.

7.8 Administrator Duties. The Administrator has a duty to perform or observe all tasks to be performed or observed by the Administrator contained in this Agreement or otherwise.

7.8.1 Website, Email Address and Toll-Free Number. The Administrator will establish and maintain and use an internet website to post information of interest to Class Members including the date, time and location for the Final Approval Hearing and copies of the Settlement Agreement, Motion for Preliminary Approval, the Preliminary Approval, the Class Notice, the Motion for Final Approval, the Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Litigation

Costs and Class Representative Payment, the Final Approval and the Judgment. The Administrator will also maintain and monitor an email address and a toll-free telephone number to receive Class Member calls, faxes and emails.

- 7.8.2 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-outs) and Exclusion List. The Administrator will promptly review on a rolling basis Requests for Exclusion to ascertain their validity. Not later than five (5) days after the expiration of the deadline for submitting Requests for Exclusion, the Administrator shall email a list to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel containing (a) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have timely submitted valid Requests for Exclusion (“Exclusion List”); (b) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have submitted invalid Requests for Exclusion; (c) copies of all Requests for Exclusion from Settlement submitted (whether valid or invalid).
- 7.8.3 Weekly Reports. The Administrator must, on a weekly basis, provide written reports to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel that, among other things, tally the number of: Class Notices mailed or re-mailed, Class Notices returned undelivered, Requests for Exclusion (whether valid or invalid) received, objections received, challenges to Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods received and/or resolved, and checks mailed for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments (“Weekly Report”). The Weekly Reports must include the Administrator’s assessment of the validity of Requests for Exclusion and attach copies of all Requests for Exclusion and objections received.
- 7.8.4 Workweek and/or PAGA Pay Period Challenges. The Administrator has the authority to address and make final decisions consistent with the terms of this Agreement on all Class Member challenges over the calculation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods. The Administrator’s decision shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.
- 7.8.5 Administrator’s Declaration. Not later than fourteen (14) days before the date by which Plaintiff are required to file the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, the Administrator will provide to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its due diligence and compliance with all of its obligations under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, its mailing of Class Notice, the Class Notices returned as undelivered, the re-mailing of Class Notices, attempts to locate Class Members, the total number of Requests for Exclusion from Settlement it received (both valid or invalid), the number of written objections and attach the Exclusion List, the high, low, and average Individual Class Payments, and the high, low, and average Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will supplement its declaration as needed or requested by the Parties and/or the Court. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator’s declaration(s) in Court.

7.8.6 Final Report by Settlement Administrator. Within ten (10) days after the Administrator disburses all funds in the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will provide Class Counsel and Defense Counsel with a final report detailing its disbursements by employee identification number only of all payments made under this Agreement. At least fifteen (15) days before any deadline set by the Court, the Administrator will prepare, and submit to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its disbursement of all payments required under this Agreement. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration in Court.

8. **CLASS SIZE ESTIMATES** Based on its records, Defendants estimates that, as of the date of June 15, 2023, (1) there are 1,121 Class Members and 53,909 Total Workweeks during the Class Period and (2) there were 895 Aggrieved Employees who worked 18,585 Pay Periods during the PAGA Period. In the event the number of workweeks between the beginning of the Class Period through June 15, 2023 exceeds 53,909 by more than five (5) percent, Defendant, at its sole discretion, shall either agree (1) that the Class Period end date and the PAGA Period end date will be advanced to the date on which the workweeks equaled 53,909, or (2) that the Gross Settlement Amount will increase proportionately by the number of workweeks in excess of the five (5) percent buffer (i.e. if the workweeks increase by six (6) percent, the Gross Settlement Amount shall increase by one (1) percent).

9. **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, Defendant may, but is not obligated, elect to withdraw from the Settlement. The Parties agree that, if Defendant withdraws, 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, Defendant will remain responsible for paying all Administration Expenses Payment incurred to that point. Defendant must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its election to withdraw not later than seven (7) days within learning this information; late elections will have no effect.

10. **MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.** Not later than sixteen (16) court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff will file in Court, a motion for final approval of the Settlement that includes a request for approval of the PAGA settlement under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l), a Proposed Final Approval Order and a proposed Judgment (collectively "Motion for Final Approval"). Plaintiff shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel not later than seven (7) days prior to filing the Motion for Final Approval. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve any disagreements concerning the Motion for Final Approval.

10.1 Response to Objections. Each Party retains the right to respond to any objection raised by a Participating Class Member, including the right to file responsive documents in Court no later than five (5) days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered or accepted by the Court.

10.2 Duty to Cooperate. If the Court does not grant Final Approval or conditions Final

Approval on any material change to the Settlement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), the Parties will expeditiously work together in good faith to address the Court's concerns by revising the Agreement as necessary to obtain Final Approval. The Court's decision to award less than the amounts requested for the Class Representative Payment, Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs and/or Administration Expenses Payment shall not constitute a material modification to the Agreement within the meaning of this paragraph.

- 10.3 Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court. The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.
- 10.4 Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs reflected set forth in this Settlement, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Participating 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.
- 10.5 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 Payment reasonably incurred after remittitur. An appellate decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of the Class Representative Payment 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.

11. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

- 11.1 No Admission of Liability, Class Certification or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by Defendant that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint

have merit or that Defendant has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendant's defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree that class certification and representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason the Court does grant Preliminary Approval, Final Approval or enter Judgment, Defendant reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reasons, and Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiff reserve the right to move for class certification on any grounds available and to contest Defendant's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement and 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 the Settlement and this Agreement).

- 11.2 Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree that, until the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement is filed, they and each of them will not disclose, disseminate and/or publicize, or cause or permit another person to disclose, disseminate or publicize, any of the terms of the Agreement directly or indirectly, specifically or generally, to any person, corporation, association, government agency, or other entity except: (1) to the Parties' attorneys, accountants, or spouses, all of whom will be instructed to keep this Agreement confidential; (2) counsel in a related matter; (3) to the extent necessary to report income to appropriate taxing authorities; (4) in response to a court order or subpoena; or (5) in response to an inquiry or subpoena issued by a state or federal government agency.

Each Party agrees to immediately notify each other Party of any judicial or agency order, inquiry, or subpoena seeking such information. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree not to, directly or indirectly, initiate any conversation or other communication, before the filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval, any with third party regarding this Agreement or the matters giving rise to this Agreement except to respond only that "the matter was resolved," or words to that effect. This paragraph does not restrict Class Counsel's communications with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

- 11.3 No Solicitation. The Parties separately agree that they and their respective counsel and employees will not solicit any Class Member to opt out of or object to the Settlement, or appeal from the Judgment. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to restrict Class Counsel's ability to communicate with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.
- 11.4 Integrated Agreement. Upon execution by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement together with its attached exhibits shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement, superseding any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements made to or by any Party.
- 11.5 Attorney Authorization. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff and Defendant, respectively, 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 reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.

- 11.6 Cooperation. The Parties will work together expeditiously to obtain preliminary and final approval of this settlement.
- 11.7 No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.
- 11.8 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendants nor Defense Counsel are providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.
- 11.9 Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.
- 11.10 Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 11.11 Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the state of California, without regard to conflict of law principles.
- 11.12 Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.
- 11.13 Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made, and orders entered during Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.
- 11.14 Use and Return of Class Data. Information provided to Class Counsel pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §1152, and all copies and summaries of the Class Data provided to Class Counsel by Defendant in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the 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 90 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, Plaintiff shall destroy, all paper and electronic versions of Class Data received from Defendant unless, prior to the Court's discharge of the Administrator's obligation,

Defendant makes a written request to Class Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of Class Data.

- 11.15 Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.
- 11.16 Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to “days” in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.
- 11.17 Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff:

JCL LAW FIRM, APC
5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600
San Diego, CA 92121
T: 619-599-8292
jlapuyade@jcl-lawfirm.com

ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC
5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600
San Diego, CA 92121
T: 619-892-7095
F: 858-404-9203
Shani@zakaylaw.com

To Defendant:

FISHER & PHILLIPS, LLP
444 South Flower Street, Suite 1500
Los Angeles, CA 90071
T: 213-330-4500
F: 213-330-4501

- 11.18 Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence

and contents of this Agreement.

- 11.19 Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

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IT IS SO AGREED TO AS TO FORM AND CONTENT BY PLAINTIFF:

Dated: 04/04/2024, 2024


Oscar Almanza (Apr 4, 2024 10:12 PDT)
Plaintiff Oscar Almanza

Dated: April 4, 2024



Shani O. Zakay
Zakay Law Group, APLC
Attorney for Plaintiff

Dated: April 4, 2024



Jean-Claude Lapuyade
The JCL Law Firm, APC
Attorney for Plaintiff

IT IS SO AGREED TO AS TO FORM AND CONTENT BY DEFENDANT:

Dated: _____, 2024

For Defendant
HOPE OF THE VALLEY RESCUE MISSION

Dated: _____, 2024

Lonnie D. Giamela
Fisher & Phillips, LLP
Attorney for Defendant

Dated: _____, 2024

Areen Babajanian
Fisher & Phillips, LLP
Attorney for Defendant

IT IS SO AGREED TO AS TO FORM AND CONTENT BY PLAINTIFF:

Dated: _____, 2024

Plaintiff Oscar Almanza

Dated: _____, 2024

Shani O. Zakay
Zakay Law Group, APLC
Attorney for Plaintiff

Dated: _____, 2024

Jean-Claude Lapuyade
The JCL Law Firm, APC
Attorney for Plaintiff

IT IS SO AGREED TO AS TO FORM AND CONTENT BY DEFENDANT:

Dated: Apr 4, 2024 2024

Rowan Vansleve
Rowan Vansleve (Apr 4, 2024 18:19 PDT)

For Defendant
HOPE OF THE VALLEY RESCUE MISSION

Dated: April 4, 2024



Lonnie D. Giamela
Fisher & Phillips, LLP
Attorney for Defendant

Dated: April 4, 2024



Areen Babajanian
Fisher & Phillips, LLP
Attorney for Defendant

Exhibit A

**COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING DATE FOR
FINAL COURT APPROVAL**

Almanza v. Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission, Case No. 22STCV17591

