Francisco Schiller ("Plaintiff") v. Ashley Distribution Services, Ltd. ("Defendant") San Bernardino Case Nos. CIVDS2013264 (PAGA) & CIVDS2014776 (Class)

AGREEMENT

This Class and Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is made by and between Plaintiff Francisco Schiller ("Plaintiff") and defendant Ashley Distribution Services, Ltd. ("Defendant")—collectively "the Parties". The Parties intend this Agreement to be admissible and binding under California Code of Civil Procedure section 664.

1. **DEFINITIONS.**

- 1.1. "Action" means Plaintiff's two lawsuits alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant, both captioned *Schiller v. Ashley Distribution Services, Ltd.* and pending in San Bernardino Superior Court, Nos. CIVDS2013264 (PAGA)—initiated June 15, 2020 and CIVDS2014776 (Class)—initiated July 23, 2020.
- 1.2. "Administrator" means CPT Group, Inc.
- 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 Employees" means all individuals who are or were previously employed by Defendant in the State of California who were classified as hourly, non-exempt employees during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5. "Class" means all individuals who are or previously were employed by Defendant in the State of California who were classified as hourly, non-exempt employees during the Class Period.
- "Class Counsel" means Michael D. Singer and Rosemary C. Khoury of Cohelan Khoury & Singer and Sahag Majarian II of Law Offices of Sahag Majarian II.
- 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 "Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement", to be mailed to Class Members attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.
- 1.12. "Class Period" means August 23, 2018 to September 13, 2022.
- 1.13. "Class Representative" means Francisco Schiller.
- 1.14. "Class Representative Service Payment" means the up to \$10,000 to the named Class Representative for initiating and prosecuting the Action.
- 1.15. "Court" means the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino.
- 1.16. "Defendant" means Ashley Distribution Services, Ltd.
- 1.17. "Defense Counsel" means Lonnie D. Giamela and Evan Kroll of Fisher & Phillips, LLP.
- 1.18. "Effective Date" means the date by when both of the following have occurred: (a) the Court enters Judgment on its Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement; and (b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (i) if no Participating Class Member objects to the Settlement, the day the Court enters Judgment; ii) if one or more Participating Class Members objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment; or if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur.

- 1.19. "Final Approval" means the Court's order granting final approval of the Settlement.
- 1.20. "Final Approval Hearing" means the Court's hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.21. "Final Judgment" means the Judgment Entered by the Court upon Granting Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.22. "Gross Settlement Amount" means Three-Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$350,000) which is the total amount Defendant agrees to pay under this Agreement. In no event shall Defendant be obligated to pay more than the Gross Settlement Amount except as provided in Paragraphs 4.3 and 8 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay (i) Individual Class Payments, (ii) Individual PAGA Payments, (iii) the LWDA PAGA Payment, (iv) Class Counsel Fees, (v) Class Counsel Litigation Expenses, (vi) Class Representative Service Payments, (vii) and the Administration Expense Payment.
- 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 percent of the PAGA Penalties, calculated according to the number of Pay Periods 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.
- 1.27. "LWDA PAGA Payment" means the 75 percent of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code § 2699(i).
- 1.28. "Net Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in amounts approved by the Court: (i) Individual PAGA Payments, (ii) the LWDA PAGA Payment, (iii) the Class Representative Service Payment, (iv) Class Counsel Fees Payment, (v) Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and (vi) 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" means April 12, 2019 to September 13, 2022.
- 1.32. "PAGA" means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).
- 1.33. "PAGA Notice" means Plaintiff's April 9, 2020 letter to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3(a).
- 1.34. "PAGA Penalties" means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties (\$17,500) to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25 percent to the Aggrieved Employees (\$4,375) and the 75 percent to the LWDA (\$13,125) in settlement of PAGA claims.
- 1.35. "Participating Class Member" means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.
- 1.36. "Plaintiff" means Francisco Schiller.
- 1.37. "Preliminary Approval Order" means the Court's Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.38. "Released Class Claims" means claims released as described in Paragraph 5.2 below.
- 1.39. "Released PAGA Claims" means claims released as described in Paragraph 5.3 below.
- 1.40. "Released Parties" means Ashley Distribution Services, Ltd. and its parents, subsidiaries, officers, shareholders, members, directors, agents, attorneys, employees, and insurers.
- 1.41. "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.
- 1.42. "Response Deadline" means 45 days after the Administrator mails Notice to Class Members and shall be the last date on which Class Members may: (a) fax, email, or mail Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, or (b) fax, email, or mail his or her Objection to the Settlement. Class Members to whom Notice Packets are resent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator shall have an additional 14 calendar days beyond the Response Deadline has expired.

