	·	
1	CLAYEO C. ARNOLD A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION	
2	Clayeo C. Arnold (SBN 65070)	
3	carnold@justice4you.com	
	John T. Stralen (SBN 171227)	
4	istralen@justice4you.com 865 Howe Avenue	
5	Sacramento, CA 95825	
6	Telephone: (916) 777-7777/Facsimile: (916)	924-1829
7	THE DARREN GUEZ LAW FIRM Darren Guez (SBN 282023)	
8	darren@guczlaw.com	
	930 Tahoe Blvd., Suite 802 #44	
9	Incline Village, NV 89451 Telephone: (916) 520-0988/ Facsimile: (916) 490-3714	
10	1 receptione. (510) 520 0500/1 acsimile. (510)	190 3711
11	COHELAN KHOURY & SINGER Isam C. Khoury (SBN 58759)	
12	isam C. Khoury (SBN 38739) ikhoury@ckslaw.com	
	J. Jason Hill (SBN 179630)	
13	jhill@ckslaw.com	
14	605 C Street, Suite 200	
1.5	San Diego, CA 92101 Telephone: (619) 595-3001/Facsimile: (619)	595-3000
15		
16	Attorneys for Plaintiff Nichole Veronie, on b all others similarly situated	ehalf of herself and
17	an others summarry situated	
18	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
19	COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO	
20	NICHOLE VERONIE, on behalf of herself	Case No. 34-2019-00255123
21	and all others similarly situated,	
	Plaintiffs,	CLASS ACTION
22		JOINT STIPULATION OF CLASS ACTION
23	v. SETTLEMENT	SETTLEMENT
24	POINT QUEST, INC.; POINT QUEST, EDUCATION, INC.; and DOES 1 through	Exh A: Notice of Class Action Settlement Exh B: Change of Address Form
25	100, inclusive	Exh C: Proposed Preliminary Approval Order
26	Defendants.	
27		Complaint filed: April 24, 2019
28		Trial date: Not set
	{SF138430.DOCX:}	-1
	Joint Stipulation of Class Action Settlement	Case No. 34-2019-00255123
		Doc ID: 6686ab3ef102cb5a4a3a9f409583ed

COHELAN KHOURY & SINGER 605 C Street, Suite 200 San Diego, CA 92101

Doc ID: 6686ab3ef102cb5a4a3a9f409583ed7138da79e6

COHELAN KHOURY & SINGER 605 C Street, Suite 200 San Diego, CA 92101

JOINT STIPULATION OF

CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

This Joint Stipulation of Class Action Settlement ("Agreement" or "Settlement Agreement") is made and entered into by and between NICHOLE VERONIE ("Veronie" or "Plaintiff") on the one hand, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, and POINT QUEST, INC.; POINT QUEST, EDUCATION, INC ("Defendant"), on the other hand, (collectively, the "Parties"), who are subject to the terms and conditions below, and to the Court's approval. The Parties expressly acknowledge that this Agreement is entered into solely for the purpose of compromising significantly disputed claims and that nothing in this Settlement Agreement is an admission of liability or wrongdoing by Defendant. If for any reason the Settlement Agreement is not approved, it will be of no force or effect, and the Parties will be returned to their respective positions immediately prior to and as if they had never executed this Settlement Agreement as more fully set forth below.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are applicable to this Settlement Agreement. Definitions contained elsewhere in this Settlement Agreement will also be effective:

- 1. "Action" means the civil action pending in the Superior Court of Sacramento County, titled NICHOLE VERONIE v. POINT QUEST, INC.; POINT QUEST, EDUCATION, INC., Case No. 34-2019-00255123.
- 2. "Class Counsel" means COHELAN KHOURY & SINGER, CLAYEO C. ARNOLD, A PROFESSION LAW CORPORATION, and the DARREN GUEZ LAW FIRM.
- 3. "Class Counsel Fees and Costs" means Class Counsels' attorneys' fees, and litigation costs and expenses approved by the Court for prosecution and resolution of the Action, and all costs incurred and to be incurred in the Action, including, but not limited to, costs associated with documenting the Settlement, securing the Court's approval of the Settlement, obtaining entry of the Judgment terminating the Action, and expenses for any experts. Class Counsel will jointly request attorneys' fees not to exceed Thirty-Three and one-third percent (33.33%) of the Gross Settlement Amount, up to \$108,322.50, and reasonable litigation costs and expenses including the mediator's fees, etc., not to exceed \$12,000. Defendant has agreed not to

{SF138430.DOCX:}

_ 1 _

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

2.1

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

oppose this request for Class Counsel Fees and Costs. Any portion of the Class Counsel Fees and Costs not awarded will remain with the Gross Settlement Amount to be distributed pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

- "Class Data List" means a complete list of all Class Members that Defendant will 4. diligently and in good faith compile from their records and provide to the Settlement Administrator after the Court's entry of an Order Granting Preliminary Approval of this Settlement. The Class Data List will be formatted in Microsoft Office Excel and be ready to be used by the Administrator. The Class Data List will include, to the extent available to Defendant, for each Class Member: full name; most recent mailing address and telephone number; social security number; dates of employment, number of Individual Work Weeks worked during the Class Period, and number of Pay Periods worked during the PAGA Period. The Parties agree to work with the Settlement Administrator to provide updated mailing addresses for Class Members.
- 5. "Class Member(s)" or "Settlement Class" means all current and former hourly non-exempt behavioral aides, however titled, employed by Defendant in the State of California at any time during the period from April 24, 2015 through the earliest of July 4, 2021 (60-days from May 5, 2021) or the date of preliminary approval (the "Class" or "Settlement Class"), but excluding those former employees who have previously reached an individual settlement with Defendant that is a full general release of all claims. There are an estimated 1,180 Class Members who worked approximately 45,000 Work Weeks (or an estimated 167,398 shifts) during the Class Period. Provided that the motion for class certification is filed no later than July 4, 2021, the Parties agree that should the number of class members be greater than 10% of that represented at mediation, the Gross Settlement Amount shall be increased proportionately as if the number of Class Members had remained the same. This provision may be adjusted to shift counts, work weeks or number of employees to best reflect the data provided and so as to effectuate the intent of the Parties to not have the Class Member or number of shifts/workweeks expand beyond that anticipated at the time of mediation. No adjustment shall be made to the extent that the increase in the number of Class Members is due to behavior aides who are first hired by Defendant on or

