

1 DOUGLAS HAN (SBN 232858)  
2 SHUNT TATAVOS-GHARAJEH (SBN 272164)  
3 JASON ROTHMAN (SBN 304961)  
4 HAIG HOGDANIAN (SBN 334699)  
5 **JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION**  
6 751 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 101  
Pasadena, California 91103  
Tel: (818) 230-7502  
Fax: (818) 230-7259

7 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

8 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
9 **FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

10 MATHEW LANTZ, individually, and on  
11 behalf of other members of the general  
12 public similarly situated;

13 Plaintiff,

14 v.

15 TRIO MANUFACTURING, INC., a  
16 California corporation; and DOES 1 through  
17 100, inclusive;

18 Defendants.

Case No.: 21STCV44007

Assigned for All Purposes to:  
Honorable Lawrence P. Riff  
Department 7

**CLASS ACTION**

**~~[PROPOSED]~~ ORDER GRANTING  
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR  
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS  
ACTION SETTLEMENT,  
CONDITIONAL CERTIFICATION,  
APPROVAL OF CLASS NOTICE,  
SETTING OF FINAL APPROVAL  
HEARING DATE**

Hearing Date: May 11, 2023  
Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Hearing Place: Department 7

Complaint Filed: December 2, 2021  
Trial Date: None Set

**FILED**  
Superior Court of California  
County of Los Angeles  
05/12/2023

David W. Slayton, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court  
By:           A. Morales           Deputy

1 **TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:**

2 The Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement came before this Court,  
3 the Honorable Lawrence P. Riff presiding, on May 11, 2023. The Court having considered the  
4 papers submitted in support of the Motion, **HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:**

5 1. The following Class is conditionally certified for purposes of settlement only: all  
6 current and former non-exempt hourly employees who are or were employed by Defendant Trio  
7 Manufacturing, Inc. (“Defendant”) in California at any time during the period from December 2,  
8 2017 to February 28, 2023 (“Class,” “Class Members,” and “Class Period”).

9 2. The Court grants preliminary approval of the settlement based upon the terms set  
10 forth in the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Class Notice (“Settlement  
11 Agreement,” “Agreement,” or “Settlement”) attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**. Capitalized terms  
12 shall have the definitions set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

13 3. The settlement embodied in the Settlement Agreement appears to be fair,  
14 adequate, and reasonable to the Class. The Settlement falls within the range of reasonableness  
15 and appears to be presumptively valid, subject only to any objections that may be raised at the  
16 Final Approval Hearing.

17 4. Mathew Lantz (“Plaintiff”) is conditionally approved as the class representative.

18 5. Douglas Han, Shunt Tatavos-Gharajeh, and Jason Rothman of Justice Law  
19 Corporation are conditionally approved as Class Counsel for the Class.

20 6. The Court confirms Phoenix Class Action Administration Solutions as the  
21 Administrator.

22 7. The proposed Gross Settlement Amount of \$633,000 is conditionally approved.

23 8. The proposed payment of the Class Counsel Fees Payment to Class Counsel not  
24 to exceed \$221,550 (35% of the Gross Settlement Amount) and Class Counsel Litigation  
25 Expenses Payment to Class Counsel for actual litigation costs incurred not to exceed \$25,000 are  
26 conditionally approved.

27 9. The proposed Class Representative Service Payment not to exceed \$10,000 to  
28 Plaintiff for his services as the class representative is conditionally approved.

1           10.       The proposed Administration Expenses Payment not to exceed \$8,750 to the  
2 Administrator for its services is conditionally approved.

3           11.       The Court also conditionally approves payment of the Private Attorneys General  
4 Act of 2004 (“PAGA”) Penalties of \$30,000 the Parties have allocated to the settlement of the  
5 PAGA claims. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the PAGA Penalties (\$22,500) will be allocated to  
6 the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) as the LWDA PAGA  
7 Payment, and the remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of the PAGA Penalties (\$7,500) will be  
8 allocated to the current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of Defendant within  
9 the State of California at any time during the period from September 23, 2020 to February 28,  
10 2023 as their Individual PAGA Payment, on a pro rata basis (“PAGA Penalties,” “Aggrieved  
11 Employees,” and “PAGA Period”).