- 1.43. "Settlement" means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.44. "Workweek" means any week during which a Class Member worked for Defendant for at least one day, during the Class Period.

2. <u>RECITALS.</u>

- 2.1. On June 15, 2020, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing the Operative PAGA Complaint seeking civil penalties under California Labor Code § 2699 *et seq.* against Defendant for its alleged failure to 1) pay minimum, regular, and overtime wages; 2) provide meal periods; 3) provide rest periods; 4) provide accurate itemized wage statements; 5) timely pay wages due during employment; 6) timely pay wages due upon separation of employment; 7) reimburse business-related expenses; and 8) maintain accurate records.
- 2.2. On July 23, 2020, Plaintiff filed the Operative Class Complaint against Defendant seeking damages, penalties, and other appropriate relief against Defendant for its alleged failure to: 1) pay minimum, regular, and overtime wages; 2) provide meal periods or compensation in lieu thereof; 3) provide rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof; 4) provide accurate itemized wage statements; 5) timely pay wages due upon separation of employment; and 6) reimburse business-related expenses, resulting in 7) violation of the Unfair Competition Law (Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.).
- 2.3. As to the Operative Complaints, Defendant denies the allegations and any and all liability for the causes of action alleged.
- 2.4. Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3(a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the April 9, 2020 PAGA Notice.
- 2.5. On August 17, 2022, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by experienced employment mediator Todd Smith, Esq. which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.
- 2.6. Prior to mediation, Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery, information sufficient to meaningfully evaluate the claims at issue, including applicable policy documents and a sample of time and pay records for the Class. Plaintiff's investigation was sufficient to satisfy

the criteria for court approval set forth in *Dunk v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.*, 48 Cal. App. 4th 1794, 1801 (1996) and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.*, 168 Cal. App. 4th 116, 129-130 (2008) ("*Dunk/Kullar*").

2.7. The Court has not granted class certification.

3. MONETARY TERMS.

- 3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 8 below, Defendant promises to pay the total amount of Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$350,000.00). Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 4.3 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant.
- 3.2. <u>Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount</u>. 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 Order and Judgement:
 - 3.2.1. <u>To Plaintiff</u>: Class Representative Service Payment of not more than Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$10,000.00) (in addition to any Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment Plaintiff is entitled to receive as a Participating Class Member and Aggrieved Employee). 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 the Class Representative Service Payment 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 thirty-three and one third percent (33 1/3%) of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars and Sixty-Seven Cents (\$116,666.67) and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than Twenty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$20,000.00). 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 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 of the 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. <u>To the Administrator</u>: An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$15,000.00) 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 \$15,000.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.
- 3.2.4. <u>To Each Participating Class Member</u>: 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. Twenty percent (20%) of each

Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portions are subject to tax withholding and will be reported on an IRS W-2 Form. The remaining Eighty percent (80%) of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of claims for interest and penalties with Forty percent (40%) being allocated to interest and Forty percent (40%) being allocated to 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. <u>To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees:</u> PAGA Penalties in the amount of Seventeen Thousand and Five-Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$17,500.00) to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% (i.e., Thirteen Thousand and One-Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars and Zero Cents (\$13,125.00)) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (i.e., Four Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy-Five Dollars and Zero Cents (\$4,375.00)) 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 (i.e., \$4,375.00) 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. <u>SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.</u>