{SF138430.DOCX:}

- 2 -

after May 5, 2021.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

- 6. "Class Period" means the period from April 24, 2015 through the earliest of July 4, 2021 (60-days from May 5, 2021) or the date of preliminary approval.
- 7. "Class Representative Service Payment" means the amount to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to the named Plaintiff in exchange for a general release of claims against Defendant, and in recognition of her efforts, risks and burdens in prosecuting the Action on behalf of Class Members, and for the benefits obtained for them. Plaintiff will request, and Defendant will not oppose, Plaintiff's application to the Court for Service Payments of up to \$10,000 to Plaintiff Nichole Veronie. Any portion of the Class Representative Service Payment not awarded to Plaintiff will remain with the Gross Settlement Amount for distribution pursuant to the terms of the Settlement.
 - 8. "Court" means the Superior Court for the County of Sacramento.
- "Effective Date" means the date when the Final Approval Order becomes final. 9. For purposes of this Paragraph, the Final Approval Order "becomes final" upon the last to occur of the following: (a) if there are no objections to the Settlement, the date the Court enters an order granting final approval of the Settlement; or (b) if there are objections to the Settlement, and if an appeal, review, or writ is not sought from the Final Approval Order, the day after the time period to appeal the Settlement has expired. Assuming no objection or appeal, "Effective Date" shall be 65-days after Final Approval Order entered.
- 10. "Gross Settlement Amount" means the maximum settlement amount of \$325,000.00 to be paid by Defendant in full satisfaction of all claims arising from the Action, which amount includes all Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members, the Class Representative Service Payment to the named Plaintiff, Settlement Administration Expenses to a reputable third party administrator (counsel contemplates either ILYM or CPT Group, Inc.), PAGA Payment to the Labor Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA"), and Class Counsels' Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Defendant will not be liable for payment of any amounts other than the Gross Settlement Amount in settlement of the Action, except for the employer-sided payroll taxes on that portion of the Individual Settlement Payments attributed to

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

wages, which Defendant will be responsible to remit to the Settlement Administrator for remission to the appropriate taxing authorities.

- 11. "Individual Settlement Payment" means the proportionate share of the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed to each Participating Class Member based on the number of Work Weeks worked during the Class Period in relation to the number of Work Weeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period. The Individual Settlement Payment will include a proportionate share of the PAGA Payment allocated to the Aggrieved Employees based on the number of Pay Periods worked during the PAGA Period.
- 12. "Net Settlement Amount" means the sum remaining following Court-approved deductions from the Gross Settlement Amount for Class Counsels' Fees and Costs, the Class Representative Service Payment, PAGA Payment, and Settlement Administration Expenses. The Net Settlement Amount will be distributed entirely on a proportionate basis to Participating Class Members using their number of Work Weeks worked during the Class Period and their number of Pay Periods worked during the PAGA Period.
- 13. "Notice of Class Action Settlement" or "Class Notice", refers to the Notice of Class Action Settlement, in a form substantially similar to Exhibit "A", attached to this Agreement. The Class Notice provides information regarding the nature of the Action, and the claims alleged; (2) a summary of the Settlement's principal terms; (3) the Class definition, (4) individualized information regarding the number of Work Weeks worked during the Class Period, and the number of Pay Periods worked during the PAGA Period; (5) the formula for calculating Individual Settlement Payments; and the estimated amount of each individual's Individual Settlement Payment; (6) instructions on how to submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion or Objection and the deadlines to do so; (7) instructions on how to dispute the information on which their Individual Settlement Payment will be calculated, and the deadline to do so; (8) the claims to be released; and (9) how to obtain additional information, and other relevant information.
- 14. "Notice of Objection" or "Objection" means a Class Member's valid and timely written objection as to any term of the Settlement Agreement returned to the Administrator.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

- 15. "Notice Packet" means the Notice of Class Action Settlement, Change of Address form, attached here as Exhibit B, and pre-printed return envelope to be mailed to all Class Members following Preliminary Approval of this Settlement, pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.
- 16. "PAGA Members" are defined as those members of the Class employed by Defendant in California any time during the PAGA Period. There are an estimated 787 PAGA Members who had worked approximately 5,416 Pay Periods during the PAGA Period.
- 17. "PAGA Payment" is the amount allocated as civil penalties recoverable under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 Labor Code §2699, ("PAGA") for Labor Code violations. From the Gross Settlement Amount, \$10,000 has been allocated as the PAGA Payment. Pursuant to the PAGA, Labor Code § 2699(i), 75% of the PAGA Payment, \$7,500, will be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA"), and the remaining 25%, \$2,500.00, will be distributed on a proportional basis to the PAGA Members according to the number of Pay Periods each worked during the PAGA Period.
- 18. "PAGA Period" means the period from April 24, 2018 to December 9, 2018, and from January 2, 2021, to the earliest of either July 4, 2021 (60-days from May 5, 2021) or the date of preliminary approval. The gap in the PAGA Period reflects the fact that on March 10, 2021, Judge Stephen Kaus of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, entered an Order approving settlement in another PAGA action, Villanueva v. Point Quest, Case No. RG20062255, which covered PAGA claims on behalf of the PAGA Members against Defendant for the period from December 10, 2018 through December 31, 2020.
- 19. "Participating Class Members" means all Class Members who do not return to the Administrator valid and timely Requests for Exclusion.
- 20. "Preliminary Approval" means the Court Order Granting Preliminary Approval of this Settlement Agreement, in a form substantially similar to Exhibit "C".
- 21. "Released Claims" means all claims, rights, demands, liabilities, penalties, fines, debts and causes of action of every nature and description, under state, federal, and local law, whether known or unknown, arising from the claims and factual predicates pled in the Plaintiffs'

