

Lopez v. LG Electronics Alabama, Inc., No. C22-00686
Lopez v. LG Electronics Alabama, Inc., No. C22-01572
 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, FOR THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA
 NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

You are not being sued. This notice affects your rights. Please read it carefully

To: All persons who worked for Defendants LG Electronics Alabama, Inc. and LG Electronics U.S.A., Inc. (“Defendants”) as non-exempt, hourly paid employees in California at any time during the period from February 28, 2018 to July 20, 2023 (“Class Members”).

All persons who worked for Defendants as non-exempt, hourly paid employees in California at any time during the period from March 11, 2021 to July 20, 2023 (“PAGA Members”).

On August 03, 2023, the Honorable Charles S. Treat of the Contra Costa County Superior Court granted preliminary approval of this class action settlement and ordered the litigants to notify all Class Members of the settlement. **You have received this notice because Defendants’ records indicate that you are a Class Member, and therefore entitled to a payment from the settlement.**

Unless you choose to opt out of the settlement by following the procedures described below, you will be deemed a Class Member and, if the Court grants final approval of the settlement, you will be mailed a check for your share of the settlement fund. The Final Fairness Hearing on the adequacy, reasonableness, and fairness of the Settlement will be held at 9:00 a.m. on October 26, 2023 in Department 12 of the Contra Costa County Superior Court located at 725 Court Street, Martinez, California 94533.

Please also note that the Final Fairness Hearing may be rescheduled by the Court to another date and/or time. Please visit www.cptgroupcaseinfo.com/lgelectronicsettlemet for any scheduling changes.

If you move, you must send the Settlement Administrator your new address; otherwise, you may never receive your settlement payment. It is your responsibility to keep a current address on file with the Settlement Administrator.

SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT

You Don’t Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement	If you do nothing, you will be deemed a “Participating Class Member,” and will be eligible for a payment from the Net Settlement Fund and if you are also a PAGA Member, the PAGA Fund. In exchange, you will be bound by the terms of the proposed Settlement and give up your right to assert wage and hour claims and PAGA penalty claims against Defendants based on the facts alleged in the Action during the applicable Class Period and PAGA Period.
You Can Opt-out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement	If you don’t want to fully participate in the proposed Settlement, you can opt-out of the class settlement by sending the Settlement Administrator a written Request for Exclusion. Once excluded, you will no longer be eligible for a payment from the Net Settlement Fund and will not be bound by the terms of the proposed class settlement.
The Opt-out Deadline is September 28, 2023.	You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. PAGA Members remain eligible to receive a payment from the PAGA Fund and must give up their rights to pursue PAGA penalty claims against Defendants based on the facts alleged in the Action during the PAGA Period.
Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement Written Objections Must be Submitted by September 28, 2023.	All Class Members who do not opt-out (“Participating Class Members”) can object to any aspect of the proposed class settlement, but not the PAGA settlement.

<p>You Can Participate in the October 26, 2023, Final Approval Hearing</p>	<p>The Court’s Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on October 26, 2023, in Department 12 of the Contra Costa County Superior Court located at 725 Court Street, Martinez, California 94533. You don’t have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone or by using the Court’s virtual appearance platform. Participating Class Members can verbally object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing.</p> <p>If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement despite your objection, you will receive a payment from the Net Settlement Fund and you will be bound by the terms of the Settlement.</p>
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Summary of the Litigation

Plaintiff Daniel Lopez, on his behalf and on behalf of other current and former non-exempt employees, alleges that Defendants violated California state labor laws as a result of their alleged failure to, among other things: (1) pay minimum and overtime wages to employees for all hours worked; (2) provide employees with meal and rest breaks; (3) timely pay all wages owed to employees during each pay period and upon termination of their employment; (4) reimburse employees for necessary business expenses; and (5) provide employees with accurate, itemized wage statements.

After the exchange of relevant information and evidence, the parties agreed to enter into settlement negotiations in an attempt to informally resolve the claims in the case. On March 22, 2023, the parties participated in a mediation with Jeffrey Ross, Esq., an experienced and well-respected class action mediator. With Mr. Ross’s guidance, the parties were able to negotiate a complete settlement of Plaintiff’s claims.

Counsel for Plaintiff, and the attorneys appointed by the Court to represent the class, Capstone Law APC (“Class Counsel”), have investigated and researched the facts and circumstances underlying the issues raised in the case and the applicable law. While Class Counsel believe that the claims alleged in this lawsuit have merit, Class Counsel also recognize that the risk and expense of continued litigation justify settlement. Based on the foregoing, Class Counsel believe the proposed settlement is fair, adequate, reasonable, and in the best interests of Class Members.

Defendants have denied, and continue to deny the factual and legal allegations in the case and believe that they have valid defenses to Plaintiff’s claims. By agreeing to settle, Defendants are not admitting liability on any of the factual allegations or claims in the case or that the case can or should proceed as a class action. Defendants have agreed to settle the case as part of a compromise with Plaintiff.

