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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

Coordination Proceeding
Special Title (Rule 3.550)

RCSH WAGE AND HOUR CASES

Included Actions:

Eddie Castillo, et al. v. RCSH Operations, Inc., et al., San Francisco County Superior Court Case No. CGC-21-594237

Eddie Castillo v. RCSH Operations, Inc., et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 21SMCV01530

Adrian Quiroz Guerrero, et al. v. Ruth's Hospitality Group, Inc., Riverside County Superior Court Case No. RIC1804127

Amanda M. Patterson v. RCSH Operations, Inc., Contra Costa County Superior Court Case No. MSC21-02077

Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding
No. 5243
Riverside County Superior Court Case
No.
JCCP5243

Honorable Harold W. Hopp
Department 1

CLASS ACTION

DECLARATION OF JUAN CARLOS MENENDEZ FUNES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT, FEE AWARD, CLASS COUNSEL LITIGATION EXPENSES PAYMENTS, AND CLASS REPRESENTATIVE SERVICE PAYMENTS

Date: July 11, 2024
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Department: 1

DECLARATION OF JUAN CARLOS MENENDEZ FUNES

I, **Juan Carlos Menendez Funes**, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am over 18 years of age and a resident of California. I am one of the named plaintiffs in the cases entitled *Eddie Castillo, et al. v. RCSH Operations, Inc., et al.*, San Francisco County Superior Court Case No. CGC-21-594237 and *Eddie Castillo v. RCSH Operations, Inc., et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 21SMCV01530, which were coordinated into the RCSH Wage and Hour Cases, Riverside Superior Court Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding Number 5243. I have personal knowledge of the facts and statements set forth in this declaration, and if called upon to testify, I could and would competently testify thereto.

2. I was employed by Defendants RCSH Operations, Inc. and Ruth's Hospitality Group, Inc. (together, "Defendants") as an hourly-paid employee from approximately February 2008 to approximately June 2019 as a non-exempt, hourly-paid employee. I decided to seek legal advice about my work experiences with Defendants and about pursuing my grievances. I contacted Lawyers *for* Justice, PC and spoke with attorneys there. I wanted to do whatever I could to make sure Defendants paid me and other employees what was owed to us and was held accountable for its practice of not properly compensating its employees for all hours worked and non-compliant meal and rest breaks. After speaking with the attorneys, I investigated complex wage-and-hour and class action lawsuits on my own and did some research into the leading class action and employment law firms in California for approximately **7 hours**. Thereafter, I consulted with the attorneys at Lawyers *for* Justice, PC for **8 hours** discussing my situation, complex wage-and-hour class actions, and what it meant to be a named plaintiff and class representative.

3. I have spent over **8 hours** communicating with my attorneys regarding the cases and fulfilling my responsibilities as a class representative, which included gathering documents concerning my employment with Defendant reviewing documents with my attorneys, providing information regarding the duties of hourly-paid and non-exempt employees, and helping develop a strategy as to what documents and information to obtain from Defendants. I routinely checked in with my attorneys and their staff to make sure that they had all of my most current information and any additional information that I had obtained.

4. Since becoming involved in this action, I was available to answer any questions my

1 attorneys had and was available to speak and meet with my attorneys whenever they needed me. I
2 responded to them as quickly as possible and gave them as much information and identified as many
3 documents as I could. I spent at least **7 additional hours** speaking with my attorneys about the cases,
4 identifying potential witnesses, providing my attorneys with documents and information concerning the
5 case, and also describing policies, practices, and procedures of Defendant.

6 5. As far as the settlement is concerned, I was available to review documents and answer
7 any questions my attorneys had. I spent about **2 hours** reviewing the settlement agreement and about **2**
8 **hours** asking questions and discussing the potential settlement with my attorneys before signing the
9 settlement agreement.

10 6. I have not entered into any undisclosed agreements, nor have I received any undisclosed
11 compensation in this case. The only compensation I will receive is whatever amount the Court awards
12 as a general release fee, as well as my share of the settlement as an aggrieved employee.

13 7. I fully understand the risk I faced in serving as a class representative and that doing so
14 could make the cases more complex. However, I do so to ensure that not only myself, but others,
15 would be able to receive what they were owed.

16 8. Since joining this lawsuit, I have considered the interests of the Class Members just as I
17 would consider my own interests. I understand and have understood throughout the lawsuit that I must
18 put the interests of the Class Members before my own interests. Although I was concerned and afraid
19 about being the Class Representative in this public lawsuit, I decided to put my own interests aside and
20 bring a lawsuit that would be beneficial not just for myself, but for all employees. To the best of my
21 knowledge, I have not yet suffered any adverse consequences as a result of this lawsuit, but neither
22 have I received any benefit for representing the Class or for the help I provided my attorneys. As of
23 this date, I have not incurred any expenses to further prosecution of these actions.

24 9. Further, as part of the Settlement, I have agreed to a much broader individual release
25 than that agreed to by the rest of the Class. This release encompasses all claims I have against the
26 Released Parties, arising at any time up to and including the effective date.

27 10. I believe that I have done everything that my attorneys have asked of me and have tried,
28 to the best of my ability, to represent the class and seek relief for the aggrieved employees and the State

1 of California. I think my efforts helped to get the result obtained in the cases, and as a class
2 representative, I respectfully request that the Court award me a service payment in the amount of
3 \$25,000.00 for my active participation in the cases. Taking into consideration the time that I have
4 dedicated to the cases, I believe that this amount is reasonable.

5 11. I am not, and have never been, a named class representative in any other case, pending
6 or closed.

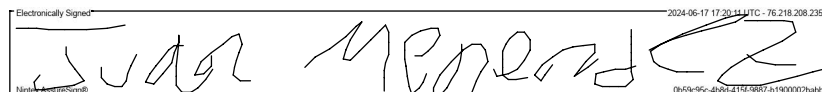
7 12. I believe that I have done everything that my attorneys have asked of me and have tried,
8 to the best of my ability, to represent the class. I think my efforts helped to get the result obtained in
9 this case, and as a class representative, I respectfully request that the Court award me service payment
10 in the amount of \$25,000.00 for my active participation in the cases. Taking into consideration the time
11 that I have dedicated to the cases, I believe that this amount is reasonable.

12 13. I am not related to anyone associated with Lawyers *for* Justice, PC, JCL Law Firm,
13 APC, Zakay Law Group, APLC, Sirmabekian Law Firm, P.C., or Srourian Law Firm P.C.

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

16 06/17/2024

17 Executed this ___ day of June 2024, at San Francisco, California.

18 The image shows a rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be 'Juan Carlos Menendez Funes'. Above the signature, the text 'Electronically Signed' is visible. To the right of the signature, there is a date and time stamp: '2024-06-17 17:20:44 UTC -76:218.208.235'. Below the signature, there is a long alphanumeric string: '0b59c95c-4b8d-41bf-9887-5a1900002babb'.

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