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

24

25

26 27 28

complaints filed in the Action or that could have been pled based on the factual allegations in the Plaintiffs' original Complaint or in the Operative First Amended Class Action Complaint, including but not limited to claims for unpaid wages, including any theory of unpaid minimum wages, meal and rest period premiums, unpaid expense reimbursements, waiting time penalties. itemized wage statements, wages for unpaid time, other civil or statutory penalties and any claim based on California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 1174(d) 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 2699 et seq., the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Code of Regulations, Title 8 Section 11000 et seq., the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC) Wage Orders, including 4-2001, Business & Professions Code section 17200-17208 or any related damages, penalties, restitution, equitable or injunctive relief, disgorgement, interest or attorneys' fees for the period from April 24, 2015 through the earliest of July 4, 2021 (60-days from May 5, 2021) or the date of preliminary approval. Such release shall be a full release of all such claims known or unknown as against Released Parties as defined below, with a waiver and relinquishment of all rights and benefits of California Civil Code section 1542. Class Members and PAGA Members will receive the Class Notice and an opportunity to consult Class Counsel and be advised on the waiver of section 1542, and will have an opportunity to opt out.

- "Released Parties" means each Defendant and each of their current and former 22. and present parents, holding companies, subsidiaries and affiliated companies and entities and their current, former and future officers, directors, members, managers, employees, consultants, partners, parents, affiliates, subsidiaries, shareholders, attorneys, trustees, insurers, representatives, joint venturers and agents, any predecessors, successors, assigns, or legal representatives and any individual or entity who or which could be jointly liable with Defendant and all persons or entities acting by, through, under, or in concert with, any of them.
- 23. "Request for Exclusion" means a letter submitted by a Class Member to the Administrator indicating a request to be excluded from the Settlement. The Request for Exclusion must: (a) set forth the name, address, telephone number and last four digits of the Social Security Number of the Class Member requesting exclusion; (b) be signed by the Class Member; (c) be returned by mail, postmarked, or fax stamped on or before the Response Deadline; and (d) clearly

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

. 24

25

26

27

28

state that the Class Member does not wish to be included in the Settlement as more fully set forth in the Class Notice, and understand that by requesting exclusion, they will not receive an Individual Settlement Payment. The date of the fax-stamp or postmark will be the exclusive means to determine whether a Request for Exclusion has been timely submitted.

- 24. "Response Deadline" means the deadline by which Class Members must postmark or fax-stamp Requests for Exclusion, and Notices of Objections. The Response Deadline will be sixty (60) calendar days from the initial mailing of the Notice Packet by the Settlement Administrator, unless the 60th day falls on a Sunday or Federal holiday, in which case the Response Deadline will be extended to the next day on which the U.S. Postal Service is open. The Response Deadline for Requests for Exclusion will be extended fifteen (15) calendar days for any Class Member who is re-mailed a Notice Packet by the Settlement Administrator in accordance with the notice procedure described in Paragraphs 44 through 48 of this Settlement Agreement, unless the 15th day falls on a Sunday or Federal holiday, in which case the Response Deadline will be extended to the next day on which the U.S. Postal Service is open. The Response Deadline may also be extended by express agreement between Class Counsel and Defendant.
- 25. "Settlement Administration Expenses" means the costs payable to the Settlement Administrator for administering this Settlement pursuant to its terms. Settlement Administration expenses are not to exceed [\$20,000]. Duties and responsibilities of the Settlement Administrator include, but not limited to, establishing a post office box, toll-free number, and toll-free facsimile number for the return of Class Member communications, formatting, printing, distributing (including with appropriate postage) Notice Packets to Class Members, and tracking undelivered Notice Packets, conducting a National Change of Address search of the U.S. Post Office database to update Class Member addresses prior to the initial mailing of the Notice Packets, skip tracing Notice Packets returned as undeliverable using the Class Member's social security number; providing weekly status reports; calculating estimated Individual Settlement Payments, and inserting such amount in the individualized Notices of Class Action Settlement. Subject to final Court approval and the Effective Date of settlement, the Administrator will also be responsible for establishing and administering a qualified settlement fund account, issuing IRS Forms 1099

- 7 -

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

and W-2, tax reporting, distributing the Individual Settlement Payments, PAGA Payment, Class Representative Service Payments, and Class Counsel Fees and Costs, and providing necessary certification of completion of notice, reports and declarations, and other responsibilities set forth in this Settlement Agreement and as requested by the Parties, and the Court.

- "Settlement Administrator" or "Administrator" means ILYM, CPT Group, Inc., 26. or any other reputable third-party class action settlement administrator agreed to by the Parties and approved by the Court for the purposes of administering this Settlement. The Parties each represent that they do not have any financial interest in the Settlement Administrator or otherwise have a relationship with the Settlement Administrator that could create a conflict of interest. The Parties will seek agreement from the Settlement Administrator to defend, indemnify, and hold the Parties harmless for any disclosure, breach of privacy or security of Class Member data under Settlement Administrator's control, possession, or management.
- 27. "Work Weeks" are defined as seven consecutive calendar days beginning on Sunday at 12:00 a.m. and ending on Saturday at 11:59 p.m. A Class Member is deemed to have worked during a "Work Week" if such Class Member worked for Defendant at least one (1) shift during a given Work Week.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Settlement Class, and Defendant agrees as follows, for purposes of settlement only:

- 28. Proportionate Increase of Gross Settlement Amount. As relevant, the Parties attended an arms'-length mediation on May 5, 2021 with Jill Sperber, Esq. and came to a global maximum settlement agreement in the amount of \$325,000.00 with the intent of releasing Released Claims for Class Members and PAGA Members to July 4, 2021 (60 days from May 5, 2021) or the date of preliminary approval of the class and PAGA settlement, whichever is earlier.
- 29. For purposes of this Agreement, Defendant has agreed to pay a Gross Settlement Amount of \$325,000.00 to resolve claims of approximately 1,180 Class Members and their estimated 45,000 Work Weeks for the period through the earlier of July 4, 2021 (60-days from May 5, 2021) or the date of preliminary approval is granted. Of these Class Members, there are

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

approximately 627 PAGA Members who worked an aggregate estimated 5,416 Pay Periods during the during the PAGA Period, from April 24, 2018 to December 9, 2018, and from January 2, 2021, to the earliest of either July 4, 2021 (60-days from May 5, 2021) or the date of preliminary approval.

