

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

I. Introduction.

This Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is hereby entered by and between Defendant The Wedge Corporation (“Defendant”, “The Company”, or “Wedge”), and the named Plaintiffs, Larissa Smith, Hailey Bragg, and Isabelle Bookout (“Plaintiffs”), who are acting both individually and in their capacity as class representatives for the class and subclass and in the certified class action entitled *Larissa J. Smith, et al v. The Wedge Corporation*, Pierce County Superior Court, Case No. 21-2-08576-0 (the “Case”).

II. Class Certification.

Solely for the purposes of this Settlement, Plaintiffs and The Company (hereafter, the “Parties”) agree that this Case should be certified and finally adjudicated as a class action on behalf of the Settlement Class defined herein pursuant to the Court’s April 28, 2023, Order Granting Plaintiffs’ Motion for Class Certification.

III. Investigations and Due Diligence.

The Parties have conducted substantial formal and informal discovery and investigation of the facts and the law during their respective prosecution and defense of this Case. As part of this review and investigation, the Parties and their counsel have (a) interviewed witnesses; (b) collected and analyzed extensive electronic and paper time records, payroll data, financial data, and other information concerning the composition of the Settlement Class and the merits and possible extent of Plaintiffs’ claims and Wedge’s defenses; and (c) amply considered and analyzed their respective claims and defenses.

IV. Settlement Negotiations.

The Parties engaged in settlement negotiations and in connection therewith outlined the conceptual terms of the Settlement during a June 21, 2023, mediation before Lou Peterson, of Hill Clark Martin & Peterson P.S. All of the Parties’ settlement negotiations have been conducted in good faith and at arm’s length. Through the Parties’ investigations and communications, the Parties have reached a class action settlement of this Case that they believe to be fair, adequate, and reasonable, and that Plaintiffs believe are in the best interest of the Settlement Class. This Agreement memorializes the terms of the final Settlement agreed to by the Parties as the result of the negotiations just described.

V. The Company’s Denials of Wrongdoing and Non-Admission of Allegations.

The Company has denied and continues to deny each of the claims and contentions alleged by Plaintiffs on their own behalf and on behalf of any members of the Class alleged by Plaintiffs in the Case. The Company has asserted, and continues to assert, defenses as if it were to proceed through litigation instead of settlement. Furthermore, The Company has expressly denied, and continues to deny, any wrongdoing or legal liability arising out of any of the facts or conduct alleged in this Case. Neither the Settlement, this Agreement, or any document referred to or contemplated herein—nor any action taken to carry out this Agreement—is, may be construed as,

or may be used as an admission, concession, or indication by or against The Company of any fault, wrongdoing, or liability whatsoever. The Company expressly denies any such fault, wrongdoing, or liability. If the Parties had not reached the Settlement, then The Company would have continued to vigorously defend against Plaintiffs' claims, including seeking denial of full or partial class certification and a full defense verdict at trial. The Company agrees to this Settlement solely to avoid the burden and expense of further litigation.

VI. Stipulated Settlement and Dismissal

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by the Parties, subject to the approval of the Superior Court, that this Case is hereby being compromised and settled pursuant to the terms and conditions outlined in this Agreement and that, if the Parties' Settlement is finally approved by the Superior Court, this Case shall be fully dismissed on the merits and with prejudice, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Definitions.

a. **"Effective Date"** means the date when both (1) the Settlement has been finally approved by the Superior Court, and (2) the Superior Court's anticipated order approving the Settlement and dismissing this Case with prejudice (the "Final Judgment") becomes final. For purposes of this subsection, the Superior Court's Final Judgment "becomes final" upon the later of either (a) 31 days following the Superior Court's entry of an order granting final approval of the Settlement; or (b) if an appeal is timely filed or other appellate review is sought, the date the Mandate or other final affirmance is issued by the appellate court affirming the Final Judgment.

b. **"Settlement"** means the settlement reached by the Parties through the negotiation process described in Paragraph IV above.

c. **"Settlement Administrator"** means CPT Group Class Action Administrators, subject to the Superior Court's approval.

d. **"Class"** or **"Class Members"** means all individuals employed by The Wedge Corporation at any time in Washington state from December 6, 2018, to the final disposition of this action in any position paid on an hourly basis, including, but not limited to: servers, hosts, bartenders, and cooks.

e. **"Subclass"** or **"Subclass Members"** means all Class Members employed by The Wedge Corporation at any time in Washington state from December 6, 2018, to the final disposition of this action as a server who had tips confiscated to pay credit card service charges.

f. **"Settlement Class"** or **"Settlement Class Members"** means all Class Members, exclusive of any individual who timely opts out of the Settlement pursuant to the procedures set forth below. Individuals who timely opt out from the Settlement in conformity with this Agreement shall not be bound by the terms of this Agreement or any Final Judgment entered by the Superior Court and shall retain the right to pursue any alleged individual claim(s) against Defendant in a separate action.

g. “**Settlement Class Period**” means the period from December 6, 2018, through the date of preliminary approval or August 18, 2023, whichever is sooner.

h. The “**Notice of Settlement**” means the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

i. The “**Initial Mailing Date**” is the date the Settlement Administrator first mails the Notice of Settlement approved by the Superior Court to all Class Members.

j. The “**Notice Deadline**” is sixty (60) days after the Initial Mailing Date.

k. “**Class Counsel**” means Entente Law PLLC, subject to the Superior Court’s approval.

l. “**Class Fund**” means the aggregate, gross amount the Parties propose be paid to the Settlement Class as Settlement Awards pursuant to this Settlement. The Class Fund shall be calculated by subtracting the Court-approved Service Award, Settlement Administration Expenses Award, and Attorney’s Fees and Costs Award from the Maximum Settlement Amount. Subject to approval by the Superior Court, the Parties anticipate the aggregate, gross amount paid to the Settlement Class as part of the Settlement of this Case is estimated to be no less than Four Hundred Twenty-seven Thousand, Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$427,250.00).