12           12.       A Final Approval Hearing on the question of whether the Settlement, Class  
13 Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and Class Representative  
14 Service Payment should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate as to all Class  
15 Members who do not submit valid and timely Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement  
16 (“Participating Class Members”) is scheduled on the date and time set forth below.

17           13.       The Court approves, as to form and content, the Court Approved Notice of Class  
18 Action and PAGA Settlement and Hearing Date For Final Court Approval (“Class Notice”), as  
19 attached as **Exhibit A** to the Settlement Agreement. The Court also approves the procedure for  
20 Class Members to participate in, to opt out of, and to object to the Settlement Agreement as set  
21 forth in the Class Notice.

22           14.       The Court directs the mailing of the Class Notice to all identified Class Members  
23 via first-class United States Postal Service (“USPS”) mail in accordance with the Implementation  
24 Schedule set forth below. The Court finds the dates selected for the mailing and distribution of  
25 the Class Notice, as set forth in the Implementation Schedule, meet the requirements of due  
26 process, provide the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and shall constitute due and  
27 sufficient notice to all persons entitled.

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1 15. To facilitate administration of the Settlement pending final approval, the Court  
 2 hereby enjoins Plaintiff and all Class Members from filing or prosecuting any claims, suits, or  
 3 administrative proceedings (including, but not limited to, filing claims with the Division of Labor  
 4 Standards Enforcement of the California Department of Industrial Relations) released by the  
 5 Settlement unless such Class Members filed valid Requests for Exclusion with the Administrator  
 6 and the time for filing valid Requests for Exclusion with the Administrator has not elapsed.

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

8 a.	Deadline for Defendant to deliver Class Data to Administrator	Within fourteen (14) days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement
9 b.	Deadline for Administrator to mail the Class Notice to Class Members	Within seven (7) days after receiving the Class Data
10 c.	Deadline for Class Members to postmark requests for exclusion, written objections, and written challenges to Administrator	Within sixty (60) days after Administrator mails the Class Notice
11 d.	Deadline for Class Members to postmark requests for exclusion, written objections, and written challenges to Administrator if Class Notice was remailed	Additional fourteen (14) days beyond the original Response Deadline
12 e.	Deadline for Class Counsel to file Motion for Final Approval of Settlement, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and Class Representative Service Payment	Sixteen (16) Court days before Final Approval Hearing in conformity with Code of Civil Procedure section 1005
13 f.	Final Approval Hearing	October 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in Department 7



22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23 *[Handwritten Signature]*

24 Dated: 05/12/2023

25 By: Lawrence P. Riff / Judge  
 26 Honorable Lawrence P. Riff  
 27 Judge of the Superior Court

# **EXHIBIT 1**

# CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between plaintiff Mathew Lantz (“Plaintiff”) and defendant Trio Manufacturing, Inc. (“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 *Mathew Lantz v. Trio Manufacturing, Inc.* initiated on December 2, 2021 and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles.
- 1.2. “Administrator” means Phoenix Class Action Administration Solutions, 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 current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of Defendant within the State of California at any time during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5. “Class” means all current and former non-exempt hourly employees who are or were employed by Defendant in California at any time during the Class Period.
- 1.6. “Class Counsel” means Justice Law Corporation, the attorneys representing Plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.7. “Class Counsel Fees Payment” and “Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment” mean the amounts allocated to Class Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action.
- 1.8. “Class Data” means Class Member identifying information in Defendant’s possession including the Class Member’s name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, 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 COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AND HEARING DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL, to be mailed to Class Members in the form, without material variation, attached as Exhibit A and

incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

- 1.12. “Class Period” shall be defined as the period commencing on December 2, 2017, and ending on the date of preliminary approval of the Settlement or February 28, 2023 (90 days from mediation), whichever is earlier.
- 1.13. “Class Representative” means the named Plaintiff in the operative complaint in the Action seeking Court approval to serve as a Class Representative.
- 1.14. “Class Representative Service 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 Trio Manufacturing, Inc., as named by Plaintiff in the operative complaints in the Lantz matter, and their past, present and/or future, direct and/or indirect, officers, directors, members, managers, employees, agents, representatives, attorneys, insurers, partners, investors, shareholders, administrators, parent companies, subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, predecessors, successors, assigns, and joint venturers.
- 1.17. “Defense Counsel” means Medina McKelvey LLP.
- 1.18. “Effective Date” means the effective date of the Settlement, which will be the later of the following: (a) if no timely objections are filed or if all objections are withdrawn, the date upon which the Court enters Final Approval; (b) if an objection is filed and not withdrawn, the date for filing an appeal and no such appeal being filed (c) if any timely appeals are filed, the date of the resolution (or withdrawal) of any such appeal in a way that does not alter the terms of the settlement.
- 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. “Gross Settlement Amount” means \$633,000.00 which is the total amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph 9 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Counsel Fees, Class Counsel Expenses, Class Representative Service Payment and the Administrator’s Expenses.
- 1.23. “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.
- 1.24. “Individual PAGA Payment” means the Aggrieved Employee’s pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the PAGA Period.
- 1.25. “Judgment” means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.

- 1.26. “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.27. “LWDA PAGA Payment” means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.28. “Net Settlement Amount” means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members as Individual Class Payments.
- 1.29. “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.
- 1.30. “PAGA Pay Period” means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Period.
- 1.31. “PAGA Period” shall be defined as the period commencing on September 23, 2020, and ending on the date of preliminary approval of the Settlement by the Court or February 28, 2023, whichever is earlier.
- 1.32. “PAGA Members” are defined as all current and former non-exempt hourly employees who are or were employed by Defendant in California at any time during the PAGA Period.
- 1.33. “PAGA” means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*).
- 1.34. “PAGA Notice” means Plaintiff's September 23, 2021 letter to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a).
- 1.35. “PAGA Penalties” means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees (\$7,500.00) and the 75% to LWDA (\$22,500.00) 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 Mathew Lantz, 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 the Class claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.2 below.
- 1.41. “Released PAGA Claims” means the PAGA claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.3 below.
- 1.42. “Released Parties” means: Defendant and each of its former and present directors, officers, shareholders, owners, members, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns,



subsidiaries, affiliates.

- 1.43. “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.
- 1.44. "Response Deadline" means 60 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 re-sent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator shall have an additional 14 calendar days beyond the Response Deadline has expired.
- 1.45. “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.46. “Workweek” means any week where a Class Member actively worked at least 1 day for Defendant during the Class Period as reflected in the Class Member’s dates of employment in Defendant’ payroll system.

## **2. RECITALS.**

- 2.1. On December 2, 2021 Plaintiff filed a complaint for damages against Defendant, alleging violation of Labor Code sections 510 and 1198 (unpaid overtime), violation of Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a) (unpaid meal period premiums), violation of Labor Code section 226.7 (unpaid rest period premiums), violation of Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 (unpaid minimum wages), violation of Labor Code sections 201 and 202 (final wages not timely paid), violation of Labor Code section 226(a) (non-compliant wage statements), violations of Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 (unreimbursed business expenses), violation of Business & Professions Code section 17200, et seq. and violation of Labor Code section 2698, et seq. (Private Attorneys General Act of 2004). Defendant denies the allegations in the Operative Complaint, denies any failure to comply with the laws identified in the Operative Complaint and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged.
- 2.2. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.
- 2.3. On November 30, 2022 the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by Mark S. Rudy, which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.
- 2.4. Prior to mediation and negotiating the Settlement, Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery, documents relating to Defendant's wage-and-hour policies, practices, and procedures, including those regarding meal and rest periods, the recording of time, and off-the-clock work. Plaintiff also reviewed time and pay records and information relating to the size and scope of the Class, as well as data permitting Plaintiff to understand the number of workweeks in the Class Period and pay periods in the PAGA Period. 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.4<sup>th</sup> 1794, 1801 and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 116, 129-130 (“*Dunk/Kullar*”).
- 2.5. The Court has not granted class certification.