***The Superior Court for the State of California authorized this Notice. Read it carefully!
It's not junk mail, spam, an advertisement, or solicitation by a lawyer. You are not being sued.***

You may be eligible to receive money from an employee class action lawsuit (“Action”) against HOPE OF THE VALLEY RESCUE MISSION (“Defendant”) for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by former employee, Oscar Almanza (“Plaintiff”) and seeks payment of (1) back wages and other relief for a class of all non-exempt employees who are or previously were employed by Defendant and who performed work in California during the Class Period (May 27, 2018, to August 23, 2023) (“Class Members”) ; and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorney General Act (“PAGA”) for all non-exempt employees who are or previously were employed by Defendant and performed work in California during the PAGA Period (March 22, 2021, to August 23, 2023) (“Aggrieved Employees”).

The proposed settlement consists of a payment plan. **Class Members and Aggrieved Employees are not expected to receive their payment until February of 2025.**

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

Based on Defendant’s records, and the Parties’ current assumptions, **your Individual Class Payment is estimated to be \$ XX (less withholding) and your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$ XX.** The actual amount you may receive may be different and will depend on a number of factors. (If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment, then according to Defendant’s records you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you did not work during the PAGA Period.)

The above estimates are based on Defendant’s records showing that **you worked XX workweeks** during the Class Period, and **you worked XX PAGA Pay Periods** during the PAGA Period. If you believe that you worked more workweeks during either period, you can submit a challenge by the deadline date. See Section 4 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 Defendant.

If you worked for Defendant during the Class Period and/or the PAGA Period, you have two basic options under the Settlement:

- (1) **Do Nothing.** You do not have to do anything to participate in the proposed Settlement and be eligible for an Individual Class Payment and/or an Individual PAGA Payment. As a Participating Class Member, though, you will give up your right to assert Class Period wage claims and PAGA Period penalty claims against Defendant.
- (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, and, if you are an Aggrieved Employee, remain eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

Defendant 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

You Don't Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement	If you do nothing, you will be a Participating Class Member, eligible for an Individual Class Payment and an Individual PAGA Payment (if any). In exchange, you will give up your right to assert the wage claims against Defendant that are covered by this Settlement (Released Claims).
You Can Opt-out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement The Opt-out Deadline is _____	If you don't want to fully participate in the proposed Settlement, you can opt-out of the Class Settlement by sending the Administrator a written Request for Exclusion. Once excluded, you will be a Non-Participating Class Member and no longer eligible for an Individual Class Payment. Non-Participating Class Members cannot object to any portion of the proposed Settlement. See Section 6 of this Notice. You cannot opt-out of 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 Claims (defined below).

Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement Written Objections Must be Submitted by	All Class Members who do not opt-out (“Participating Class Members”) can object to any aspect of the proposed Settlement. The Court’s decision whether to finally approve the Settlement will include a determination of how much will be paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff who pursued the Action on behalf of the Class. You are not personally responsible for any payments to Class Counsel.
You Can Participate in the Final Approval Hearing	The Court’s Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on _____. You do not have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone or by using the Court’s virtual appearance platform. Participating Class Members can verbally object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing. See Section 8 of this Notice.
You Can Challenge the Calculation of Your Workweeks/Pay Periods Written Challenges Must be Submitted by	The amount of your Individual Class Payment and PAGA Payment (if any) depend on how many workweeks you worked at least one day during the Class Period and how many PAGA Pay Periods you worked at least one day during the PAGA Period, respectively. The number Class Period Workweeks and number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked according to Defendant’s records is stated on the first page of this Notice. If you disagree with either of these numbers, you must challenge it by _____. See Section 4 of this Notice.

1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?

Plaintiff is a former employee of Defendant. The Action accuses Defendant of violating California labor laws by failing to pay minimum wages, including overtime wages; failing to provide legally compliant meal and rest periods; failing to pay wages when due; failing to reimburse for mandatory business expenses; failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements; failing to compensate for off-the-clock work; and failing to maintain required records. Based on the same claims, Plaintiff has also asserted a claim for civil penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq.) (“PAGA”). Plaintiff are represented by attorneys in the Action:

The JCL Law Firm, APC, and the Zakay Law Group, APLC (“Class Counsel.”)

Defendant strongly denies violating any laws or failing to pay any wages and contends it complied with all applicable laws.

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE ACTION HAS SETTLED?

So far, the Court has made no determination whether Defendant or Plaintiff are correct on the merits. In the meantime, Plaintiff and Defendant hired a neutral mediator in an effort to resolve the Action by negotiating to end the case by agreement (settle the case) rather than continuing the expensive and time-consuming process of litigation. The negotiations were successful. By signing a lengthy written settlement agreement (“Agreement”) and agreeing to jointly ask the Court to enter a judgment ending the Action and enforcing the Agreement, Plaintiff and Defendant have negotiated a proposed Settlement that is subject to the Court’s Final Approval. Both sides agree the proposed Settlement is a compromise of disputed claims. By agreeing to settle, Defendant does not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims.