m. “**Settlement Awards**” means the amounts the Parties propose be paid to members of the Settlement Class pursuant to this Agreement.

n. “**Service Award**” means the amount the Parties propose be paid to Plaintiffs as a service award in recognition of their efforts in prosecuting the Case. Subject to approval by the Superior Court, the amount paid to each of Plaintiffs Larissa Smith, Hailey Bragg, and Isabelle Bookout for their service awards shall be Seven Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00).

o. “**Full Release Award**” means the amount the Parties propose be paid to Plaintiffs in exchange for a general release of all claims against Defendant. Subject to approval by the Superior Court, the amount paid to each of Plaintiffs Larissa Smith, Hailey Bragg, and Isabelle Bookout for their full release awards shall be Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

p. “**Settlement Administration Expenses Award**” means the amount the Parties propose be paid to the Settlement Administrator for the processing of the Settlement. Subject to approval by the Superior Court, the amount paid to the Settlement Administrator for the processing of the Settlement shall be up to Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00).

q. “**Attorney’s Fees and Costs Award**” means the amounts the Parties propose be paid to Class Counsel as attorney’s fees and costs in connection with their prosecution and settlement of the Case. The proposed award for attorney’s fees is thirty percent (30%) of the Maximum Settlement Amount, or One Hundred and Five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000.00). The proposed award for litigation costs incurred by Class Counsel is not to exceed Twelve Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500.00). The proposed amounts the Parties propose be paid to Class Counsel as attorney’s fees and costs are subject to approval by the Superior Court.

r. “**Maximum Settlement Amount**” means the maximum amount The Company is required to pay pursuant to this Settlement, which is the sum of Seven Hundred and

Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00), inclusive of any of The Company's employer-side share of FICA, FUTA, and other similar, mandatory employer-side payroll taxes. In no event shall the Maximum Settlement Amount exceed the foregoing sum.

s. **"Released Parties"** as released through the Releases described in Section VI.2., below, includes not only the named Defendant in the Case, The Wedge Corporation, but also its predecessors, successors, parents, subsidiaries, franchisors, owners, officers, directors, employees, members, shareholders, agents, attorneys, and insurers, along with any other individual or entity who could be jointly or severally liable for any of the claims alleged in the Case or released by this Agreement.

t. **"Released Claims"** means all claims raised or that could have been raised based on the facts alleged in the First Amended Class Action Complaint through the date of preliminary approval or August 18, 2023, whichever is sooner. For clarity, this includes, but is not limited to the release from any claims, loss, or damage sustained by Plaintiffs or the Class Members based on federal, state, or local laws pertaining to unpaid wages, unpaid meal time, unpaid overtime, failure to comply with any timekeeping or recordkeeping requirements, unpaid service charges, failure to allow rest and meal periods that comply with WAC 296-126, RCW 49.48, RCW 49.46, RCW 49.52, exemplary damages, interest, fees, costs, attorneys' fees and all other claims and allegations made in the Action, or any assertion of rights relating to any of the foregoing.

u. **"Weighted Hours Worked"** for purposes of equitably allocating the net settlement amount among Class and Subclass members, means the total number of hours worked as a non-server plus 1.05 times the total number of hours worked as a server as recorded in The Company's time and payroll records.

2. Releases.

As of the Effective Date, the Settlement and this Agreement will constitute a full and final settlement, release, and waiver by Plaintiffs Larissa Smith, Hailey Bragg, and Isabelle Bookout and all members of the Settlement Class and Subclass of all Released Claims. Additionally, the individual Plaintiffs release all known and unknown claims against the Company, its owners, its agents, its managers, its officers, its successors and assigns that relate to or arise out of their application for employment, employment, and/or cessation of employment.

3. Payment by The Company.

Subject to approval of the Settlement by the Superior Court, The Company agrees to deposit the Maximum Settlement Amount into a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") set up by the Settlement Administrator for purposes of processing the Settlement and paying the Service Awards, the Settlement Administration Expenses Award, the Attorney's Fees and Costs Award, and the Settlement Awards. The Company will not be responsible for making any additional payments except as expressly set forth below, whether to the Class Members, to Plaintiffs Larissa Smith, Hailey Bragg, and Isabelle Bookout, to Class Counsel, to the Settlement Administrator, or otherwise. By funding the Qualified Settlement Fund, The Company will fully discharge its financial obligations under this Agreement and shall have no further financial obligations under

this Agreement, whether to the Class Members, to Plaintiffs Larissa Smith, Hailey Bragg, and Isabelle Bookout, to Class Counsel, to the Settlement Administrator.

4. Calculation of Settlement Awards.

a. Subject to approval by the Superior Court, the calculations of gross (pre-tax) Settlement Awards for each Class Member will be made by Class Counsel based on records that have been or will be submitted to Class Counsel by The Company, which records are presumed to be accurate. The Company will provide data to Plaintiffs' counsel reasonably necessary for the calculation of the Settlement Awards in the form of an Excel spreadsheet (or spreadsheets), which shall contain data for all time each Settlement Class Member worked as an hourly, non-exempt restaurant employee in the State of Washington during the Settlement Class Period with an indication of whether the hours worked were as a server or non-server. To the extent not already produced to Class Counsel, The Company shall provide the Excel spreadsheet(s) containing the foregoing data to Class Counsel within thirty (30) days after this Agreement is preliminarily approved by the Superior Court. Any data provided to Class Counsel or the Settlement Administrator pursuant to this Agreement shall be used solely for the purposes of administering this Settlement and not for any other purpose. Class Counsel and the Settlement Administrator shall maintain any data provided pursuant to this Agreement as private and confidential and shall not use or disclose such data to any persons or entities except as required by this Settlement, law, or Court order.