- 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, Defendant promises to pay \$633,000.00 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 Section 5 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 Service Payment to the Class Representative(s)(in addition to any Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment the Class Representative is entitled to receive as a Participating Class Member): to Mathew Lantz of not more than \$10,000.00. Defendant will not oppose Plaintiff's request for a Class Representative Service Payment that does not exceed this amount. As part of the motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment, Plaintiff will seek Court approval for any Class Representative Service Payments no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Representative Service Payment less than the amount requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will pay the Class Representative Service Payment using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiff assumes full responsibility and liability for employee taxes owed on the Class Representative Service Payment.
- 3.2.2. To Class Counsel: A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than 35%, which is currently estimated to be \$221,550.00 and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$25,000.00. Defendant will not oppose requests for these payments provided that they do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will file a motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Counsel Fees Payment and/or a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment 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 Plaintiff's Counsel arising from any claim to any portion any Class Counsel Fee Payment and/or Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. Class Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the Class Counsel Fees Payment and the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment 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: An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed \$8,750.00 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the Administration Expenses are less or the Court approves payment less than \$8,750.00, 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.
  - 3.2.4.1. Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. 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. The 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 Penalties in the amount of \$30,000.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% (\$22,500.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (\$7,500.00) 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 Penalties \$7,500.00 by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Period 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 Penalties 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 Pay Periods. Based on a review of its records to date, Defendant estimates there are 235 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 21,116 Workweeks, and 164 of Aggrieved Employees who worked a total of 4,195 PAGA Pay Periods.
- 4.2. Class Data. Not later than 14 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 containing the following information for each class Member: (1) full name; (2) last known home address; (3) last known telephone number; (4) social security number; (5) start and end dates of active employment of each Class Member; (6) total Workweeks during each segment of the Class Period; (7) total Workweeks during the PAGA Period; (8) last known email address; and (9) any other information required by the Settlement Administrator in order to effectuate the terms of the Settlement. 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 Defendant's share of payroll taxes by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than 14 days after the Effective Date.
- 4.4. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within 14 days after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment. Disbursement of the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and the Class Representative Service 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 (not less than 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 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 canceled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to a Court-approved nonprofit organization or foundation consistent with Code of Civil Procedure Section 384, subd. (b) ("Cy Pres Recipient") Legal Aid At Work. The Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the intended Cy Pres Recipient.
- 4.4.4. The payment of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendant 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 on the date when Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount and funds all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments, Plaintiff, Class Members, and Class Counsel will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

- 5.1. Plaintiff's Release. Plaintiff and his or her 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, or ascertained during the Action and released under 5.2, below. ("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 (i) all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the Class Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and ascertained in the course of the Action including, violation of Labor Code sections 510 and 1198 (unpaid overtime), violation of Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a) (unpaid meal period premiums), violation of Labor Code section 226.7 (unpaid rest period premiums), violation of Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 (unpaid minimum wages), violation of Labor Code sections 201 and 202 (final wages not timely paid), violation of Labor Code section 226(a) (non-compliant wage statements), violations of Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 (unreimbursed business expenses), violation of Business & Professions Code section 17200, et seq.. Except as set forth in Section 5.3 of this Agreement, Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.
- 5.3. Release by Aggrieved Employees: All Aggrieved Employees, as well as the State of California and Labor and Workforce Development Agency, 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 claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint, and the PAGA Notice and ascertained in the course of the Action including, violation of Labor Code section 2698, et seq. (Private Attorneys General Act of 2004), including but not limited to penalties that could have been awarded pursuant to Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, and 1198.

## **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 14 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 and the proposed Cy Pres recipient. 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; (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 proposed Cy Pres recipient; 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, and/or the Administrator and the proposed Cy Pres recipient; (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. (1)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (1)(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, the Administrator and the proposed Cy Pres recipient. 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 and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than 30 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 the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, Administrator agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for payment of Administration Expenses. 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 employer-side 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 Pay Periods in the Class Data.