- 30. Impact of Any Court Determination Not to Enter Final Approval Order or Rescission by Defendant. In the event that the Court does not enter a Final Approval Order, or Defendant elects to rescind the Settlement Agreement as set forth below, and this Settlement Agreement does not become effective, the following will occur:
- the status of each of the respective parties, both Plaintiff and Defendants will be deemed to return to their status at the time immediately prior to the filing of the Notice of Settlement and as if the Parties had never executed this Settlement Agreement;
- each Party will be responsible for one-half of the Settlement b. Administrator's costs associated with administration of the settlement up to that point; and
- c. To the extent required by the Court or otherwise necessary, Plaintiff will take all necessary steps to give effect to subparagraph a. and b. above.
- 31. Funding of the Gross Settlement Amount. Within ten (10) business days of the Effective Date, Defendant shall transmit, at their option, at least 50% of the Gross Settlement Amount, (\$162,500.00) to the Settlement Administrator who will establish a qualified settlement account and/or an approved escrow account for distribution of the Court-ordered payments pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. The Settlement Administrator shall hold funds for distribution until the remaining 50% of the Gross Settlement Amount (\$162,500) is paid by Defendant and which shall be done no later than 180-days after notice of entry of the Order granting final approval of the settlement. Defendant may elect to pay sooner, and in such case, the administrator will distribute funds as allocated by the final order and judgment approving the settlement, within 15 days after receipt of the total Gross Settlement Amount of \$325,000.00.
- 32. Class Counsel Fees and Costs. Defendant agrees not to oppose or impede any application or motion by Class Counsel for Class Counsel Fees in an amount of up to 33% of the Gross Settlement Amount, plus the reimbursement of costs and expenses associated with Class

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Counsel's litigation and settlement of the Action, not to exceed \$12,000. In consideration of Class Counsels' Fees and Costs, Class Counsel waive any and all claims to any further attorneys' fees and expenses in connection with the Action.

- 33. Net Settlement Amount. Following deduction of all Court-approved payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, the remaining sum, the Net Settlement Amount will be distributed entirely on a proportional basis to Participating Class Members ("Individual Settlement Payment").
- 34. Individual Settlement Payment Calculations. Each Participating Class Member will receive an Individual Settlement Payment, which is a pro-rata share of the Net Settlement Amount based on the Participating Class Member's aggregate number of Work Weeks worked during the Class Period, and the number of Pay Periods worked during the PAGA Period. The Individual Settlement Payment will be calculated by setting the Participating Class Member's Individual Workweeks as a ratio of the aggregate number of Work Weeks worked by all Class Members during the Class Period ("Class Workweeks") and then multiplying that ratio by the Net Settlement Amount. The formula is as follows: Jane Doe Settlement Payment = ((Jane Doe Individual Workweeks / Class Workweeks) x Net Settlement Amount) + (Jane Doe Pay Periods / PAGA Pay Periods) x \$2,500)). The Parties agree that the formula for allocating the Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members is reasonable and designed to provide a fair distribution based on tenure of employment with Defendant. The Individual Settlement Payments will be reduced by withholding and taxes as set forth in this Settlement Agreement.
- 35. Treatment of Individual Settlement Payments. The portion of Individual Settlement Payments not attributable to the PAGA Payment will be allocated 20% for the settlement of wage claims and subject to withholdings and taxes and issuance of an IRS W-2 Form, and the remaining 80%, plus the prorate share of the PAGA Payment, will be allocated to the settlement of claims as nontaxable statutory penalties and/or interest under the California Labor Code, for which IRS Forms 1099 will be issued by the Administrator.
- 36. No Credit Toward Benefit Plans/No Derivative Penalties. The Individual Settlement Payments made under this Agreement, as well as any other payments made pursuant

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

2.7

28

to this Settlement Agreement, will not be utilized to calculate any additional benefits under any benefit plans to which any Class Members may be eligible, including, but not limited to: profitsharing plans, bonus plans, 401(k) plans, stock purchase plans, vacation plans, sick leave plans, PTO plans, and any other benefit plan. Rather, it is the Parties' intention that this Settlement Agreement will not affect any rights, contributions, or amounts to which any Class Members may be entitled under any benefit plans. The payment of Individual Settlement Payments shall not trigger any derivative penalties or required payments by Defendant to PAGA Members in any way.