- 4.1. <u>Class Workweeks and Aggrieved Employee Pay Periods</u>. Based on a review of its records to date, Defendant estimates there are approximately 495 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 39,685 Workweeks, and 448 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total of 31,575 PAGA Pay Periods.
- 4.2. <u>Class Data</u>. Not later than fifteen (15) days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendant will deliver the Class Data to the Administrator, in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Class Members' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Class Data in confidence, use the Class Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Class Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Class Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. Nothing in this confidentiality provision shall be construed or work to preclude Class Counsel from performing their fiduciary duties to 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. <u>Funding of Gross Settlement Amount</u>. Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount, no later than fifteen (15) days after the Effective Date. Defendant will be responsible for the employer's share of payroll taxes, separate and apart from the Class

Fund.

- 4.4. <u>Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount</u>. Within fourteen (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 Fees Payment and the Class Representative Service Payment 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 those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator and send 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 retuned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within seven (7) days of receiving a returned check the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Class Member Address Search. The Administrator need not take further

steps to deliver checks to Class Members whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Class Member whose original check was lost or misplaced, requested by the Class Member prior to the void date.

- 4.4.3. For any Class Member whose Individual Class Payment check or Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Class Member thereby leaving no "unpaid residue" subject to the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure § 384(b).
- 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. <u>RELEASES OF CLAIMS.</u>

Effective on the date when Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff, Class Members, and Class Counsel will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

- 5.1. <u>Plaintiff's Release</u>.
 - 5.1.1. Scope of Plaintiff's Release.
 - 5.1.1.1. Plaintiff irrevocably and unconditionally waives, releases, and forever discharges the Released Parties and their respective predecessors, successors, all former, current, and future related organizations, companies, divisions, subsidiaries, affiliates, and parents, their respective former, current and future directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, attorneys, insurers, fiduciaries, assigns, heirs, executors, administrators, beneficiaries, and trustees from any and all claims, charges, complaints, actions, causes of action, grievances, controversies, disputes, demands, agreements, contracts, covenants, promises, liabilities, judgments, obligations, debts, damages

(including, but not limited to, actual, compensatory, punitive, and liquidated damages), attorneys' fees, costs, and/or any other liabilities of any kind, nature, description, or character whatsoever, asserted in or that could have been asserted against any of the Released Parties.

- 5.1.1.2. Plaintiff also fully and completely waives, releases, and forever discharges the Released Parties from any and all claims, charges, complaints, actions, causes of action, lawsuits, grievances, controversies, disputes, demands, agreements, contracts, covenants, promises, liabilities, judgments, obligations, debts, damages (including, but not limited to, actual, compensatory, punitive, and liquidated damages), attorneys' fees, costs, and/or any other liabilities of any kind, nature, description, or character whatsoever that Plaintiff may have against any or all of the Released Parties arising out of Plaintiff's employment with Defendant, the separation of Plaintiff's employment with Defendant, or any other fact, condition, circumstance, or occurrence whatsoever up to and including the Effective Date of this Agreement, whether known or unknown, suspected or concealed, and whether presently asserted or otherwise, including, but not limited to, all claims that any or all of the Released Parties:
 - violated public policy or common law (including, but not limited to, claims for assault, battery, negligent hiring, retention or supervision, negligent, reckless, or intentional infliction of emotional distress, breach of contract, intentional or tortious interference with contract or business relations, fraud, misrepresentation, conversion, promissory estoppel, detrimental reliance, wrongful termination, retaliatory discharge, personal injury, defamation, libel, slander, negligence, invasion of privacy, conspiracy, and/or mental anguish, or loss of consortium); or