7.4.2. Using best efforts to perform as soon as possible, and in no event later than seven (7) 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 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 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 Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional 14 days beyond the 60 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 14 days after receipt of Class Notice, or the deadline dates in the Class Notice, whichever 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 60 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 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 Paragraph 5.2 of this Agreement, regardless 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 Section 5.2 of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.
- 7.6. Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks. Each Class Member shall have 60 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 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 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 Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel and the Administrator's determination of 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 Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Class Representative Service 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 60 days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional 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 Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and Class Representative Service 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 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 Pay Periods received and/or resolved, and checks mailed for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments ("Weekly Report"). The Weekly Reports must include provide 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 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 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 14 days before the date by which Plaintiff is 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 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 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 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 and ESCALATOR CLAUSE.**

1. Based on its records, Defendant estimates that, as of the date of this Settlement Agreement, (1) there are 235 Class Members and 21,116 Total Workweeks in the class period through October 25, 2022 and calculated as a week that the Class Member actively worked at least 1 day for Defendant during the Class Period, and (2) there were 164 Aggrieved Employees who worked 4,195 Pay Periods during the PAGA Period. These calculations are based on the Class Member's dates of employment in Defendant's payroll system. If the number of workweeks during the Class Period is more than 10% greater than this figure [*i.e.*, if there are more than approximately 23,227 workweeks worked by Participating Class Members], Defendant has the option to either: (1) agree to increase the Gross Settlement Amount on a proportional basis (*i.e.*, if there was 11% increase in the number of workweeks during the Class Period, Defendant would agree to increase the Gross Settlement Amount proportionately by 1%); or (2) in the alternative, in the event that this provision is triggered, then Defendant may elect to end the Class Period at an earlier date than described above, so as to have an earlier end to the class period at Defendant's discretion in order to limit the covered workweeks to 23,227 (or less) in lieu of paying an increase to the Gross Settlement Amount.

## **9. DEFENDANT'S 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 Settlement Administration Expenses incurred to that point. Defendant must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its election to withdraw not later than seven days after the Administrator sends the

final Exclusion List to Defense Counsel; late elections will have no effect.

## 10. MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.

Not later than 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. (1), 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 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 court 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 Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Administrator 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 Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment 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 reasonably incurred after remittitur. An appellate

decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of the Class Representative Service 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. AMENDED JUDGMENT.**

If any amended judgment is required under Code of Civil Procedure section 384, the Parties will work together in good faith to jointly submit a proposed amended judgment.

## **12. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.**

- 12.1. 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 reserves 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).
- 12.2. 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.
- 12.3. 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.

- 12.4. 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.
- 12.5. 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.
- 12.6. Cooperation. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts, in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying the Settlement Agreement, submitting supplemental evidence and supplementing points and authorities as requested by the Court. In the event the Parties are unable to agree upon the form or content of any document necessary to implement the Settlement, or on any modification of the Agreement that may become necessary to implement the Settlement, the Parties will seek the assistance of a mediator and/or the Court for resolution.
- 12.7. 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.
- 12.8. No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant 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.
- 12.9. 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.
- 12.10. Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 12.11. 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.
- 12.12. 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.
- 12.13. 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.
- 12.14. 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 destruction of Class Data.

- 12.15. 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.
- 12.16. 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.
- 12.17. 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:  
Douglas Han  
Shunt Tatavos-Gharajeh  
Lawrence Beall  
751 N. Fair Oaks Ave. Suite 101  
Pasadena, California 91103  
(Tel) 818.230.7502  
(Fax) 818.230.7259  
dhan@JusticeLawCorp.com  
statavos@JusticeLawCorp.com  
lbeall@justicelawcorp.com

To Defendant:  
Alexander M. Medina  
Douglas R. Leach  
925 Highland Pointe Drive, Suite 300  
Roseville, California 95678  
Telephone: (916) 960-2211  
Facsimile: (916) 742-5488  
alex@medinamckelvey.com  
doug@medinamckelvey.com

- 12.18. 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.

- 12.19. 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.

Dated: 01/04/2023 **Mathew Lantz**

By: *Mathew Lantz*

Dated: 1/5/23 **JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION**

By: *D. Han*  
Douglas Han, Esq.  
Attorneys for Plaintiff.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ **Trio Manufacturing, Inc.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
On behalf of Trio Manufacturing, Inc.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ **Medina McKelvey LLP**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alexander M. Medina  
Attorneys for Defendant Trio Manufacturing, Inc.



themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

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Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ **Mathew Lantz**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ **JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Douglas Han, Esq.  
Attorneys for Plaintiff.