- Released Claims. Upon the Effective Date, and except as to such rights of claims 37. as may be created by this Settlement, Plaintiffs and each Participating Class Member and PAGA Member who has not returned to the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion, shall fully release and discharge Defendant and Released Parties from the Released Claims.
- 38. Settlement Administration Process. The Parties agree to cooperate in the administration of the Settlement and to make all reasonable efforts to control and minimize the costs and expenses incurred in administration of the Settlement.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE CLASS NOTICE

- 39. <u>Delivery of the Class Data List</u>. Within thirty (30) days of Preliminary Approval, Defendant will provide the Class Data List to the Settlement Administrator.
- 40. Confirmation of Contact Information in the Class Data List. Prior to mailing the Notice Packet, including the Notice of Class Action Settlement, Change of Address form, and pre-printed return envelope, the Administrator will perform a search of the National Change of Address Database to update and correct for any known or identifiable address changes. All Notice Packets returned to the Administrator as undeliverable on or before the Response Deadline will be sent promptly via regular First-Class U.S. Mail to the forwarding address, and the Administrator will indicate the date of such re-mailing on the Notice Packet. If no forwarding address is provided, the Administrator will promptly attempt to determine the correct address using a skip-trace, or other search using the name, address and/or Social Security number of the Class Member involved, and will then perform a single re-mailing. Those Class Members who

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

receive a re-mailed Notice Packet will have between the latter of (i) an additional fifteen calendar (15) days or (ii) the Response Deadline to fax or postmark a Request for Exclusion or to serve an Objection to the Settlement. If it is determined the undelivered Notice Packet is associated with a currently employed Class Member or PAGA Member, Defendant shall, upon notice by the Settlement Administrator of any returned mailing, immediately take steps to obtain an updated address and provide it to the Administrator for remailing of the Notice Packet. Upon completion of these steps, Defendant and the Administrator will be deemed to have satisfied their obligation to provide the Notice Packet to the affected Class Member. The affected Class Member will nonetheless remain a member of the Class and will be bound by all the terms of the Settlement and the Court's Final Approval Order and Judgment based thereon.

- 41. Notice Packets by First-Class U.S. Mail. Within ten (10) business days after receiving the Class Data List from Defendant, the Administrator will mail a Notice Packet to each Class Member via regular First-Class U.S. Mail.
- 42. Disputed Information. Any disputes regarding a Class Member's date of employment, or the number of Work Weeks worked will be resolved and decided by the Settlement Administrator based on Defendant's records which, for purposes of this Settlement only, will be presumptively determinative, subject to rebuttal by competent evidence, in any dispute over entitlement to payment, or over membership in the Class. Each Class Member's dates of employment, number of Work Weeks worked during the Class Period, and number of Pay Periods worked during the PAGA Period will be stated in the Class Member's individualized Notice of Class Action Settlement. See, Exhibit "A". Any Class Member who disputes the individualized data must notify the Settlement Administrator of the dispute in writing postmarked or fax-stamped by the Response Deadline and submit all evidence relating to the dispute to the Settlement Administrator at such time. If there is a dispute, the Administrator will within seven (7) days after receipt of the dispute, but no later than ten (10) days after the Response Deadline, make a determination based on the information provided by the Class Member and the information provided by Defendant to the Settlement Administrator. The Administrator may consult with Counsel for the Parties in reaching this determination. The Settlement Administrator

{SF138430.DOCX:}

- 12 -

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

will give written notice to the Class Member and counsel for the Parties of its determination once the determination has been reached. The Court shall have the authority to resolve any Class Member disputes that remain unresolved after the Settlement Administrator has given written notice of its determination.

- 43. Settlement Terms Bind All Class Members Who Do Not Opt-Out. All Class Members and PAGA Members who do not affirmatively opt-out of the Settlement Agreement by submitting timely and valid Requests for Exclusion will be bound by all of its terms, including those pertaining to the Released Claims, as well as any Judgment that may be entered by the Court if it grants final approval to the Settlement.
- 44. Revocation of Settlement Agreement (by Defendant). If more than three and onehalf percent (3.5%) of Class Members submit timely and valid Requests for Exclusion, Defendant may, at its election, rescind the Settlement and all actions taken in furtherance of it will be null and void. Defendant must exercise this right of rescission, in writing, to Class Counsel within 15 calendar days after the Settlement Administrator notifies the Parties of the total number of Requests for Exclusion received by the Response Deadline.
- 45. Objections to the Settlement. To object to the Settlement, a Class Member must return a valid and timely objection or Notice of Objection to the Administrator on or before the Response Deadline. For the objection to be valid and timely, it must include: (i) the objector's full name, address, and telephone number; (ii) a statement of all grounds for the objection (iii) a statement whether the objector intends to appear at the Final Approval hearing; and (iv) and be signed by the Class Member. It must also be returned to the Administrator postmarked or faxstamped on or before the Response Deadline. The Parties will be permitted to respond in writing to such objections within the time period set by the Court. Class Members who do not file a timely written objection and notice of intention to appear at the Final Approval hearing will be deemed to have waived any and all objections and be foreclosed from making any objections. whether as to any term of the Settlement, whether by appeal or otherwise, to the Agreement. Class Members who file and serve timely Notices of Objection will have the right to appear at the Final Approval Hearing to have their objections heard by the Court. At no time will any of

- 13 -

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class Members to submit written objections to the Settlement Agreement or appeal from the Final Approval Order and Judgment. Class Counsel will not represent any Class Members with respect to any such objections to this Settlement.

- 46. Certification Reports By Settlement Administrator Regarding Individual Settlement Payment Calculations. The Settlement Administrator will provide Defendant's counsel and Class Counsel a weekly report which provides, among other things: (i) the number of Class Members who submit Requests for Exclusion; (ii) the number of deficient Requests for Exclusion; (iii) the number of Class Members who return Objections or Notices of Objections; (iv) communications with individuals seeking to be added to the Class; and (iv) the number of challenges returned by Class Members to the information contained in their Class Notice. Additionally, the Settlement Administrator will be asked to provide its declaration regarding administration of the Settlement to be filed with the Motion for Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement and Entering Judgment.
- 47. Timing of Distribution of Individual Settlement Payments. Within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the total Gross Settlement Amount and the employer-sided taxes, the Settlement Administrator will issue payments as approved by the Court, i.e., (1) Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members; (2) the Class Representative Service Payment to Plaintiff; (3) the PAGA Payment to the LWDA; (4) Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs to Class Counsel; and (5) the Settlement Administration Expenses the Settlement Administrator.
- 48. Uncashed or Undeliverable Settlement Checks. After 30 days of issuance of Individual Settlement Payment checks to Participating Class Members, the Administrator will mail a reminder postcard to all members of the Class who have yet to cash their Settlement Payment checks, and advise that all checks will be voided after 120 calendars if not cashed by that date, and that funds will be forwarded to the State of California, Controller's Office after 120 days for further handling on behalf of the Class Member whose check was voided. Upon completion of administration of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will provide a

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

written declaration under oath certifying such completion to the Parties for filing with the Court.