b. Class Counsel shall be responsible for calculating the gross amounts of the individual Settlement Awards for Settlement Class and Subclass Members in conformity with this Agreement. Each Settlement Class Member shall receive a minimum settlement payment of Fifty and no/100 Dollars (\$50.00). The remaining monies from the Class Fund will be allocated to individual Class Members pro rata by dividing each Settlement Class Member's Weighted Hours Worked, as defined herein, by the total aggregate Weighted Hours Worked by all Class Members and then multiplying the resulting ratio by the remaining monies in the Class Fund.

c. Class Counsel shall provide The Company and the Settlement Administrator with an electronic report setting forth the results of their calculation of the gross Settlement Awards for Class Members. The Company and the Settlement Administrator shall have ten (10) days after receiving this electronic report to review Class Counsel's gross Settlement Award calculations for compliance with the terms of this Agreement and to submit any concerns in writing to the Class Counsel. Thereafter, the Parties shall confer within five (5) days in an attempt to resolve any disputes relating to the calculations of the gross amounts of individual Settlement Awards. If the Parties are unable to resolve any disputes about calculating the gross Settlement Awards pursuant to this Agreement, they shall submit their respective positions in writing to the Superior Court, which shall make the final decision regarding any disputed calculations of any Settlement Award for any Class Member.

d. **Allocation of Settlement Awards Between Wages and Non-Wages.** Fifty Percent (50%) of each gross individual Settlement Award will be treated as wages and subject to normal payroll tax withholdings and payments, and these amounts shall be reported to the taxing authorities and the Class Members on IRS Forms W-2. The remaining Fifty Percent (50%) of each individual Settlement Award will be treated as non-wages (penalties,

enhancements, and prejudgment interest) on which there will be no tax withholding and for which IRS Forms 1099 (marked "Other Income") shall be issued to the taxing authorities and Eligible Class Members.

e. **Payment of Employer-Side Payroll Taxes.** The Settlement Administrator shall calculate and pay from the gross settlement fund, the employer's share of the payroll taxes associated with the W-2 payments made to Class Members (including, but not limited to, employer's share of FICA, Medicare, FUTA (if applicable), and any other employer-paid, federal, Washington state, or local requirements).

5. Attorney's Fees and Costs Award.

As part of seeking the Superior Court's final approval of this Settlement, Class Counsel will apply to the Superior Court for an Attorney's Fees and Costs Award of no more than thirty percent (30%) of the Maximum Settlement Amount (i.e., Two Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000.00)), plus up to an additional Twelve Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500.00) for actual litigation costs.

6. Service Awards.

Subject to approval by the Superior Court, in addition to a Settlement Award computed as described above, Plaintiffs Larissa Smith, Hailey Bragg, and Isabelle Bookout shall each receive a separate Service Award, which will be treated as non-wages, on which there will be no payroll tax withholdings and for which an IRS Form 1099-MISC (marked "Other Income") shall be issued to the taxing authorities and Plaintiffs. Subject to approval by the Superior Court, the amount paid to each of Plaintiffs Larissa Smith, Hailey Bragg, and Isabelle Bookout for their service awards shall be Seven Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) each.

7. Full Release Awards.

Subject to approval by the Superior Court, in addition to a Settlement Award computed as described above and Service Award, Plaintiffs Larissa Smith, Hailey Bragg, and Isabelle Bookout shall each receive a separate Full Release Award, which will be treated as non-wages, on which there will be no payroll tax withholdings and for which an IRS Form 1099-MISC (marked "Other Income") shall be issued to the taxing authorities and Plaintiffs. Subject to approval by the Superior Court, the amount paid to each of Plaintiffs Larissa Smith, Hailey Bragg, and Isabelle Bookout for their full release awards shall be Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) each.

8. Settlement Administration.

a. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for mailing and emailing the Notice of Settlement to the Class, tracing undeliverable mailings, recording and tracking responses to the mailings to the Class, tracking and responding to any inquiries made by any member of the Class, reviewing Class Counsel's calculation of the Settlement Awards, and any other related tasks mutually agreed to by the Parties. The Settlement Administrator shall also be responsible for establishing a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") pursuant to Section 468B(g) of the Internal Revenue Code for purposes of administering this Settlement, as well as issuing the necessary checks for all Settlement Awards, issuing all required tax documents (such as

Forms W-2 and 1099-MISC), performing all related tax reporting to taxing authorities and to The Company, and issuing the Service Award, the Settlement Administration Expenses Award, and the Attorney's Fees and Costs Award.

b. The Settlement Administrator will perform the foregoing duties based on data provided by Class Counsel and The Company, which data shall be presumed to be correct. In addition to the data described in Section VI.4., above, The Company shall, within thirty (30) days after this Agreement is preliminarily approved by the Superior Court, provide the Settlement Administrator with an Excel spreadsheet containing the following information for each member of the Settlement Class: (i) name; (ii) last known address; (iii) last known telephone (if known and reasonably accessible); (iv) email address (if known and reasonably accessible); and (v) social security number. Other data will be provided, upon request from the Settlement Administrator, as reasonably necessary to complete their settlement administration duties under this Agreement. All such data shall be treated as private and confidential and the Settlement Administrator shall not use or disclose any such data to any persons or entities except as required by this Settlement, law or Court order.