Plaintiff and Class Counsel strongly believe the Settlement is a good deal for you because they believe that: (1) Defendant has agreed to pay a fair, reasonable and adequate amount considering the strength of the claims and the risks and uncertainties of continued litigation; and (2) Settlement is in the best interests of the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. The Court preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, authorized this Notice, and scheduled a hearing to determine Final Approval.

3. WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT TERMS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

1. Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant will pay \$500,000.00 as the Gross Settlement Amount (“Gross Settlement Amount”). Defendant has agreed to deposit the Gross Settlement Amount into an account controlled by the Administrator of the Settlement in four equal installment payments. The Administrator will use the Gross Settlement Amount to pay the Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, Class Representative Payment, Class Counsel’s attorney’s fees and expenses, the Administrator’s expenses, and penalties to be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”). Assuming

the Court grants Final Approval, Defendant will fund the Gross Settlement Amount as follows: First Installment in the amount of \$125,000 by July 1, 2024; Second Installment in the amount of \$125,000 by October 1, 2024; Third Installment in the amount of \$125,000 by January 1, 2025; and Fourth Installment in the amount of \$125,000 by April 1, 2025. The Judgment will be final on the date the Court enters Judgment, or a later date if Participating Class Members object to the proposed Settlement or the Judgment is appealed.

2. Court Approved Deductions from Gross Settlement Amount. At the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve the following deductions from the Gross Settlement Amount, the amounts of which will be decided by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing:
 - A. Up to \$166,666.67 (One-third of the Gross Settlement Amount) to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees. This Attorneys' Fees Payment shall be divided between Class Counsel as follows: 50% to JCL Law Firm, APC, and 50% to Zakay Law Group, APLC. Class Counsel will also ask the Court to approve and up to \$20,000 for their litigation expenses. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.
 - B. Up to \$10,000.00 to the Class Representative as a Class Representative Payment for filing the Action, working with Class Counsel and representing the Class. A Class Representative Award will be the only monies Plaintiff will receive other than each Plaintiff's respective Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment.
 - C. Up to \$15,250.00 to the Administrator for services administering the Settlement.
 - D. Up to \$35,000.00 for PAGA Payment, allocated 75% to the LWDA Payment and 25% in Individual PAGA Payments to the Aggrieved Employees based on their PAGA Pay Periods.

Participating Class Members have the right to object to any of these deductions. The Court will consider all objections.

3. Net Settlement Distributed to Class Members. After making the above deductions in amounts approved by the Court, the Administrator will distribute the rest of the Gross Settlement Amount (the "Net Settlement") by making Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members based on their Class Period Workweeks.
4. Taxes Owed on Payments to Class Members. Plaintiff and Defendant are asking the Court to approve an allocation of 20% of each Individual Class Payment to taxable wages ("Wage Portion") and 80% to interests and penalties ("Non-Wage Portion."). The Wage Portion is subject to withholdings and will be reported on IRS W-2 Forms. Defendant will separately pay employer payroll taxes it owes on the Wage Portion. The Individual PAGA Payments are counted as penalties rather than wages for tax purposes. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments and the Non-Wage Portions of the Individual Class

Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

Although Plaintiff and Defendant have agreed to these allocations, neither side is giving you any advice on whether your Payments are taxable or how much you might owe in taxes. You are responsible for paying all taxes (including penalties and interest on back taxes) on any Payments received from the proposed Settlement. You should consult a tax advisor if you have any questions about the tax consequences of the proposed Settlement.

5. Need to Promptly Cash Payment Checks. The front of every check issued for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments will show the date when the check expires (the void date). If you do not cash it by the void date, your check will be automatically cancelled, and the monies will be deposited with the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in your name.

If the monies represented by your check are sent to the Controller's Unclaimed Property, you should consult the rules of the Fund for instructions on how to retrieve your money.

6. Requests for Exclusion from the Class Settlement (Opt-Outs). 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 **MONTH XX, 202X**, that you wish to opt-out. The easiest way to notify the Administrator is to send a written and signed Request for Exclusion by **MONTH XX, 202X**, Response Deadline. The Request for Exclusion should be a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative setting forth a Class Member's name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement electing to be excluded from the Settlement. Excluded Class Members (i.e., Non-Participating Class Members) will not receive Individual Class Payments but will preserve their rights to personally pursue wage and hour claims against Defendant.

You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Class Members 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 Defendant based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action.

7. The Proposed Settlement Will be Void if the Court Denies Final Approval. It is possible the Court will decline to grant Final Approval of the Settlement or decline enter a Judgment. It is also possible the Court will enter a Judgment that is reversed on appeal. Plaintiff and Defendant have agreed that, in either case, the Settlement will be void: Defendant will not pay any money and Class Members will not release any claims against Defendant.
8. Administrator. The Court has appointed a neutral company, Apex Class Action LLC (the "Administrator") to send this Notice, calculate and make payments, and process Class Members' Requests for Exclusion. The Administrator will also decide Class Member Challenges over Workweeks, mail and re-mail settlement checks and tax forms, and perform other tasks necessary to administer the Settlement. The Administrator's contact information

is contained in Section 9 of this Notice.