- 49. Administration of Taxes by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will provide the information to Defendant about the portion of the Individual Settlement Payments designated as "wages" so that Defendant can calculate the employer's share of payroll taxes. The Settlement Administrator will be responsible for issuing to Plaintiffs, Participating Class Members, and Class Counsel the designated IRS Forms W-2 and 1099, as may be required by law for all amounts paid pursuant to this Agreement. The Settlement Administrator will also be responsible for forwarding all payroll taxes and other legally required withholdings to the appropriate government authorities.
- 50. <u>Tax Liability</u>. Defendant makes no representation as to the tax treatment or legal effect of the payments called for in this Settlement Agreement, and Plaintiff is not relying on any statement, representation, or calculation by Defendant or by the Settlement Administrator in this regard. Plaintiff understands and agrees that except for Defendant's payment of the employer's portion of any payroll taxes, Plaintiff and Participating Class Members will be solely responsible for the payment of any taxes and penalties assessed on the Individual Settlement Payments. The Notice of Class Action Settlement will inform Participating Class Members that they will be solely responsible for the payment of any taxes and penalties assessed on the Individual Settlement Payments.
- 51. Defendant's Responsibility for Employer Taxes: For the portion of the Individual Settlement Payments designated as "wages" for purposes of tax reporting, Defendant will remit the employer-sided contribution of all federal, state, and local taxes (including, but not limited to, FICA, FUTA, and SDI) to the Settlement Administrator to be remitted to the appropriate governmental authorities. The employer-sided contributions will not be paid or deducted from the Gross Settlement Amount.
- 52. Circular 230 Disclaimer. EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT (FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE "ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY" AND EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT OTHER THAN THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY, AN "OTHER PARTY") ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT (1) NO PROVISION OF THIS

{SF138430.DOCX:}

- 15 -

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

AGREEMENT, AND NO WRITTEN COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE BETWEEN OR AMONG THE PARTIES OR THEIR ATTORNEYS AND OTHER ADVISERS, IS OR WAS INTENDED TO BE, NOR SHALL ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTE OR BE CONSTRUED OR BE RELIED UPON AS, TAX ADVICE WITHIN THE MEANING OF UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR 230 (31 CFR PART 10, AS AMENDED); (2) THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY (A) HAS RELIED EXCLUSIVELY UPON HIS, HER OR ITS OWN, INDEPENDENT LEGAL AND TAX COUNSEL FOR ADVICE (INCLUDING TAX ADVICE) IN CONNECTION WITH THIS AGREEMENT, (B) HAS NOT ENTERED INTO THIS AGREEMENT BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF ANY OTHER PARTY OR ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO ANY OTHER PARTY, AND (C) IS NOT ENTITLED TO RELY UPON ANY COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE BY ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISER TO ANY OTHER PARTY TO AVOID ANY TAX PENALTY THAT MAY BE IMPOSED ON THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY; AND (3) NO ATTORNEY OR ADVISER TO ANY OTHER PARTY HAS IMPOSED ANY LIMITATION THAT PROTECTS THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY SUCH ATTORNEY'S OR ADVISER'S TAX STRATEGIES (REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH LIMITATION IS LEGALLY BINDING) UPON DISCLOSURE BY THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY OF THE TAX TREATMENT OR TAX STRUCTURE OF ANY TRANSACTION, INCLUDING ANY TRANSACTION CONTEMPLATED BY THIS AGREEMENT.

- 53. No Prior Assignments. The Parties and their counsel represent, covenant, and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action or right released and discharged in this Settlement Agreement.
- 54. Release of Claims by Class Members and PAGA Members. Upon the Effective Date, all Class Members who do not timely submit a valid Request for Exclusion, do and will be deemed to have fully, finally and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished and discharged any and all of the Released Parties of and from any and all Released Claims accruing

COHELAN KHOURY & SINGER 605 C Street, Suite 200 San Diego, CA 92101

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

during the Class Period. In addition, on the Effective Date, all Class Members who do not timely submit a valid Request for Exclusion and all successors in interest agree to a general release of all claims against Released Parties, known and unknown during the Claim Period, and will be permanently enjoined and forever barred from prosecuting such claims against the Released Parties. This General Release includes any unknown claims. To the extent the foregoing releases are releases to which Section 1542 of the California Civil Code or similar provisions of other applicable law may apply, Class Members expressly waive any and all rights and benefits conferred upon them by the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code or similar provisions of applicable law which are as follows:

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

The significance of this release and waiver of Civil Code Section 1542 has been identified to Class Members by Class Counsel in the Class Notice, attached as Exhibit A, and Class Members had an opportunity to consult with Class Counsel about the same, and opt out of the settlement if desired.

55. Release by Plaintiff. Upon the Effective Date, in addition to the Released Claims being released by Participating Class Members, the named Plaintiff will provide the following general release ("General Release"): Plaintiff Nichole Veronie, on her own behalf and on behalf of her heirs, spouses, executors, administrators, attorneys, agents and assigns, fully and finally releases the Released Parties from all claims, demands, rights, liabilities and causes of action of every nature and description whatsoever, known or unknown, asserted or that might have been asserted, whether in tort, contract, or for violation of any state or federal statute, rule or regulation arising out of, relating to, or in connection with any act or omission by or on the part of any of the Released Parties committed or omitted prior to the execution of this Agreement. This General Release includes any unknown claims. To the extent the foregoing releases are releases to which Section 1542 of the California Civil Code or similar provisions of other applicable law may {SF138430.DOCX:}

Joint Stipulation of Class Action Settlement

Case No. 34-2019-00255123

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

apply, Plaintiffs expressly waive any and all rights and benefits conferred upon them by the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code or similar provisions of applicable law which are as follows:

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

The significance of this release and waiver of Civil Code Section 1542 has been explained to Plaintiff by her counsel.