Dated: 1/10/2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Trio Manufacturing, Inc.**

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
On behalf of Trio Manufacturing, Inc.

Dated: January 5, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Medina McKelvey LLP**

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Alexander M. Medina  
Attorneys for Defendant Trio Manufacturing, Inc.

# **EXHIBIT A**

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

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*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 Trio Manufacturing, Inc. (“Defendant”) for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by Plaintiff Mathew Lantz (“Plaintiff”) – who is a former employee of Defendant – and seeks payment of (1) back wages and other relief for all current and former non-exempt hourly employees who are or were employed by Defendant in California at any time during the period from December 2, 2017 to February 28, 2023; and (2) penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”) for all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of Defendant within the State of California at any time during the period from September 23, 2020 to February 28, 2023 (“Aggrieved Employees”).

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 \$ [REDACTED] (less withholding) and your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$ [REDACTED]**. The actual amount you may receive likely will be different and will depend on several 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 didn't work during the PAGA Period).

The above estimates are based on Defendant's records showing that **you worked [REDACTED] workweeks** during the Class Period and **you worked [REDACTED] pay periods** during the PAGA Period. If you believe that you worked more workweeks or pay periods 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 Defendant 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:

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(1) **Do Nothing.** You don't 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 Defendant. Moreover, if you are an Aggrieved Employee, you will 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**

<p><b>You Don't Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement</b></p>	<p>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).</p>
<p><b>You Can Opt-out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement</b></p> <p><b>The Opt-out Deadline is</b> <span style="background-color: yellow;">                    </span></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. Defendant must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees, and the Aggrieved Employees must give up their rights to pursue Released Claims (defined below).</p>
<p><b>Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement</b></p> <p><b>Written Objections Must be Submitted by</b> <span style="background-color: yellow;">                    </span></p>	<p>All Class Members who do not timely submit valid Requests for Exclusion ("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 or Plaintiff, but every dollar paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff reduces the overall amount paid to Participating Class Members. You can object to the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiff if you think they are unreasonable. See Section 7 of this Notice.</p>

<p><b>You Can Participate in the Final Approval Hearing</b></p>	<p>The Court’s Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on [REDACTED]. You don’t 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.</p>
<p><b>You Can Challenge the Calculation of Your Workweeks / Pay Periods Written Challenges Must be Submitted by [REDACTED]</b></p>	<p>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 Pay Periods you worked at least one day during the PAGA Period, respectively. The number Class Period Workweeks and number of PAGA Period 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 [REDACTED]. See Section 4 of this Notice.</p>

**1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?**

Plaintiff is a former employee of Defendant. The Action accuses Defendant of violating: (1) Labor Code sections 510 and 1198 (unpaid overtime); (2) Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a) (unpaid meal period premiums); (3) Labor Code section 226.7 (unpaid rest period premiums); (4) Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 (unpaid minimum wages); (5) Labor Code sections 201 and 202 (final wages not timely paid); (6) Labor Code section 226(a) (non-compliant wage statements); (7) Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 (unreimbursed business expenses); (8) Business & Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*; and (9) Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.* (PAGA). Based on the same claims, Plaintiff has also asserted a claim for civil penalties under PAGA (Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.*). Plaintiff is represented by attorneys in the Action: Justice Law Corporation.