9. Participating Class Members' Release. After the Judgment is final and Defendant has fully funded the Gross Settlement Amount, and separately paid all employer payroll taxes, Participating Class Members will be legally barred from asserting any of the claims released under the Settlement. This means that unless you opted out by validly excluding yourself from the Class Settlement, you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendant or related entities for wages based on the Class Period facts and PAGA Payment based on PAGA Period facts, as alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

The Participating Class Members will be bound by the following release: all Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release "Released Parties" from all class claims alleged in the operative complaint, or which could have reasonably been alleged in the operative complaint based on the facts alleged, which occurred during the Class Period, including claims under California Labor Code Sections 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, and 2804, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, and class claims outside of the Class Period. "Released Parties" means Defendant and all of its respective current and former partners, parents, subsidiaries, predecessors and successors, joint employers, and their affiliated entities, and each of their respective owners, officers, directors, managing agents, exempt-employees, partners, shareholders, and agents, and any other successors, heirs, assigns, or legal representatives, any attorneys, insurers, and claims representatives.

10. Aggrieved Employees' PAGA Release. After the Court's judgment is final, and Defendant has paid the Gross Settlement Amount (and separately paid the employer-side payroll taxes), all Aggrieved Employees will be barred from asserting PAGA claims against Defendants, whether or not they exclude themselves from the Settlement. 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. The Aggrieved Employees' Releases for Participating and Non-Participating Class Members are as follows:

All Participating and Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties, from all PAGA claims alleged in the operative complaint and Plaintiff's PAGA notice to the LWDA which occurred during the PAGA Period including claims for PAGA penalties arising from California Labor Code Sections 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d),

1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, and 2804, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, and PAGA claims outside of the PAGA Period

4. HOW WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR CALCULATE MY PAYMENT?

1. Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual Class Payments by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members, and (b) multiplying the result by the number of Workweeks worked by each individual Participating Class Member.
2. Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing \$8,750 by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees and (b) multiplying the result by the number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by each individual Aggrieved Employee.
3. Workweek/PAGA Pay Period Challenges. The number of Class Workweeks you worked during the Class Period and the number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked during the PAGA Period, as recorded in Defendant's records, are stated in the first page of this Notice. You have until **MONTH XX, 202X** to challenge the number of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods credited to you. You can submit your challenge by signing and sending a letter to the Administrator via mail, email, or fax. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

You need to support your challenge by sending copies of pay stubs or other records. The Administrator will accept Defendant's calculation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods based on Defendant's records as accurate unless you send copies of records containing contrary information. You should send copies rather than originals because the documents will not be returned to you. The Administrator will resolve Workweek and/or PAGA Pay Period challenges based on your submission and on input from Class Counsel (who will advocate on behalf of Participating Class Members) and Defendant's Counsel. The Administrator's decision is final. You cannot appeal or otherwise challenge its final decision.

5. HOW WILL I GET PAID?

1. Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single check to every Participating Class Member (i.e., every Class Member who does not opt-out) including those who also qualify as Aggrieved Employees. The single check will combine the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment.
2. Non-Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single Individual PAGA Payment check to every Aggrieved Employee who opts out of the Class Settlement (i.e., every Non-Participating Class Member).

Your check will be sent to the same address as in this Notice. If you change your address, be sure to notify the Administrator as soon as possible. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

6. HOW DO I OPT-OUT OF THE CLASS SETTLEMENT?

Submit a written and signed letter with your name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement that you do not want to participate in the Settlement. The Administrator will exclude you based on any writing communicating your request be excluded. Be sure to personally sign your request, identify the Action as *Almanza v. Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission, Case No. 22STCV17591*, and include your identifying information (full name, address, telephone number, approximate dates of employment, and social security number for verification purposes). You must make the request yourself. If someone else makes the request for you, it will not be valid. **The Administrator must receive your request to be excluded by MONTH XX, 202X, or it will be invalid.** Section 9 of the Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

7. HOW DO I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT?

Only Participating Class Members have the right to object to the Settlement. Before deciding whether to object, you may wish to see what Plaintiff and Defendants are asking the Court to approve. At least twenty-eight (28) days before the **MONTH XX, 202X** Final Approval Hearing, Class Counsel and/or Plaintiff will file in Court (1) a Motion for Final Approval that includes, among other things, the reasons why the proposed Settlement is fair, and (2) a Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs and Service Award stating (i) the amount Class Counsel is requesting for attorneys' fees and litigation expenses; and (ii) the amount Plaintiff is requesting as a Class Representative Award. Upon reasonable request, Class Counsel (whose contact information is in Section 9 of this Notice) will send you copies of these documents at no cost to you. You can also view them on the Administrator's Website <https://www.apexclassaction.com/> or the Court's website <https://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/>.

A Participating Class Member who disagrees with any aspect of the Agreement, the Motion for Final Approval and/or Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs, and Service Award may wish to object. **The deadline for sending written objections to the Administrator is MONTH XX, 202X.** Be sure to tell the Administrator what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. Make sure you identify the Action *Almanza v. Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission, Case No. 22STCV17591* and include your name, current address, telephone number, and approximate dates of employment for Defendant and sign the objection. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

Alternatively, a Participating Class Member can object (or personally retain a lawyer to object at your own cost) by attending the Final Approval Hearing. You (or your attorney) should be ready to tell the Court what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your

objection. See Section 8 of this Notice (immediately below) for specifics regarding the Final Approval Hearing.