- Nullification of Settlement Agreement. In the event that: (i) the Court does not 56. finally approve the Settlement as provided in this Settlement Agreement (except with regard to the amount of the Class Representative Service Payment to the named Plaintiff, the amount of the Settlement Administration Expenses or the amount of approved Class Counsels' Attorneys' Fees and Costs); or (ii) the Settlement does not become final for any other reason, then this Settlement Agreement and any documents generated to bring it into effect or documents or information shared pursuant to the Settlement Agreement and/or in mediation shall be treated as mediation and settlement privileged and may not be used as evidence; and the terms of this Settlement Agreement will be null and void except as to paragraphs 30 and 61. Any proposed order or judgment entered by the Court in furtherance of this Settlement Agreement (that is not approved) will likewise be treated as void from the beginning.
- 57. Preliminary Approval Hearing. Plaintiff will promptly obtain a hearing before the Court to request Preliminary Approval of the Settlement Agreement, and the entry of an Order Granting Preliminary Approval substantially similar to Exhibit "C" attached hereto, which seeks conditional certification of the Settlement Class for settlement purposes only, (ii) preliminary approval of the proposed Settlement Agreement, (iii) approval of the Notice of Class Action Settlement; and (iv) sets a date for a Final Approval Hearing.
 - 58. Final Approval Hearing, Order Granting Final Approval and Entering Judgment.

{SF138430.DOCX:}

- 18 -

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Upon expiration of the deadline to fax stamp or postmark Requests for Exclusion, or Notices of Objection, and with the Court's permission, a Final Approval Hearing will be conducted to determine whether the Settlement Agreement should be granted final approval, and to consider and approve requests for payment of (i) the Class Counsel Fees and Costs; (ii) the Class Representative Service Payments; (iii) the PAGA Payment, and (iv) the Settlement Administration Expenses. The Final Approval Hearing will not be held earlier than forty-five (45) days after the Response Deadline. Class Counsel will be responsible for drafting all documents necessary to obtain final approval. Class Counsel will also be responsible for drafting the attorneys' fees and costs application to be heard at the Final Approval Hearing.

- 59. Judgment and Continued Jurisdiction. Upon the grant of Final Approval of the Settlement by the Court, the Parties will present a Proposed Order Granting Final Approval of Class and Representative Action and Entering Judgment thereon in a form substantially similar to Exhibit "E". After entry of the Judgment, the Court will have continuing jurisdiction solely for purposes of addressing: (i) the interpretation and enforcement of the terms of the Settlement, (ii) Settlement administration matters, and (iii) such post-Judgment matters as may be appropriate under court rules or as set forth in this Agreement.
- 60. Exhibits Incorporated by Reference. The terms of this Agreement include the terms set forth in Exhibits A through C, which are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth in this Settlement Agreement. Any Exhibits to this Agreement are an integral part of the Settlement.
- 61. Confidentiality Agreement. The Parties and their counsel agree that none of them will issue any marketing materials, press release, social media post, internet or website announcement, or otherwise initiate any contact with the press, respond to any press inquiry or have any communication with the press regarding the Settlement or the terms of this settlement. Class Counsel will not communicate with other wage-hour or employment plaintiffs' counsel about this Settlement, nor utilize it in any way in their marketing or advertising materials or website prior to Preliminary Approval. A violation of this provision shall entitle the nonbreaching party to seek enforcement of this term under Cal. Code of Civil Procedure section

{SF138430.DOCX:}

- 19 -

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

664.6 or other permitted mechanism, including appropriate injunctive relief to correct the violation, and to attorney's fees and costs associated with enforcement of this provision.

- 62. Entire Agreement. This Settlement Agreement and its Exhibits constitute the entirety of the Parties' settlement terms. No other prior or contemporaneous written or oral agreements may be deemed binding on the Parties. The Parties expressly recognize California Civil Code Section 1625 and California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1856(a), which provide that a written agreement is to be construed according to its terms and may not be varied or contradicted by extrinsic evidence, and the Parties agree that no such extrinsic oral or written representations or terms will modify, vary or contradict the terms of this Agreement.
- 63. Amendment or Modification. This Settlement Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument mutually signed by counsel for the Parties or their successors-in-interest.
- 64. Authorization to Entry Into Settlement Agreement. Counsel for the Parties warrant and represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Settlement Agreement and to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by the Parties pursuant to this Settlement Agreement to effectuate its terms and to execute any other documents required to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to effectuate the implementation of the Settlement. The signatories to the Settlement Agreement affirm they have the authority, and are authorized, to enter the Agreement and bind the Parties. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement, the Parties may seek the assistance of the Court to resolve such disagreement.
- 65. Binding on Successors and Assigns. This Settlement Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors or assigns of the Parties hereto, as previously defined.
- 66. Execution and Counterparts. This Settlement Agreement is subject only to the execution of all Parties. However, the Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

All executed counterparts and each of them, including facsimile and scanned copies of the signature page, will be deemed to be one and the same instrument provided that counsel for the Parties will exchange among themselves original signed counterparts.