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 Plaintiff or Defendant are correct on the merits. In the meantime, Plaintiff and Defendant hired an experienced, neutral mediator to resolve the Action by negotiating an 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: (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. Defendant Will Pay \$633,000 as the Gross Settlement Amount (Gross Settlement). Defendant agreed to deposit the Gross Settlement into an account controlled by the Administrator of the Settlement. The Administrator will use the Gross Settlement to pay the Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, Administration Expenses Payment, and penalties to be paid to the LWDA. Assuming the Court grants Final Approval, Defendant will fund the Gross Settlement not more than fourteen (14) days after the Effective Date.
  - A. Effective Date will be the later of the following: (i) if no timely objections are filed or if all objections are withdrawn, the date upon which the Court enters Final Approval; (ii) if an objection is filed and not withdrawn, the date for filing an appeal and no such appeal being filed; and (iii) if any timely appeals are filed, the date of the resolution (or withdrawal) of any such appeal in a way that does not alter the terms of the settlement.
2. Court Approved Deductions from Gross Settlement. At the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve the following deductions from the Gross Settlement, the amounts of which will be decided by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing:
  - A. Up to \$221,550 (35% of the Gross Settlement) to Class Counsel as the Class Counsel Fees Payment and up to \$25,000 as the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.
  - B. Up to \$10,000 to Plaintiff as the Class Representative Service Payment for filing the Action, working with Class Counsel and representing the Class. The Class Representative Service Payment will be the only monies Plaintiff will receive other than his Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment.
  - C. Up to \$8,750 to the Administrator as the Administration Expenses for services administering the Settlement.
  - D. Up to \$30,000 for PAGA Penalties, seventy-five percent (75%) of which (\$22,500) will be allocated to the LWDA as the LWDA PAGA Payment and twenty-five percent (25%) of which (\$7,500) will be paid to Aggrieved Employees as their Individual PAGA Payments based on their PAGA Period 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 (“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 twenty percent (20%) of each Individual Class Payment to taxable wages (“Wage Portion”) and eighty percent (80%) to interest, penalties, etc. (“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 don’t cash it by the void date, your check will be automatically canceled, and the monies will irrevocably be lost to you because they will be paid to the non-profit organization Legal Aid At Work (“Cy Pres Recipient”).
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 [REDACTED], that you wish to opt-out. The easiest way to notify the Administrator is to send a written and signed Request for Exclusion by [REDACTED]. The Request for Exclusion should be a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative setting forth a Class Member’s: (a) name; (b) present address; (c) telephone number; and (d) 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.
  - A. 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 to enter a Judgment. It is also possible the Court will enter a Judgment that is reversed on appeal. Plaintiff and Defendant have agreed, in either case, the Settlement will be

void, meaning 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 Phoenix Class Action Administration Solutions (“Administrator”) to send this Notice, calculate and make payments, and process Class Members’ Requests for Exclusion. The Administrator will also decide Class Members’ Challenges over Workweeks, mail and remail settlement checks and tax forms, and perform other tasks necessary to administer the Settlement. The Administrator’s contact information is contained herein in Section 9 of this Notice.
9. Participating Class Members’ Release. After the Judgment is final and Defendant has fully funded the Gross Settlement 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 penalties 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 claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the Class Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and ascertained in the course of the Action including: (a) violation of Labor Code sections 510 and 1198 (unpaid overtime); (b) violation of Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a) (unpaid meal period premiums); (c) violation of Labor Code section 226.7 (unpaid rest period premiums); (d) violation of Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 (unpaid minimum wages); (e) violation of Labor Code sections 201 and 202 (final wages not timely paid); (f) violation of Labor Code section 226(a) (non-compliant wage statements); (g) violation of Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 (unreimbursed business expenses); and (h) violation of Business & Professions Code section 17200, et seq. Except as set forth in Section 5.3 of the Agreement, Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers’ compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.

10. Aggrieved Employees’ PAGA Release. After the Judgment is final and Defendant has fully funded the Gross Settlement and separately paid all employer payroll taxes, all Aggrieved Employees will be barred from asserting PAGA claims against Defendant, 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 Defendant 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 Aggrieved Employees, as well as the State of California and LWDA, 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 claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint, and the PAGA Notice and ascertained in the course of the Action, including violation of Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.* (PAGA), including, but not limited to, penalties that could have been awarded pursuant to Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, and 1198.

#### **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 during the Class Period; and (b) multiplying the result by each Participating Class Member's Workweeks.
2. Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by: (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' twenty-five percent (25%) share of PAGA Penalties (\$7,500) by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period; and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Period Pay Periods.
3. Workweek/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 [REDACTED] to challenge the number of Workweeks and/or 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 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 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.