8. CAN I ATTEND THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING?

You can, but don't have to, attend the Final Approval Hearing on **MONTH XX, 202X** at **XX:XX am/pm** in Department 1 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. At the Hearing, the judge will decide whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and how much of the Gross Settlement Amount will be paid to Class Counsel, Plaintiff, and the Administrator. The Court will invite comment from objectors, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel before making a decision. You can attend (or hire a lawyer to attend) either personally or virtually via LACourtConnect (<https://www.lacourt.org/lacc/>). Check the Court's website for the most current information.

It is possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the Administrator's website <https://www.apexclassaction.com/> beforehand or contact Class Counsel to verify the date and time of the Final Approval Hearing.

9. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The Agreement sets forth everything Defendants and Plaintiff have promised to do under the proposed Settlement. The easiest way to read the Agreement, the Judgment or any other Settlement documents is to go to Apex Class Action LLC's website at <https://www.apexclassaction.com/>. You can also telephone or send an email to Class Counsel or the Administrator using the contact information listed below, or consult the Superior Court website by going to (<https://portal.sccscourt.org/search>) and entering the Case Number for the Action, Case No. 22STCV34427. You can also make an appointment to personally review court documents in the Clerk's Office at the Los Angeles Superior Court.

DO NOT TELEPHONE THE SUPERIOR COURT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT.

JCL LAW FIRM, APC
5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600
San Diego, CA 92121
T: 619-599-8292
jlapuyade@jcl-lawfirm.com

ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC
5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600
San Diego, CA 92121
T: 619-892-7095
F: 858-404-9203

Shani@zakaylaw.com

Settlement Administrator:

Apex Class Action LLC
20371 Irvine Avenue,
Newport Beach, CA 92660;
Tel: (800) 355-0700

10. WHAT IF I LOSE MY SETTLEMENT CHECK?

If you lose or misplace your settlement check before cashing it, the Administrator will replace it as long as you request a replacement before the void date on the face of the original check. If your check is already void, you should consult the Unclaimed Property Fund for instructions on how to retrieve the funds.

11. WHAT IF I CHANGE MY ADDRESS?

To receive your check, you should immediately notify the Administrator if you move or otherwise change your mailing address.

EXHIBIT 2

JCL LAW FIRM, APC

Jean-Claude Lapuyade (State Bar #248676)

Monnett De La Torre (State Bar #272884)

Andrea Amaya (State Bar #348080)

5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600

San Diego, CA 92121

Telephone: (619) 599-8292

Facsimile: (619) 599-8291

jlapuyade@jcl-lawfirm.com

mdelatorre@jcl-lawfirm.com

aamaya@jcl-lawfirm.com

ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC

Shani O. Zakay (State Bar #277924)

5440 Morehouse Drive, Suite 3600

San Diego, CA 92121

Telephone: (619)255-9047

Facsimile: (858) 404-9203

shani@zakaylaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff OSCAR ALMANZA

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

OSCAR ALMANZA, an individual, on behalf of
himself and on behalf of all persons similarly
situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

HOPE OF THE VALLEY RESCUE MISSION, a
California Nonprofit Corporation; and DOES 1-
50, Inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 22STCV17591

**~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER GRANTING
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Hearing Date: April 5, 2024

Hearing Time: 10:30 a.m.

Judge: Hon. Stuart M. Rice

Dept: 1

1 **TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNSEL OF RECORD:**

2 The Motion for Preliminary Approval of a Class Action and PAGA Settlement came before this
3 Court, on April 5, 2024 in Department 1 before the Honorable Stuart M. Rice, presiding. The Court
4 having considered the papers submitted in support of the application of the parties, HEREBY ORDERS
5 THE FOLLOWING:

6 1. The Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement and the Settlement Class based
7 upon the terms set forth in the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) filed
8 herewith. All terms used herein shall have the same meaning as defined in the Agreement.

9 2. The Settlement set forth in the Agreement, for a Gross Settlement Amount of \$500,000
10 appears to be fair, adequate and reasonable to the Class. The Settlement falls within the range of
11 reasonableness and appears to be presumptively valid, subject only to any objections that may be raised
12 at the final fairness hearing and final approval by this Court. It further appears that investigation and
13 research have been conducted such that counsel for the Parties are able to reasonably evaluate their
14 respective positions. It further appears to the Court that settlement at this time will avoid substantial
15 additional costs by all Parties, as well as avoid the delay and risks that would be presented by the further
16 prosecution of the Action. It further appears that the Settlement has been reached as the result of
17 intensive, serious and non-collusive, arms-length negotiations. The Parties are ordered to carry out the
18 settlement according to the terms of the Agreement and in conformity with this Order. The Net
19 Settlement Amount of approximately \$254,333.33 shall equal the amount available for Individual Class
20 Payments after deducting the Court-approved amounts for the Individual PAGA Payments, LWDA
21 PAGA Payment, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel
22 Litigation Expenses, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The Court has reviewed the monetary
23 recovery that is being granted as part of the Settlement and preliminarily finds that the monetary
24 settlement awards made available to Class Members is fair, adequate, and reasonable when balanced
25 against the probable outcome of further litigation relating to certification, liability, and damages issues.