- violated Defendant's personnel policies, procedures, or handbooks, any covenant of good faith and fair dealing, or any purported contract of employment, express or implied, between Plaintiff and Defendant; or
- failed to provide Plaintiff with any benefits pursuant to the terms of any employee benefit plan maintained, administered, sponsored, funded and/or paid, in whole or in part, by Defendant, violated the terms of any such employee benefit plan, breached any fiduciary obligation with respect to such plan, or discriminated against Plaintiff for the purpose of preventing Plaintiff from obtaining benefits pursuant to the terms of any such plan, or in any way violated any provision of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 1001, *et seq.*; or
- retaliated against or discriminated against Plaintiff on the basis of sex (including sexual harassment), race, ethnicity, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, disability, handicap, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, source of income, or any other basis in violation of any city, local, state, or federal laws, statutes, ordinances, executive orders, regulations, or constitutions or otherwise violated any city, local, state, or federal laws, statutes, ordinances, executive orders, regulations, or constitutions, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000, *et seq.*, the Civil Rights Act of 1866, 42 U.S.C. § 1981, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 621, *et seq.*, the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1960, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, *et seq.*, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 206(d), and the Family and

Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 2601, *et seq.*; or

- violated any city, local, state, or federal wage and hour laws, statutes, ordinances, executive orders, or regulations, including but not limited to, those related to hours worked, overtime, rest periods, meal periods, business reimbursement, and uniforms.
- 5.1.2. This release, contained in Paragraph 5.1.1., in all respects has been voluntarily and knowingly executed with the express intention of effecting the legal consequences provided in the California Civil Code § 1541, that is, the extinguishment of obligations herein designated. The release contained above specifically excludes any and all claims for workers' compensation benefits. The release contained above specifically includes Plaintiff's retaliation complaint filed with the California Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Commissioner's Office, Retaliation Complaint Investigation Unit, State Case No. RCI-CM-809947. Further, nothing in this release shall release claim(s) that cannot be released as a matter of law..
- 5.1.3. <u>Plaintiff's Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code § 1542</u>. For purposes of Plaintiff's Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquish 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. <u>Release by Participating Class Members:</u> All Participating Class Members release Released Parties from all class claims pled or which could have been pled based on the factual allegations contained in the Operative Class Complaint which occurred during the Class Period including, but not limited to claims under California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.6, 226, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 256, 510, 512, 515, 558(a), 1174, 1174.5, 1175, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1199, 2800, 2802, 2804, and 2810.5, and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, and class claims outside of the Class Period. The time period of this release is the Class Period.

5.3. <u>Release by Class Members Who Are Aggrieved Employees:</u> All Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release all PAGA claims pled or which could have been pled based on the factual allegations contained in the Operative PAGA Complaint and PAGA letter sent by Plaintiff that occurred during the PAGA Period that stated violations of California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218, 226, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 256, 510, 512, 558(a), 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1175, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1199, 2802, 2804, 2810.5, and 2698, *et seq*, as to the Aggrieved Employees and expressly excluding all other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, and PAGA claims outside of the PAGA Period. The time period for this release is the PAGA Period.

6. MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL.

Class Counsel agrees to prepare and file a motion for preliminary approval ("Motion for Preliminary Approval").

6.1. <u>Plaintiff's Responsibilities</u>. 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 § 2699(f)(2); (ii) a draft proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement; (iii) a draft proposed Class Notice; (iv) signed declaration from Plaintiff confirming his willingness and competency to serve as Class Representative; (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 § 2699.3(a)), Operative PAGA Complaint (Labor Code § 2699(*l*)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code § 2699.3(a))

2699(l)(2); (vi) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members, and/or the Administrator.

- 6.2. <u>Responsibilities of Counsel</u>. Class Counsel will be responsible for finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than sixty (60) 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 Order to the Administrator.
- 6.3. <u>Duty to Cooperate</u>. 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 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 to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

7. <u>SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.</u>

- 7.1. <u>Selection of Administrator</u>. The Parties have jointly selected CPT Group, Inc. to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, the 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. <u>Employer Identification Number</u>. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports to state and federal tax authorities.
- 7.3. <u>Qualified Settlement Fund</u>. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") under US Treasury Regulation §

468B-1.