c. The Settlement Administrator shall also have the responsibility to determine any Class Member's eligibility for a Settlement Award (i.e., to determine whether any Class Member is a Settlement Class Member). Each Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely request for exclusion will automatically be a Settlement Class Member and eligible to receive a Settlement Award. Within five (5) business days after the Notice Deadline, the Settlement Administrator shall provide The Company and Class Counsel with (1) an electronic report setting forth the names and identities of all Class Members who submitted a valid and timely Exclusion Form in conformity with this Agreement; (2) an electronic report setting forth the names and identities of all Class Members who did not submit a valid and timely letter requesting exclusion in conformity with this Agreement ("Exclusion Letter"); (3) copies of all Exclusion Letters returned or received; and (4) copies of all objections returned or received. The Company and Class Counsel shall be entitled to review the eligibility determinations made by the Settlement Administrator for compliance with the terms of this Agreement. The Settlement Administrator shall retain the originals of all Exclusion Letters returned, along with their envelopes, and objections received. The Company and Class Counsel shall have seven (7) business days after receiving the electronic report and related documentation from the Settlement Administrator to challenge any Exclusion Letter and/or eligibility determination in writing directed to the Settlement Administrator. Within five (5) business days after a submitting such concerns to the Settlement Administrator, the Parties shall meet and confer in an attempt to resolve any disputes relating to the subject Exclusion Letters and/or eligibility determinations. In the event the Parties are unable to reach resolution on any disputes relating to the subject Exclusion Letters and/or eligibility determinations, the Parties shall submit their respective positions in writing to the Superior Court, which shall make the final decision regarding the subject Exclusion Letters and/or eligibility determinations. Thereafter, the Settlement Administrator shall provide the final results of its eligibility determinations to The Company and Class Counsel, which results will include the names of all Class Members and the names of all individuals who opted out of the Settlement.

d. In the event the number of Class Members who have timely requested exclusion from the Settlement exceeds ten percent (10%) of the total number of Class Members, The Company has the right, in its sole discretion, to terminate or not to terminate the Settlement.

If The Company chooses to exercise this right, it shall give written notice to Class Counsel within ten (10) days after receiving the report from the Settlement Administrator required by Section VI.8.c., above.

e. As part of seeking the Superior Court's final approval of this Settlement, Class Counsel will apply to the Superior Court for a Settlement Administration Expenses Award of no more than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00). The costs, fees and expenses incurred by the Settlement Administrator in administering this Settlement shall be paid from the Settlement Administration Expenses Award approved by the Court.

9. Notice/Approval of Settlement Class Certification and Settlement Agreement.

As part of this Settlement, the Parties agree to the following procedures for obtaining preliminary Superior Court approval of the Settlement, notifying the members of the Class, obtaining final Superior Court approval of the Settlement, and implementing payment of Settlement Awards to Class Members:

a. Class Counsel shall file a motion with the Superior Court (to be heard on August 18, 2023, or the earliest mutually agreeable date thereafter the Superior Court has available) to obtain preliminary approval of the Settlement in conformity with this Agreement and authorizing the issuance of the Notice of Settlement to members of the Class.

b. For purposes of this Settlement, Class Counsel will ask the Superior Court to enter an order certifying the Settlement Class, preliminarily approving the Settlement and this Agreement, approving Notice of Settlement to the Class, and setting a date for a Fairness Hearing to determine whether the Court will grant final approval of the Settlement and this Agreement (the "Preliminary Approval Order"). Class Counsel shall provide The Company with a draft of the proposed motion for preliminary approval and Preliminary Approval Order for review and comment at least seven (7) days before the motion is filed. Plaintiffs agree to consider in good faith all comments of The Company on the draft. The Company will not oppose Plaintiffs' motion, so long as the motion for preliminary approval and Preliminary Approval Order are in conformity with this Agreement.

c. Subject to the Superior Court's approval, Notice of the Settlement shall be provided using the following procedures:

(1) Within Forty (40) days of the date the Superior Court grants preliminary approval to the Settlement and issues its Preliminary Approval Order, the Settlement Administrator shall send the Notice of Settlement to all Class Members by mail and email.

(2) The Notice of Settlement shall provide that Class Members who do not opt out (i.e., who wish to become Settlement Class Members) and who wish to object to the Settlement must submit to the Settlement Administrator a written statement objecting to the Settlement. Such written statement must be postmarked or delivered to the Settlement Administrator on or before the Notice Deadline.

(3) The Notice of Settlement shall also provide that Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (i.e., opt out) from the Settlement must mail a letter to the Settlement

Administrator requesting exclusion from the Settlement on or before the Notice Deadline. Class Members who fail to submit a valid and timely Exclusion Letter on or before the Notice Deadline shall be deemed Settlement Class Members and shall be bound by all terms of the Settlement and any Final Judgment entered in this Case if the Settlement is approved by the Superior Court, regardless of whether they have objected to the Settlement.

(4) The Notice of Settlement shall also advise Class Members that they need do nothing (other than not affirmatively opt out) in order to receive a Settlement Award.

d. The Parties agree that neither they nor their counsel will solicit or otherwise encourage any of the Class Members to opt out or object to the Settlement or to appeal from the Superior Court's Final Judgment approving the Settlement.

e. Should any Notice of Settlement be returned as undeliverable without a forwarding address, the Settlement Administrator will perform a reasonable "skiptrace" search using the National Change of Address database to obtain an updated address and, if located, shall make a second attempt at mailing the Notice of Settlement. If such Notice of Settlement is again returned as undeliverable, no further attempts at delivery of the Notice of Settlement are required to be made. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Settlement Administrator or Class Counsel may mail or email a Notice of Settlement and/or Exclusion Form to a Class Member at an address or email address obtained by other means if the Notice of Settlement is returned as undeliverable or upon the Class Member's request for the same.

f. Within the later of twenty one (21) calendar days after the Notice Deadline, or seven days following resolution of challenge as set forth in Section IV.8.c., above, Class Counsel must file with the Superior Court a supplemental memorandum in support of final approval of the Settlement to inform the Court of any Class Members who have opted out of the settlement, to provide the Court with copies of all written objections received from any Class member with copies of their envelopes, and to respond to any objections to the settlement.

g. Subject to the Superior Court's availability and direction but no sooner than December 29, 2023, a Fairness Hearing shall be held for the Superior Court to determine whether to grant final approval of the Settlement, including Class Counsel's Attorney's Fees and Costs Award, the Settlement Administration Expenses Award, and the Service and Full Release Awards to the Plaintiffs. If the Superior Court finally approves the Settlement, the Parties will promptly and jointly ask the Superior Court to enter a Final Judgment dismissing the Case with prejudice and without an award of attorney's fees, expenses or costs to any Party except as provided herein.