26 3. A final fairness hearing on the question of whether the proposed Settlement, including
27 Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, Administration Expenses
28 Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment to Plaintiff should be finally approved as fair,

1 reasonable and adequate as to the members of the Class is scheduled in Department 1 on the date and
2 time set forth in the implementation schedule in Paragraph 11 below. The Agreement specifies for a
3 Class Counsel Fees Payment in the amount not to exceed one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount,
4 currently estimated to be One Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars and Sixty-
5 Seven Cents (\$166,666.67) **and** a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment not to exceed Twenty
6 Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$20,000.00). The Agreement also specifies for a Class
7 Representative Service Payment in the amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents
8 (\$10,000.00) to Plaintiff. The Agreement also specifies for Administration Expenses Payment in the
9 amount not to exceed Fourteen Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$14,000.00). The Agreement also
10 specifies for a PAGA Payment in the amount of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents
11 (\$35,000.00). This PAGA Payment shall be allocated as follows: 75% (\$26,250.00) allocated to the
12 LWDA and 25% (\$8,750.00) allocated to Individual PAGA Payments. While these payments and
13 awards appear to be within the range of reasonableness, the Court will not approve the Class Counsel
14 Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, Administration Expenses Payment, and
15 Class Representative Service Payments, until the Final Approval Hearing. Class Counsel and the Class
16 Representative will be required to present evidence supporting these requests, including lodestar, prior
17 to final approval.

18 4. This Court approves, as to form and content, the Notice of Class Action Settlement and
19 Hearing Date for Final Court Approval. The Court approves the procedure for Class Members to opt out
20 of, or to object to, the Settlement as set forth in the Agreement and Notice.

21 5. The Court directs the mailing of the Notice of Class Action Settlement and Hearing Date
22 for Final Court Approval by first class mail to the Class Members in accordance with the Implementation
23 Schedule set forth below. The Court finds the dates selected for the mailing and distribution of the
24 Notice, as set forth in the Implementation Schedule, meet the requirements of due process and provide
25 the best notice practicable under the circumstances and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all
26 persons entitled thereto.

27 6. Specifically, the Notice Packet fairly, plainly, accurately, and reasonably informs Class
28 Members of: (1) the nature of the Action, the definition of the Class, the identity of Class Counsel, and

1 the essential terms of the Settlement, including the plan of allocation; (2) Plaintiff's and Class Counsel's
2 applications for the Class Representative Service Payment to Plaintiff, and Class Counsel's request for
3 attorneys' fees and litigation costs; (3) a formula used to determine the Class Members' estimated
4 Individual Class Payment; (4) how to claim a share of the proceeds under the Settlement, and Class
5 Members' right to appear through counsel if they desire; (5) how to object to the Settlement or to opt-
6 out if a Class Member wishes to do so; and (6) how to obtain additional information regarding the Action
7 and the Settlement. (California Rule of Court 3.766.) The Court finds that the notice requirements of
8 California Rule of Court 3.769(e) and (f) are satisfied, and that the Notice that will be provided
9 adequately advises Class Members of their rights under the settlement. Counsel for the Parties are
10 authorized to correct any typographical errors in the Notice Packet and make clarifications, to the extent
11 the same are found or needed, so long as such corrections do not materially alter the substance of the
12 documents. The Court further finds that the distribution of the Class Notice is substantially in the manner
13 and form set forth in the Agreement and this Order meets the requirements of due process, is the best
14 notice practicable under the circumstances, and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons
15 entitled thereto. The Court orders the mailing of the Class Notice by first class mail, pursuant to the
16 terms set forth in the Agreement.

17 7. It is ordered that the Settlement Class is preliminarily certified for settlement purposes
18 only. For Settlement purposes only, the Court conditionally certifies the Class, consisting of "all non-
19 exempt employees who are or previously were employed by Defendant and performed work in
20 California during the Class Period." The Class Period is the period between May 27, 2018 and August
21 23, 2023.

22 8. The Court concludes that, for settlement purposes only, the Class meets the requirements
23 for certification under Section 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure in that: (a) the Class is
24 ascertainable and so numerous that joinder of all Class Members is impracticable; (b) common questions
25 of law and fact predominate, and there is a well-defined community of interest amongst the Class
26 Members with respect to the subject matter of the litigation; (c) the claims of the named Plaintiff are
27 typical of the claims of the Class Members; (d) the Class Representative will fairly and adequately
28 protect the interests of the Class Members; (e) a class action is superior to other available methods for

the efficient adjudication of this controversy; and (f) counsel for the Class is qualified to act as counsel for the Class.

9. The Court confirms Plaintiff Oscar Almanza as Class Representative, and Shani O. Zakay of Zakay Law Group, APLC and Jean-Claude Lapuyade of JCL Law Firm, APC as Class Counsel.