- 7.4. <u>Notice to Class Members</u>.
 - 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, Aggrieved Employees, 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 fourteen (14) days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator will send to all Class Members identified in the Class Data, via first-class United States Postal Service ("USPS") mail, the Class Notice, 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 Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable) payable to the Class Member, and the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if applicable) used to calculate these amounts. Before mailing Class Notices, the Administrator shall update Class Member addresses using the National Change of Address database.
 - 7.4.3. Not later than three (3) business days after the Administrator's receipt of any Class Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the Class Notice using any forwarding address provided by the USPS. If the USPS does not provide a forwarding address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class Member Address Search, and re-mail the Class Notice to the most current address obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further attempts to locate or send Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by the USPS a second time.
 - 7.4.4. The deadlines for Class Members' written objections, Challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional fourteen (14) days beyond the forty-five (45) days otherwise provided in the Class Notice for all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.

7.4.5. If the Administrator, Defendant, or Class Counsel is contacted by or otherwise discovers any persons who believe they should have been included in the Class Data and should have received Class Notice, the Parties will expeditiously meet and confer, in good faith, in an effort to agree on whether to include them as Class Members. If the Parties agree, such persons will be Class Members entitled to the same rights as other Class Members, and the Administrator will send, via email or overnight delivery, a Class Notice requiring them to exercise options under this Agreement not later than fourteen (14) days after receipt of Class Notice, or the deadline dates in the Class Notice, which ever are later.

7.5. <u>Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs).</u>

- 7.5.1. Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) the Class Settlement must send the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail, a signed written Request for Exclusion not later than forty-five (45) days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional fourteen (14) days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed). A Request for Exclusion is a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative that reasonably communicates the Class Member's election to be excluded from the Settlement and includes the Class Member's name, address and email address or telephone number. To be valid, a Request for Exclusion must be timely faxed, emailed, or postmarked by the Response Deadline.
- 7.5.2. The Administrator may not reject a Request for Exclusion as invalid because it fails to contain all the information specified in the Class Notice. The Administrator shall accept any Request for Exclusion as valid if the Administrator can reasonably ascertain the identity of the person as a Class Member and the Class Member's desire to be excluded. The Administrator's determination shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. If the Administrator has reason to question the authenticity of a Request for Exclusion, the Administrator may demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity. The Administrator's determination of authenticity shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.

- 7.5.3. Every Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion is deemed to be a Participating Class Member under this Agreement, entitled to all benefits and bound by all terms and conditions of the Settlement, including the Participating Class Members' Releases under Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 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 Paragraph 5.3 of this Agreement will still receive an Individual PAGA Payment, notwithstanding their Request for Exclusion from the Class portion of the Settlement.
- 7.6. Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks. Each Class Member shall have forty-five (45) days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional seven (7) 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 in writing via fax or mail. The Administrator must request that the challenging Class Member 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 as to the challenges.

- 7.7. Objections to Settlement.
 - 7.7.1. Only Participating Class Members (i.e., Class Members who do not submit valid and timely Requests for Exclusion) 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. Aggrieved Employees have no right to object to the PAGA portion of the Settlement.
 - 7.7.2. For any Participating Class Member to object, the Class Member must send written objections to the Administrator, signed by the Class Member, by fax or mail, no later than forty-five (45) days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional seven (7) days for Class Members whose Class Notice was remailed). The Settlement Administrator shall send all objections it receives to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel within three (3) business days of receipt. Participating Class Members may also appear in Court (or hire an attorney to appear in Court) to present verbal objections at the Final Approval Hearing. The Court retains final authority with respect to the consideration and admissibility of any Class Member objections.
 - 7.7.3. Non-Participating Class Members (i.e., Class Members who submit valid and timely Requests for Exclusion) have no right to object to any of the class action components of the Settlement.
 - 7.7.4. Aggrieved Employees shall have no right to object to the PAGA portion of the Settlement and shall be bound by the Release of claims identified in Paragraph 5.3 of this Agreement.
- 7.8. <u>Administrator Duties</u>. 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. <u>Requests for Exclusion (Opt-outs) and Exclusion List</u>. 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).