h. After entry of the Final Judgment, and subject to Rule 7.2 of the Washington Rules of Appellate Procedure, the Superior Court shall have continued jurisdiction solely for the purposes of enforcement of the Settlement Agreement and addressing (a) settlement administration matters, and (b) such post-Final Judgment matters as may be appropriate under Court rules.

i. The Company shall initiate a transfer of the Maximum Settlement Amount into the QSF no later than February 7, 2024. Such payment shall be made by the Company or its authorized representatives. The QSF will hold all funds transferred by the Company pending the

issuance of the Settlement Awards to Settlement Class Members. Until the date that the Company's funding of the QSF is due, The Company shall have sole and complete control over all such funds and shall have no obligation to segregate such funds or to place them in escrow or to otherwise earmark them before the funding deadline. To the extent the Company fails to meet this deadline, Plaintiffs agree to provide two weeks' notice of any action or collection of the Maximum Settlement Amount.

j. Within three (3) business days after the Maximum Settlement Amount is deposited into the QSF, the Settlement Administrator shall issue and mail checks or effectuate wire transfers for the Service Awards, Full Release Awards, the Settlement Administration Expenses Award, and the Attorney's Fees and Costs Award to the respective recipients thereof. Within ten (10) business days after the Maximum Settlement Amount is deposited into the QSF, the Settlement Administrator shall issue and mail the Settlement Award checks. Settlement Award checks for each Settlement Class Member shall include an amount for wages and a separate amount for non-wages (penalties, enhancements, and prejudgment interest). The Settlement Administrator shall withhold and pay to the appropriate taxing authority(ies), all federal, Washington state, and local withholding taxes from each amount for wages, and shall issue appropriate IRS Forms W-2 for each amount for wages. The non-wages (penalties, enhancements, and prejudgment interest) amount shall not be subject to withholdings and shall be reported on an IRS Form 1099 (marked "Other Income") issued by the Settlement Administrator. Using the funds transferred into the QSF, the Settlement Administrator will also pay all of the required employer share of payroll taxes in connection with issuing the wage checks to Settlement Class Members, including the employer's share of FICA, Medicare, FUTA (if applicable), and any other employer-paid, federal, Washington state, and local requirements.

k. If the Case has not otherwise been already dismissed, no later than one hundred sixty (160) calendar days after the Settlement Administrator issues the Settlement Award checks, Class Counsel shall file a Satisfaction of Judgment confirming that the payments required by the Final Judgment have been made and that no further actions are needed to comply with the Final Judgment. This shall terminate the Court's jurisdiction over the Case.

l. Should any Settlement Award checks be returned as undeliverable without a forwarding address, the Settlement Administrator will perform a reasonable "skiptrace" search using the National Change of Address database to obtain an updated address and, if located, shall make a second attempt at mailing the Settlement Award Check. The Settlement Administrator shall mail any Settlement Class Member his or her Settlement Award check if he or she contacts the Settlement Administrator and provides a correct mailing address within ninety (90) calendar days after the initial distribution of the Settlement Award checks. If contacted by a Settlement Class member, The Company shall instruct the member to contact the Settlement Administrator or Class Counsel. No later than one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after the initial distribution of the Settlement Award checks, the Settlement Administrator shall provide both Parties with an accounting indicating which funds have been distributed to Settlement Class Members and which, if any, checks to Settlement Class Members have not been negotiated by that time. At this same time, the Settlement Administrator shall also provide The Company with copies of all IRS Forms W-2 and IRS Forms 1099 documents issued in connection with the payment of the Settlement Awards, and any other tax documentations reasonably required by The Company. If any checks to Settlement Class Members have not been negotiated within one hundred twenty

(120) days after distribution, the funds from those checks will be sent by the Settlement Administrator in the corresponding Settlement Class Member's name to the Unclaimed Property Fund for the State of Washington pursuant to the Unclaimed Property Act (RCW 63.29 et seq). The Company will not receive funds from any uncashed checks.

m. If the Superior Court does not enter an Order preliminarily or finally approving the Settlement, or if the Settlement does not become final for any other reason, this Agreement shall be null and void. In such case, the parties shall proceed in all respects as if this Agreement had not been executed. In the event an appeal is filed from the Superior Court's Final Judgment, or from any other appellate review that is sought prior to the Effective Date, funding and administration of the Settlement shall be stayed pending final resolution of the appeal or any other form of appellate review.

10. No Effect on Employee Benefits.

This Settlement, and any payments made under the Settlement to Settlement Class Members, shall have no effect on the eligibility for and/or calculation of employee benefits of any Settlement Class Members unless otherwise required by law.

11. Miscellaneous Provisions.

a. The Parties agree to stay all further proceedings in this Case, except such proceedings as are necessary to implement and complete this Settlement and/or to implement this Agreement, pending the Fairness Hearing to be conducted by the Superior Court and the Effective Date of the Settlement.

b. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument signed by counsel for all Parties or their successors-in-interest.

c. This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement among these Parties. No representations, warranties or inducements have been made to any Party concerning this Agreement, other than the representations, warranties and covenants contained and memorialized in this Agreement and the documents it requires (such as the Notice of Settlement and Exclusion Form).

d. Counsel for all Parties warrant and represent that they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to enter into this Agreement and 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 required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to implement this Settlement. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement this Settlement or this Agreement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement or this Agreement, then either Party may seek the Superior Court's assistance to resolve such disagreement.

e. This Agreement shall be binding upon, and shall inure to the benefit of, the successors of the Parties hereto, as previously defined.

f. All terms of this Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of Washington.


g. Plaintiffs and The Company believe that this is a fair, reasonable and adequate settlement, and have arrived at this Settlement through arm's-length negotiations, taking into account all relevant factors, present and potential.

h. Plaintiffs' counsel and/or the Settlement Administrator may create a notice website with information about this Settlement after preliminary approval of this Settlement is obtained from the Superior Court, which notice website may include a copy of this Agreement and any other documents filed with the Superior Court.