Summary of The Proposed Settlement Terms

Plaintiff and Defendants have agreed to settle the underlying class claims in exchange for a Gross Settlement Amount of \$725,000. This amount is inclusive of: (1) individual settlement payments to all Participating Class Members; (2) a Class Representative Enhancement Payment of \$10,000 to Daniel Lopez for his services on behalf of the class, and for a release of all claims arising out of his employment with Defendants; (3) \$241,667 in attorneys’ fees and up to \$25,000 in litigation costs and expenses; (4) a \$25,000 settlement of claims under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”), inclusive of a \$18,750 payment to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) in connection with the PAGA, and a \$6,250 payment (“PAGA Fund”) to all PAGA Members; and (5) reasonable Settlement Administrator’s fees and expenses currently estimated at \$7,500. After deducting the above payments, a total of approximately \$415,833 will be allocated to Class Members who do not opt out of the Settlement Class (“Net Settlement Fund”). Additionally, all PAGA Members will receive a proportional share of the \$6,250 PAGA Fund, regardless whether they opt out of the Settlement Class.

Payments from Net Settlement Fund. Defendants will calculate the total number of Workweeks worked by each Class Member from February 28, 2018 to July 20, 2023 (“Class Period”) and the aggregate total number of Workweeks worked by all Class Members during the Class Period. To determine each Class Member’s estimated share of the Net Settlement Fund, the Settlement Administrator will use the following formula: The Net Settlement Fund will be divided by the aggregate total number of Workweeks, resulting in the “Workweek Value.” Each Class Member’s share of the Net Settlement Fund will be calculated by multiplying each individual Class Member’s total number of Workweeks by the Workweek Value. The Individual Settlement Payment will be reduced by any required deductions for each Class Members as specifically set forth herein, including employee-side tax withholdings or deductions. If there are any valid and timely Requests for Exclusion, the Settlement Administrator shall proportionately increase each Participating Class Member’s share of the Net Settlement Fund according to the number of Workweeks worked, so that the amount actually distributed to the Settlement Class equals 100% of the Net Settlement Fund.

According to Defendants’ records, you worked during the Class Period in a non-exempt position for a total of <<WorkWeeks>> Workweeks. Accordingly, your estimated payment from the Net Settlement Fund is approximately <<\$estSettAmount>>.

Payments from PAGA Fund. Defendants will calculate the total number of Workweeks worked by each PAGA Member from March 11, 2021 to July 20, 2023 (“PAGA Period”) and the aggregate total number of Workweeks worked by all PAGA Members during the PAGA Period. To determine each PAGA Member’s estimated share of the PAGA Fund, the Settlement Administrator will use the following formula:

The PAGA Fund will be divided by the aggregate total number of Workweeks, resulting in the “PAGA Workweek Value.” Each PAGA Member’s share of the PAGA Fund will be calculated by multiplying each individual PAGA Member’s total number of Workweeks by the PAGA Workweek Value. A Request for Exclusion does not exclude a PAGA Member from the release of claims under California Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.* and the PAGA Member will receive their portion of the PAGA fund even if he or she submits a valid Request for Exclusion.

According to Defendants’ records, you worked during the PAGA Period in a non-exempt position for a total of <<PAGA_WorkWeeks>> Workweeks. Accordingly, your estimated payment from the PAGA Fund is approximately <<\$est_PAGAAmount>>.

Your Estimated Payment: Based on the above, your estimated payment from the settlement is approximately <<\$estAmount>>. If you believe the Workweek information provided above is incorrect, please contact the Settlement Administrator to dispute the calculation. You must attach all documentation in support of your dispute (such as check stubs, W2s, or letters from HR). All disputes must be postmarked or faxed on or before September 28, 2023, and must be sent to:

Lopez v. LG Electronics Alabama, Inc. & LG Electronics U.S.A., Inc.
c/o CPT Group, Inc.
50 Corporate Park
Irvine, California 92606
www.cptgroupcaseinfo.com/lgelectronicsettlemnt

If you dispute the information stated above, Defendants’ records will control unless you are able to provide documentation that establishes otherwise.

Taxes on Settlement Payments. IRS Forms W-2 and 1099 will be distributed to participating Class Members and the appropriate taxing authorities reflecting the payments they receive under the settlement. Class Members should consult their tax advisors concerning the tax consequences of the payments they receive under the Settlement. For purposes of this settlement, one-third (1/3) of each settlement payment will be allocated as wages for which IRS Forms W-2 will be issued, and two-thirds (2/3) will be allocated as non-wages (i.e., penalties and interest) for which IRS Forms 1099-MISC will be issued.

Your Options Under the Settlement

Option 1 – Automatically Receive a Payment from the Settlement

If want to receive your payment from the settlement, then no further action is required on your part. You will automatically receive your settlement payment from the Settlement Administrator if and when the Settlement receives final approval by the Court.