- 7.8.2. 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.
- 7.8.3. <u>Workweek and/or Pay Period Challenges</u>. 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.
- 7.8.4. <u>Administrator's Declaration</u>. Not later than fourteen (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.

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

8. <u>CLASS SIZE ESTIMATES and ESCALATOR CLAUSE</u>

It is estimated that during the Class Period there were approximately 495 Class Members who worked approximately 39,685 Workweeks. The aforementioned numbers are based on data through July 9, 2022. Should the number of Workweeks through July 9, 2022 increase by more than 10%, Defendant will increase the Gross Settlement Amount by a proportionate additional amount for each additional workweek. For example, if the number of Workweeks during this period increases by 11%, the Gross Settlement Amount shall increase by 1%.

9. <u>DEFENDANT'S RIGHT TO WITHDRAW.</u>

If the number of valid Requests for Exclusion identified in the Exclusion List exceeds ten percent (10%) of the total of all Class Members, Defendant may, but is not obligated to, 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 (30) 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 sixteen (16) court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff will file in Court, a motion for final approval of the Settlement that includes a request for approval of the PAGA settlement under Labor Code § 2699(*l*), a Proposed Final Approval Order and a proposed Judgment (collectively "Motion for Final Approval"). Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously meet and confer to resolve any disagreements concerning the Motion for Final Approval.

- 10.1. <u>Response to Objections</u>. 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 that five (5) 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 Payments, 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. <u>Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court</u>. 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. <u>Waiver of Right to Appeal</u>. 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. <u>Appellate Court Orders to Vacate, Reverse, or Materially Modify Judgment.</u> 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 Payments 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. <u>AMENDED JUDGMENT.</u>

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

12. <u>ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.</u>

12.1. <u>No Admission of Liability, Class Certification or Representative Manageability for Other</u> <u>Purposes</u>. 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 Complaints 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).

- Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant and 12.2. 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. <u>No Solicitation</u>. 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. <u>Integrated Agreement</u>. 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. <u>Attorney Authorization</u>. 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. <u>Cooperation.</u> 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. <u>No Prior Assignments</u>. 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. <u>No Tax Advice</u>. 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. <u>Modification of Agreement</u>. 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. <u>Agreement Binding on Successors</u>. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 12.11. <u>Applicable Law</u>. 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. <u>Cooperation in Drafting</u>. 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. <u>Confidentiality</u>. 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. <u>Use and Return of Class Data</u>. Information provided to Class Counsel pursuant to Evidence 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 ninety (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.
- 12.15. <u>Calendar Days</u>. 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.
- 12.16. <u>Execution in Counterparts</u>. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts electronically (i.e. DocuSign) or by 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.

12.17. <u>Stay of Litigation</u>. 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.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

Plaintiff & Class Representative:

Dated: March 23 , 2023

By: ___

Francisco Schiller

Plaintiffs' Counsel:

Dated: March 6, 2023

COHELAN KHOURY & SINGER

Rosemany Khowy By:

Michael D. Singer, Esq. Rosemary C. Khoury, Esq. Attorneys for Plaintiff

Defendant:

Dated: March 15, 2023

ASHLEY DISTRIBUTION SERVICES, LTD.

By: Stephen

Print Name

Ma

Signature

dmin. Officer

Defendant's Counsel:

Dated: March 22, 2023

FISHER & PHILLIPS, LLP

Gum Kull By:

Lonnie D. Giamela, Esq. Evan Kroll, Esq. Attorneys for Defendant