IT IS SO AGREED.


CLASS COUNSEL

ENTENTE LAW PLLC

DocuSigned by:

ADB1880915054FF...
James B. Pizl, WSBA #28969
Justin O. Abbasi, WSBA #53582
Ari M. Robbins Greene, WSBA #54201

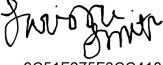
Dated: 7/22/2023

**COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT
THE WEDGE CORPORATION
FISHER & PHILLIPS PLLC**

DocuSigned by:

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Catharine Morisset, WSBA #29682
Ryan R. Jones, WSBA #52566


Dated: 7/30/2023

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

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9C51F275E3CC418...
Larissa Smith, individually and on
behalf of the Certified Class and Subclass

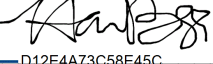
Dated: 7/22/2023

THE WEDGE CORPORATION

DocuSigned by:

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John Allegretto, Chief Executive Officer


Dated: 7/22/2023

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

DocuSigned by:

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Hailey Bragg, individually and on behalf
of the Certified Class and Subclass

Dated: 7/23/2023

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

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8280F1B2BA2943B...
Isabelle Bookout, individually
and on behalf of the Certified Class and
Subclass

Dated: 7/22/2023

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT

SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR PIERCE COUNTY

Larissa J. Smith, et al. v. The Wedge Corporation
Pierce County Superior Court Civil Case No. 21-2-08576-0

— NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT —

A court authorized this notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer. This is not a lawsuit against you, and you are not being sued. However, your legal rights are affected whether you act or not. Please read this notice carefully.

TO: All persons who, at any time between December 16, 2019, and August 18, 2023, were employed by The Wedge Corporation in Washington State in any position paid on an hourly basis, including, but not limited to: servers, hosts, bartenders, and cooks.

- Former employees brought claims against The Wedge Corporation (“The Company”) and its owners alleging that The Company: (1) failed to provide compliant meal periods under Washington law; (2) failed to provide compliant rest breaks under Washington law; and (3) unlawfully confiscated server tips to pay credit card service charges. The Company strongly denies these claims.
- The Court certified a Class and Subclass on April 28, 2023. The parties have reached a proposed Class Action Settlement.
- The Company strongly denies any fault, wrongdoing, or liability. If the Parties had not reached a Settlement, The Company would have continued to vigorously defend against Plaintiffs’ claims, including seeking a full defense verdict at trial. The Company agreed to this Settlement to avoid the risk, burden, and expense of further litigation, and as a means of making its current and former employees whole for even any arguable claims relating to the lawsuit.
- The Class Action Settlement includes a total maximum settlement payment by The Company of \$750,000.00.
- To qualify for a share of this payment, you must have been employed by The Wedge Corporation in the State of Washington at any time between December 6, 2019, and August 18, 2023 as an hourly worker, and have not excluded yourself from the Class Action Settlement.
- **You do not have to do anything to be eligible to receive a share of the settlement payment.**

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT	
DO NOTHING	You will be eligible to get a payment for your share of the Class Action Settlement. (You may need to provide the Settlement Administrator any updated contact information to ensure you receive a payment). You will give up rights relating to the legal claims in this Case.
ASK TO BE EXCLUDED	Get no payment. This is the only option that allows you to ever be a part of any other lawsuit against The Company with respect to the legal claims in this Case.
OBJECT	Write to the Court if you do not like the settlement and explain why. If the Settlement is approved, you will still receive a payment and you will give up rights relating to the legal claims in this Case.
GO TO A HEARING	Ask to speak in Court about the fairness of the Class Action Settlement. If the Settlement is approved, you will still receive a payment and you will give up rights relating to the legal claims in this Case.

- These rights and options—**and the deadlines to exercise them**—are explained in this Notice.
- The Court in charge of this Case still has to decide whether to grant its final approval of the Settlement. If the Court approves the Settlement, payments will be made after any appeals are resolved. Please be patient.

1. Why did I get this Notice?

The Company's records show that you were employed by The Wedge Corporation in the State of Washington and worked in a position paid on an hourly basis sometime between December 6, 2019, and August 18, 2023. The Court has allowed this Notice to be sent to you to inform you about a proposed settlement of a class action lawsuit, and about your options, before the Court decides whether to finally approve the Settlement. If the Court approves the Settlement, and after any appeals are resolved, payments will be made to Settlement Class Members who do not affirmatively request to be excluded from the Settlement.

This Notice explains the Case, the Class Action Settlement, your legal rights, what benefits are available, who is eligible for them, and how to get them.

2. What is the Case about?

The Plaintiffs, former employees Larissa Smith, Hailey Bragg, and Isabelle Bookout, claim that The Company violated Washington State wage and hour laws by: (1) failing to provide compliant meal periods; (2) failing to provide compliant rest breaks; and (3) unlawfully confiscating server tips to pay credit card service charges. The Company has denied the Plaintiffs' claims.

The Honorable Stanley J. Rumbaugh, of the Superior Court for the State of Washington in and for Pierce County, is overseeing this Class Action. The lawsuit is known as *Larissa J. Smith, et althea Wedge Corporation*, Pierce County Superior Court Civil Case No. 21-2-08576-0 (the "Case").

3. What is a class action and who is involved?

In a class action lawsuit, one or more people called a “Class Representative” sues on behalf of other people whom they believe have similar claims. The people together are a “Class” or “Class Members.” The employee(s) who sued, and who represent(s) the Class, is/are called the Plaintiff(s).

The person the Plaintiff(s) sue(s) (in this case The Company and its owners) is/are called the Defendant(s). In a class action, one court resolves the issues for everyone in the Class—except for those people who choose to exclude themselves from the Class.