- 67. Acknowledgement that the Settlement is Fair and Reasonable. The Parties believe this Settlement Agreement is a fair, adequate and reasonable settlement of the Action and have arrived at this Settlement after arm's-length negotiations and in the context of adversarial litigation, taking into account all relevant factors, present and potential. The Parties further acknowledge that they are each represented by competent counsel and that they have had an opportunity to consult with their counsel regarding the fairness and reasonableness of this Agreement.
- 68. Invalidity of Any Provision. Before declaring any provision of this Settlement Agreement invalid, the Court will first attempt to construe the provision as valid to the fullest extent possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of this Settlement Agreement valid and enforceable.
- 69. Non-Admission of Liability. The Parties enter into this Settlement Agreement to resolve the dispute that has arisen between them and to avoid the burden, expense, and risk of continued litigation. In entering into this Settlement Agreement, Defendant does not admit, and specifically denies, that it has: violated any federal, state, or local law; violated any regulations or guidelines promulgated pursuant to any statute or any other applicable laws, regulations or legal requirements; breached any contract; violated or breached any duty; engaged in any misrepresentation or deception; or engaged in any other unlawful conduct with respect to its current or former employees. Neither this Settlement Agreement, nor any of its terms or provisions, nor any of the negotiations connected with it, will be construed as an admission or concession by Defendant of any such violations or failures to comply with any applicable law. Except as necessary in a proceeding to enforce the terms of this Settlement Agreement, this Settlement Agreement and its terms and provisions cannot and will not be offered or received as evidence in any action or proceeding to establish any liability or admission on the part of Defendant or to establish the existence of any condition constituting a violation of, or a non-

{SF138430.DOCX:}

- 21 -

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

compliance with, federal, state, local or other applicable law.

- 70. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Defendant has taken corrective actions that are potentially part of consideration of this settlement that may be considered by the Court as valuable to the Class Members. Defendant has taken a number of actions aimed at improving payroll, timekeeping, and supervisory practices regarding meal and rest periods; increasing employee understanding regarding their rights to take meal and rest breaks and to be reimbursed for business related expenses; simplifying and streamlining timekeeping practices and procedures; and enhancing supervisor and employee training to reduce incidences of potential non-compliance with meal and rest break policies, as follows:
 - A) providing an automatic monthly cell phone stipend to all exempt employees, rather than only reimbursing cell phone usage if employees affirmatively submitted reimbursement requests;
 - B) providing (starting in 2021) additional annual supervisor training and a reference document for all supervisors and lead aides on meal and rest break laws, policies, and procedures, specifically including appropriate use of on-duty meal waivers;
 - C) providing employees with paper rest break logs at all work sites to confirm, on a monthly basis, whether they took all available rest breaks or reminding them to report to payroll/supervisor if they did not take all meal and rest periods;
 - (D) requiring employees to attest, with submission of timecards each pay period (via ADP App), whether they received or were denied all meal/rest periods;
 - E) providing additional training to payroll staff to ensure that missed meal/rest periods are accurately characterized as voluntary or involuntary and that premiums for missed meal/rest breaks are paid;
 - F) distributing, via ADP portal and printed fliers, reminders on how to "take 10" with a QR code to electronically report a missed rest break or confirm rest breaks were taken;
 - G) providing detailed training to new hires on timekeeping options (ADP mobile app, paper, login on iPads, etc.);
 - H) providing employees with ADP missed time forms for employees to report missed meal, rest, or off-the-clock work;
 - I) giving all employees 24-hour access to on-duty meal waivers via ADP "portal" with the ability to sign, or revoke, electronically.
 - 71. Plaintiff's counsel may rely on the representations made in paragraph 71 of this

(SF138430.DOCX:)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Agreement and submit said information to the Court for consideration during preliminary and/or final approval in a manner approved by Defendant as an additional basis for consideration of the Settlement and include general reference to financial condition of Defendant in the financial disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 and 2021. Defendant agrees to a strictly confidential review by Plaintiff's counsel of consolidated financials for 2019 and 2020 tax years so as to confirm financial condition as part of investigation into the valuation of the Settlement.

- 72. <u>Captions</u>. The captions and section numbers in this Agreement are inserted for the reader's convenience, and in no way define, limit, construe or describe the scope or intent of the provisions of this Agreement.
- 73. Waiver. No waiver of any condition or covenant contained in this Agreement or failure to exercise a right or remedy by any of the Parties hereto will be considered to imply or constitute a further waiver by such party of the same or any other condition, covenant, right or remedy.
- 74. Enforcement Actions. In the event that one or more of the Parties institutes any legal action or other proceeding against any other Party to enforce the provisions of this Settlement Agreement or to declare rights and/or obligations under this Settlement Agreement, the prevailing Party will be entitled to recover from the non-prevailing Party reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, including expert witness fees incurred in connection with any enforcement actions.
- 75. Mutual Preparation. The Parties have had a full opportunity to negotiate the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Accordingly, this Settlement Agreement will not be construed more strictly against one party than another merely by virtue of the fact that it may have been prepared by counsel for one of the Parties, it being recognized that, because of the arms'-length negotiations between the Parties, all Parties have contributed to the preparation of this Agreement.
- 76. Representation By Counsel. The Parties acknowledge that they have been represented by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Agreement, and that this Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel. Further,

ß

Plaintiff's and Class Counsel warrant and represent that there are no liens on the Settlement Agreement.

- 77. All Tenns Subject to Final Court Approval. All amounts and procedures described in this Settlement Agreement will be subject to final Court approval.
- 78. <u>Cooperation and Execution of Necessary Documents</u>. All Parties will cooperate in good faith and execute all documents to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement.
- 79. <u>Binding Agreement</u>. The Parties warrant that they understand and have full authority to enter into this Agreement, and further intend that this Agreement will be fully enforceable pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 664.6 and binding on all Parties, and agree that it will be admissible and subject to disclosure in any proceeding to enforce its terms (but only insofar as relevant to the enforcement proceeding), notwithstanding any mediation confidentiality provisions that otherwise might apply under federal or state law.
- 80. <u>Plaintiff Notice</u>: Plaintiff's counsel shall give timely notice of the Settlement and the preliminary approval motion and hearing dates for the Settlement to the LWDA as required by law.

Dated: July__, 2021

Plaintiff, Nichole Veronie

Dated: July__, 2021

Authorized Representative of Defendants
POINT QUEST, INC.; POINT QUEST, EDUCATION, INC
Position or Title:_______

(SF138430.DOCX:)