10. The Court confirms the appointment of Apex Class Action, LLC as the Settlement Administrator.

11. The Court orders the following Implementation Schedule for further proceedings:

a.	Deadline for Defendants to Submit Class Data to Settlement Administrator	15 calendar days after Order granting Preliminary Approval
b.	Deadline for Settlement Administrator to Mail Class Notice to Class Members	3 business days after receiving Class Data from Defendants
c.	Deadline for Class Members to Postmark Requests for Exclusion	45 calendar days after mailing of the Notice
d.	Deadline for Receipt by Court, Settlement Administrator, and Counsel of any Objections to Settlement	45 calendar days after mailing of the Notice
e.	Deadline for Class Counsel to file Motion for Final Approval of Settlement, including Request for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Class Representative Service Payment	16 Court days before Final Approval Hearing
f.	Deadline for Settlement Administrator to file Declaration of Due Diligence and Proof of Mailing	14 days before the hearing on Plaintiff's Motion for Final Approval of Settlement
g.	Final Fairness Hearing and Final Approval	September 16, 2024 at 10:30 AM

h.	Deadline for Defendants to fund Settlement	Installment One (\$125,000) due July 1, 2024 Installment Two (\$125,000) due October 1, 2024 Installment Three (\$125,000) due January 1, 2025 Installment Four (\$125,000) due April 1, 2025 To the extent final approval is not made by June 15, 2025, the first payment shall be due 21 days after final approval with the second installment due 90 days thereafter, the third installment 90 days after the second installment, and the fourth installment 90 days after the third installment
i.	Deadline for Settlement Administrator to mail the Individual Payments and the Class Representative Service Payment, and to wire transfer the Attorneys' Fees and Costs (if Settlement is Effective)	Ten calendar days after Defendant funds the Third Installment, including required employer-side payroll taxes
j.	Deadline for Class Members to cash Individual Payment checks (if Settlement is Effective)	180 calendar days after Settlement Administrator mails the Individual Payments

12. The Court reserves the right to adjourn or continue the date of the final approval hearing and all dates provided for in the Agreement without further notice to Class Members, and retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the proposed Settlement.

13. As of the date this Order is signed, all dates and deadlines associated with the Action shall be stayed, other than those contemplated herein and in the Settlement Agreement, and pertaining to the administration of the settlement of the Action.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: April 15, 2024



Stuart M. Rice

Stuart M. Rice / Judge
HON. STUART M. RICE
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

EXHIBIT 3

Thank you for your Proposed Settlement Submission

DIR PAGA Unit <lwdadonotreply@dir.ca.gov>

Mon 3/11/2024 2:15 PM

To: Madelyn Uchiyama <muchiyama@jcl-lawfirm.com>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

03/11/2024 02:14:28 PM

Thank you for your submission to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

Item submitted: Proposed Settlement

If you have questions or concerns regarding this submission or your case, please send an email to pagainfo@dir.ca.gov.

DIR PAGA Unit on behalf of
Labor and Workforce Development Agency

Website: https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Flabor.ca.gov%2FPrivate_Atorneys_General_Act.htm&data=05%7C02%7Cmuchiyama%40jcl-lawfirm.com%7C8910b66f64e742e5905f08dc4210625e%7C1f72d94e1dff4b9e9f45bdb37d49a25e%7C0%7C0%7C638457885362613917%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ij1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bxy1qMNtLWBmvKEUg%2FgZrTRcRcuCgbC8vDWVkhJwGPI%3D&reserved=0

EXHIBIT 4

EXHIBIT 5

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

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 Western 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

Monnett De La Torre, Esq.
California Bar Number 272884
Senior Associate

Biography:

Ms. De La Torre is a San Diego and Ventura County based labor and employment attorney representing aggrieved California employees throughout the State of California. Ms. De La Torre's litigation practice focuses on representing California employees in wage and hour class and representative actions for unpaid wages, missed meal and rest breaks, misclassification, penalties, and wrongful termination cases. Ms. De La Torre has extensive experience handling internal workplace investigations. Ms. De La Torre has handled matters before the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Department of Labor.

Ms. De La Torre is a two-time recipient of the Super Lawyers Rising Star by Thomas 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 five 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

Professional Associations:

- California Employment Lawyers Association, 2022 to Present
- Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, 2010-2015
- American Bar Association, Labor & Employment Section, Member, 2015 to Present
- California Bar Association, Labor & Employment Section, Member, 2015 to Present
- San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association, 2010-2015
- Ventura County Bar Association, 2015-Present
- Women Lawyers of Ventura County, 2015-Present

Education:

- **New England School of Law**
 - J.D.- 2010

- Honors:
 - Dean's List Consecutive years
- **University of California, San Diego**
 - B.A.- 2006
 - Major: Economics
 - Minor: Latin American Studies

Honors:

- Super Lawyers Rising Star, Thomson Reuters, 2021 and 2022
- Pacific Cost Business Times, "Top 40 under 40" Award
- Daily Transcripts "Top Young Attorney: nominee, consecutive years"

REPORTED CASES

- *Blanchette et al., v. Superior Court (GHA Homes)*, 8 Cal.App.5th 521, 2017
- *Chmurny v. State*, 392 Md. 159, 2006

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, Inc., 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);