4. Why is there a Settlement?

The Court did not decide in favor of the Plaintiffs or The Company or other Defendants. Instead, both sides agreed to a Settlement. This allows the parties to avoid the cost of a trial, and the people affected will be entitled to compensation. The Class Representatives and their attorneys think the Settlement is best for everyone in the Class.

5. How do I know whether I am part of the Settlement?

As part of the Settlement of the Case, the Pierce County Superior Court has decided that everyone who fits the following description is a Class Member:

All individuals employed by The Wedge Corporation at any time in Washington state from December 6, 2018, through August 18, 2023, in any position paid on an hourly basis, including, but not limited to servers, hosts, bartenders, and cooks.

As part of the Settlement of the Case, the Pierce County Superior Court has decided that everyone who fits the following description is a Subclass Member:

All Class Members employed by the Wedge Corporation at any time in Washington state from December 6, 2018, through August 18, 2023, as a server who had tips confiscated to pay credit card service charges.

If it is approved, the Settlement will cover all Settlement Class Members who have not timely and affirmatively excluded themselves from the Case. To be a part of and receive any money pursuant to the Settlement, Settlement Class Members need do nothing (other than refrain from affirmatively opting out of the Settlement).

6. What claims are covered by the Settlement?

The Settlement will resolve all of the claims Settlement Class Members could have brought against The Company regarding: (1) any alleged failure to provide compliant meal periods; (2) any alleged failure to provide compliant rest breaks; and (3) any alleged unlawful confiscation of tips to pay credit card service charges (collectively, the “Released Claims”). The Released Claims include any and all claims, loss, or damage sustained by Plaintiffs or the Settlement Class Members based on federal, state, or local laws pertaining to unpaid wages, unpaid meal time, unpaid overtime, failure to comply with any timekeeping or recordkeeping requirements, unpaid service charges, failure to allow rest and meal periods that comply with WAC 296-126, RCW 49.48, RCW 49.46, RCW 49.52, exemplary damages, interest, fees, costs, attorneys’ fees and all other claims and allegations made in the Action, or any assertion of rights relating to any of the foregoing.

7. What are the basic terms of the Settlement?

Subject to Court approval, the essential terms of the Settlement are as follows:

The Company will pay a total of \$750,000 as part of the Settlement, apportioned as follows:

- **Class Fund:** The Company will pay approximately \$427,250, which will be available for the payment of Settlement Awards to Settlement Class Members who do not timely opt out of this Settlement.
- **Employer-side Payroll Taxes:** The Company will pay all employer-side payroll taxes on amounts attributed to wages.
- **Service Awards:** The Company will pay up to \$7,500 each to Plaintiffs and Class Representatives Larissa Smith, Hailey Bragg, and Isabelle Bookout as a service award in recognition of their efforts in prosecuting the Case.
- **Full Release Awards:** The Company will pay up to \$5,000 each to Plaintiffs and Class Representatives Larissa Smith, Hailey Bragg, and Isabelle Bookout in exchange for a general release of all claims against Defendant.
- **Settlement Administration Expenses Award:** The Company will pay up to \$25,000 to the Settlement Administrator for the processing of the Settlement, including the expenses of providing notice of the Settlement to Settlement Class Members, handling the claims administration process, processing payments to Settlement Class Members, and handling tax reporting requirements.
- **Attorney's Fees and Costs Award:** The Company will pay up to \$225,000 to Plaintiffs' attorney for the attorney's fees award and up to \$12,500 for actual litigation costs they have incurred and will incur through final judgment in representing Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class.

Monetary Relief: The amount available to the Settlement Class is intended to compensate Settlement Class Members for the wages and other damages they are allegedly owed as a result of the allegations in the Case.

Distribution of Settlement Fund: Each Class Member who does **not** submit a valid and timely request for exclusion will automatically receive a settlement payment. Each Class Member who does not request exclusion shall receive a minimum settlement payment of \$50.00. The remaining monies from the Class Fund will be allocated based on hours worked in the State of Washington during the Class period using a weighted hours formula. The weighted hours formula will attribute each hour worked as a non-server at 100% and each hour worked as a server at 105%. Awards to individual Settlement Class Members will be calculated pro rata by dividing each Settlement Class Member's total weighted hours during the Class Period by the total the total aggregate weighted hours for all Settlement Class and then multiplying the resulting ratio by the remaining monies in the Class Fund. Checks will be mailed to Settlement Class Members by the Settlement Administrator. If any checks have not been negotiated within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after distribution, the funds from those checks will be sent in the corresponding Settlement Class Member's name to the Unclaimed Property Fund for the State of Washington pursuant to the Unclaimed Property Act (RCW 63.29 et seq). The Company will not receive funds from any uncashed checks.

Tax Treatment of Settlement Awards: Fifty Percent (50%) of each individual Settlement Class Member’s settlement award will be treated as wages and subject to normal tax withholding and shall be reported to the taxing authorities and the Settlement Class Member on an IRS Form W-2. Fifty Percent (50%) of each individual Settlement Class Member’s settlement award will be treated as non-wages (a combination of penalties, enhancements, and prejudgment interest) on which there will be no tax withholding and for which an IRS Form 1099-MISC (marked “Other Income”) shall be issued to the taxing authorities and the Settlement Class Member. The Company makes no representations as to the taxability of each Class Member’s settlement aware and you should seek tax advice if needed.

Release of Claims: Upon final approval by the Court, the Settlement Class and each Settlement Class Member who has not submitted a valid and timely written request to be excluded from the Settlement will irrevocably release all of the Released Claims against The Company relating to the period from December 6, 2019, through and including August 18, 2023. This Release specifically includes any claims arising out of or relating to: (1) any alleged missed, interrupted, shortened, untimely, unpaid, and/or non-compliant rest breaks and/or meal periods; (2) any alleged unlawful confiscation of server tips to pay credit card service charges; and (3) any attendant claims for unpaid wages, overtime payments, premium payments, interest, exemplary damages, and attorney’s fees and costs arising out of or relating to any of the foregoing. This Release requires you to waive and precludes you from bringing any Released Claims against not only The Wedge Corporation, but also its predecessors, successors, parents, subsidiaries, franchisors, owners, officers, directors, employees, members, shareholders, agents, attorneys, and insurers, along with any other individual or entity who could be jointly or severally liable for any of the claims alleged in the Case or released by this Agreement.