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## 5. HOW WILL I GET PAID?

1. Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a check to every Participating Class Member, 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, an Individual PAGA Payment check to every Aggrieved Employee who opts out of the Class Settlement.

**Your check will be sent to the same address as 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 to be excluded. Be sure to personally sign your request, identify the Action as *Mathew Lantz v. Trio Manufacturing, Inc.*, Case No. 21STCV44007, 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 be sent your request to be excluded by [REDACTED], 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 Defendant are asking the Court to approve. At least sixteen (16) court days before the [REDACTED] Final Approval Hearing, Class Counsel and/or Plaintiff will file in Court a: (1) Motion for Final Approval that includes, among other things, the reasons why the proposed Settlement is fair; and (2) Motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and Class Representative Service Payment stating (a) amount Class Counsel is requesting for attorneys' fees and litigation expenses; and (b) amount Plaintiff is requesting as a Class Representative Service Payment. 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 [REDACTED] 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 Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and Class Representative Service Payment may wish to object, for example, the proposed Settlement is unfair, or that the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiff are too high or too low. **The deadline for sending written objections to the Administrator is [REDACTED].** 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, *Mathew Lantz v. Trio*

*Manufacturing, Inc.*, Case No. 21STCV44007, and include your: (1) name; (2) current address; (3) telephone number; (4) approximate dates of employment for Defendant; and (5) signature. 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 [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] in Department 7 of the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012. At the Final Approval Hearing, the judge will decide whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and how much of the Gross Settlement will be paid to Class Counsel, Plaintiff, and Administrator. The Court will invite comment from objectors, Class Counsel, and Defense Counsel before deciding. 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’s possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the Administrator’s website [REDACTED] 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 Defendant and Plaintiff promised to do under the proposed Settlement. The easiest way to read the Agreement, Judgment, or any other Settlement documents is to go to the Administrator’s website at [REDACTED]. You can also telephone or send an email to Class Counsel or the Administrator using the contact information listed below or consult the Court website <https://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/> by entering the Case Number for the Action, Case No. 21STCV44007. You can also make an appointment to personally review court documents in the Clerk’s Office at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse by calling (213) 830-0800.

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

Class Counsel:

Name of Attorney: Douglas Han  
Email Address: [info@JusticeLawCorp.com](mailto:info@JusticeLawCorp.com)  
Name of Firm: Justice Law Corporation  
Mailing Address: 751 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 101, Pasadena, California 91103  
Telephone: (818) 230-7502

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Settlement Administrator:

Name of Company:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Telephone:

Fax Number:

#### **10. WHAT IF I LOSE MY SETTLEMENT CHECK?**

If you lose or misplace your settlement check before cashing it, the Administrator will replace it if you request a replacement before the void date on the face of the original check. If your check is already void, you will have no way to recover the money.

#### **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.

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**PROOF OF SERVICE  
1013A(3) CCP**

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is 751 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Ste. 101 Pasadena, California 91103.

On May 11, 2023, I served the foregoing document described as

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT, CONDITIONAL CERTIFICATION, APPROVAL OF CLASS NOTICE, SETTING OF FINAL APPROVAL HEARING DATE**

on interested parties in this action by submitting a true and correct copy thereof via Case Anywhere to the following:

Alexander M. Medina (alex@medinamckelvey.com)

Douglas R. Leach (doug@medinamckelvey.com)

Legal Staff:

(Samantha@medinamckelvey.com)

(Andrew@medinamckelvey.com)

**MEDINA MCKELVEY LLP**

925 Highland Pointe Drive, Suite 300

Roseville, CA 95678

*Attorney(s)* for Defendant Trio Manufacturing, Inc.

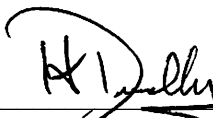
**[X] BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE**

Pursuant to the Court's Order or an agreement between the Parties regarding Electronic Service, I caused the documents described above to be E-Served through Caseanywhere.com by electronically mailing a true and correct copy to the individual(s) listed above, at the time indicated by Caseanywhere.com

**[X] STATE**

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

Executed on May 11, 2023, at Pasadena, California.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Donnelly