If you choose **Option 1**, and if the Court grants final approval of the settlement, you will be mailed a check for your share of the settlement funds. In addition, you will be deemed to have released or waived the Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims:

Released Class Claims: All claims and/or causes of action that were pled or reasonably could have been pled in this case based on the facts alleged in the original class action complaint, first amended class action complaint, proposed second amended complaint, or which reasonably arise out or reasonably relate to such facts, whether known or unknown, including but not limited to the failure to pay wages, the failure to pay for all hours worked, including “off the clock” claims, the failure to pay minimum wages, the failure to pay overtime compensation, the failure to provide meal periods, the failure to pay meal period premium pay, the failure to provide rest periods, the failure to pay rest period premium pay, the failure to pay waiting-time penalties, the failure to timely pay all wages owed during employment, unreimbursed business expenses under Labor Code § 2802, the failure to maintain records, the failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, including without limitation all related claims for restitution and other equitable relief under Business and Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*, and related claims for conversion, liquidated damages, punitive damages, penalties, statutory penalties based on the preceding released claims.

Released PAGA Claims: All claims and/or causes of action for PAGA civil penalties that were pled or reasonably could have been pled in this case based on the facts alleged in the original class action complaint, first amended class action complaint, proposed second amended complaint, PAGA complaint, letter to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, or which reasonably arise out or reasonably relate to such facts, whether known or unknown, including but not limited to the failure to pay wages, the failure to pay for all hours worked, including “off the clock” claims, the failure to pay minimum wages, the failure to pay overtime compensation, the failure to provide meal periods, the failure to pay meal period premium pay, the failure to provide rest periods, the failure to pay rest period premium pay, the failure to pay waiting-time penalties, the failure to timely pay all wages owed during employment, unreimbursed business expenses under Labor Code § 2802, the failure to maintain records, the failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements.

Option 2 – Opt Out of the Settlement

If you do not wish to participate in the settlement, you may exclude yourself from participating by submitting a written request to the Settlement Administrator expressly and clearly indicating that you have received this Notice of Class Action Settlement, decided not to participate in the settlement, and desire to be excluded from the settlement. The written request for exclusion must include your name, signature, address, telephone number, and last four digits of your Social Security Number. Sign, date, and mail the request for exclusion by First Class U.S. Mail or equivalent, to the address below.

Lopez v. LG Electronics Alabama, Inc. & LG Electronics U.S.A., Inc.

c/o CPT Group, Inc.

50 Corporate Park

Irvine, California 92606

www.cptgroupcaseinfo.com/lgelectronicssettlement

The Request for Exclusion must be postmarked or faxed not later than September 28, 2023. If you submit a Request for Exclusion which is not postmarked or faxed by September 28, 2023, your Request for Exclusion will be rejected, and you will be included in the settlement class.

If you choose **Option 2**, you will no longer be a Class Member, and you will:

- Not Receive a Payment from the Net Settlement Fund.
- Not release the Released Class Claims.
- If you are a PAGA Member, you will still release the Released PAGA Claims, and will receive a payment from the PAGA Fund.

Option 3 – Object to the Settlement

If you decide to object to the settlement because you find it unfair or unreasonable, you may submit a written objection stating why you object to the settlement, or you may instead appear at the Final Fairness Hearing to object to the Settlement. Written objections must provide: (1) your full name, signature, address, and telephone number, (2) a written statement of all grounds for the objection accompanied by any legal support for such objection; (3) copies of any papers, briefs, or other documents upon which the objection is based; and (4) a statement about whether you intend to appear at the Fairness Hearing. The objection must be mailed to the administrator at *Lopez v. LG Electronics Alabama, Inc. & LG Electronics U.S.A., Inc. c/o CPT Group, Inc. 50 Corporate Park Irvine, California 92606*.

All written objections must be received by the administrator by not later than September 28, 2023. By submitting an objection, you are not excluding yourself from the settlement. To exclude yourself from the settlement, you must follow the directions described above. Please note that you cannot both object to the settlement and exclude yourself. You must choose one option only.

You may also, if you wish, appear at the Final Fairness Hearing set for October 26, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in the Superior Court of the State of California, for the County of Contra Costa and discuss your objection with the Court and the Parties at your own expense. You may also retain an attorney to represent you at the hearing.

If you choose **Option 3**, you will still be entitled to the money from the settlement. If the Court overrules your objection, you will be deemed to have released the Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims.

Additional Information

This Notice of Class Action Settlement is only a summary of the case and the settlement. For a more detailed statement of the matters involved in the case and the settlement, you may refer to the pleadings, the settlement agreement, and other papers filed in the case. All inquiries by Class Members regarding this Class Notice and/or the settlement should be directed to the Settlement Administrator or Class Counsel.

Raul Perez

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1875 Century Park E., Suite 1000

Los Angeles, CA 90067

Phone: 1 (888) 304-2574

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE CLERK OF THE COURT, THE JUDGE, OR DEFENDANTS' ATTORNEYS WITH INQUIRIES.