Dismissal of Action: Upon final approval, the Court will enter a judgment of dismissal of the Case with prejudice but shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms of the settlement.

8. How can I get a payment?

To get a payment, you need do nothing. As long as you do not submit a written request to be excluded from the Settlement, you will be a Settlement Class Member and will be entitled to payment.

9. When would I get my payment?

The Court will hold a hearing on **[HEARING DATE]** to decide whether to finally approve the settlement. If the Pierce County Superior Court approves the settlement, the parties will then have to wait to see whether there is an appeal. This will take at least thirty (30) days and, if there is an appeal, can take up to a year or more to resolve. In the event of an appeal, information regarding the appeal’s progress will be made available at **[WEBSITE]**. If there is no appeal, we expect payments will go out within approximately sixty (60) days of the Court’s final approval of the Settlement. Please be patient.

10. Do I have a lawyer in this case?

The Court has decided that James B. Pizl and the lawyers from the law firm of Entente Law PLLC are qualified to represent you and all Settlement Class Members. These lawyers are called “Class Counsel.” You will not be charged for these lawyers. If you want to be represented by our own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

11. How will the lawyers be paid?

As indicated above, Class Counsel will seek payment of their attorneys’ fees in the amount of \$225,000.00, and their litigation costs in an amount of up to \$12,500.00, each of which must be approved by the Court as part of the final approval of this Settlement. Class Counsel have been working on this case since November 2021, and have not received any fees or reimbursements for the costs of the lawsuit.

12. How do I exclude myself from the Settlement?

If you fit the definition of a Settlement Class Member and want to exclude yourself from the Settlement, you must request exclusion in writing by **[NOTICE DEADLINE]**. You may be excluded as a member of the class by submitting a written request stating, “I request that I be excluded from the Class in the case of Larissa J. Smith, et al v. The Wedge Corporation.” The request must include your name, address, and signature. You must mail a copy of the letter to the Settlement Administrator at the following address postmarked no later than **[NOTICE DEADLINE]**:

If you exclude yourself from the Settlement (i.e., opt out), you will not receive any payment from the Settlement. You will also not be entitled to object to the Settlement. If you exclude yourself, you will not be bound by the terms of the Settlement, including the Release described in Sections 6 and 7, above. This means you will retain the right at your own expense to pursue any claims you may have against The Company.

13. If I don’t like the Settlement, how do I tell the Court?

If you are a Settlement Class Member, have not excluded yourself from the Settlement, and do not like the Settlement or the fee request, you can object. You must do so in writing and you must state the reasons why you think the Court should not approve the Settlement. If you object, be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number, the name of the Case (*Larissa J. Smith, et al v. The Wedge Corporation*, Pierce County Superior Court Civil Case No. 21-2-08576-0), the reasons you object to the Settlement, and a signature. You must mail a copy of the objection to the following address **postmarked no later than [OBJECTION DEADLINE]**:

14. When and where will the Court decide to approve the Settlement?

The Court will hold a Fairness Hearing at [HEARING TIME] on [HEARING DATE], at the Pierce County Superior Court, 930 Tacoma Ave S, Room 2-A, Tacoma, WA 98402.

If there are objections, the Court will consider them. Judge Stanley J. Rumbaugh will listen to people who have asked to speak at the hearing (*see* Section 16). After the hearing, the Court will decide whether to finally approve the Settlement, including Class Counsel’s request for attorney’s fees, costs, Settlement Administration Expenses, and Service Awards and Full Release Awards for the named Plaintiffs. We do not know how long that decision will take.

15. Do I have to come to the hearing?

No. Class Counsel will answer any questions Judge Stanley J. Rumbaugh may have, but you are welcome to attend at your own expense. If you send an objection, you do not have to come to Court to talk about it. As long as you mailed your written objection by the deadline, the Court will consider it. You may also pay your own lawyer to attend, but that is not necessary.

16. May I speak at the hearing?

You may ask the Court for permission to speak at the Fairness Hearing. To do so, you must send a letter saying it is your “Notice of Intention to Appear in *Larissa J. Smith, et al v. The Wedge Corporation*, Pierce County Superior Court Civil Case No. 21-2-08576-0.” Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, and your signature. Your Notice of Intention to Appear must be **postmarked no later than [NOTICE DEADLINE]**, and be sent to the Court, Class Counsel, and Defense Counsel at the three addresses set forth below:

Court	Class Counsel	Defense Counsel
Hon. Stanley J. Rumbaugh Pierce County Superior Court Department 18 930 Tacoma Ave S, Rm 334 Tacoma, WA 98402	James B. Pizl Entente Law PLLC 315 39 th Ave SW, Ste 14 Puyallup, WA 98373	Catharine M. Morisset Fisher & Phillips LLP 1700 7 th Ave Ste 2200 Seattle, WA 98101-4416

17. What happens if I do nothing at all?

If you do nothing—that is, if you do not mail or deliver a timely written request to exclude yourself from the Settlement—you will be part of the Settlement Class and will be entitled to a share of the Settlement. You will also be bound by the terms of the Settlement, including the Release described in Sections 6 and 7, above.

18. Are there more details about the Settlement?

This Notice summarizes the proposed Settlement. More details are in the Settlement Agreement. You can get a copy of the Settlement Agreement by visiting the website [WEBSITE], which has a copy of the Settlement Agreement posted. Plaintiffs’ motion for final approval of the settlement agreement, including Class Counsel’s request for attorney’s fees, costs, Settlement Administration Expenses, and a Service Award for the named Plaintiffs will be available for you to review on [DATE] at [WEBSITE URL].