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6	` ,		
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9	[Additional counsel listed on next page]		
10	IINITED STATES I	NISTRICT COURT	
11	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
12	FOR THE CENTRAL DIS	TRICI OF CALIFORNIA	
13	JEREMEY EDWARDS an individual, and on behalf of others similarly situated,	Case No. 2:16-cv-09187-PSG-KS	
14	Plaintiff,	Hon. Philip S. Gutierrez Magistrate Karen L. Stevenson	
15	V.	Triagistrate Tracer 2. Stevenson	
16	CHARTWELL STAFFING SERVICES,	CLASS ACTION	
17	INC. d/b/a CHARTWELL STAFFING SOLUTIONS, a New York corporation;	STIPULATION OF CLASS	
18	and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,	ACTION SETTLEMENT	
19	Defendants.		
20	CHARTWELL STAFFING SERVICES,		
21	INC. d/b/a CHARTWELL STAFFING SOLUTIONS, a New York corporation,		
22 23	Cross-Complainant,		
24	AMERICAN FOOD PROCESSING &		
25	PACKING, LLC d/b/a AVALON FOOD PACKING, a California Limited Liability Company,		
26	Cross-Defendant.		
27			
28			

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IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED, by and between Plaintiff JEREMEY EDWARDS, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, on the one hand, and Defendant CHARTWELL STAFFING SERVICES, INC. D/B/A CHARTWELL STAFFING SOLUTIONS ("Chartwell") and Cross-Defendant AMERICAN FOOD PROCESSING & PACKING, LLC d/b/a AVALON FOOD PACKING ("Avalon"), on the other hand, and subject to the approval of the Court, that the Action is hereby compromised and settled pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in this Stipulation of Class Action Settlement ("Stipulation") and that the Court shall make and enter judgment, subject to the continuing jurisdiction of the Court as set forth below, and subject to the definitions, recitals, and terms set forth herein which by this reference become an integral part of this Stipulation.

# **DEFINITIONS**

- 1. "Action" means the putative class action entitled *Jeremey Edwards v. Chartwell Staffing Services, Inc., et al.,* United States District Court, Central District of California, Case No. 2:16-cv-09187-PSG-KS, including the claims asserted in the Cross-Claim filed by Chartwell Staffing Services, Inc. against American Food Processing & Packing, LLC.
- 2. "CAFA Notice" shall mean the notice of this Agreement required to be served by Defendants on the appropriate federal and state agencies as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1715(b).
- 3. "Class Counsel" means Matthew J. Matern, Launa Adolph, and Tagore O. Subramaniam of Matern Law Group, PC.
- 4. "Class Counsel Award" means reasonable attorneys' fees for Class Counsel's litigation and resolution of this Action (not to exceed 33 1/3% of the Gross Settlement Amount), and Class Counsel's expenses and costs reasonably incurred in connection with the Action (not to exceed \$22,000).

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motions to compel, and seeking any necessary orders from the Court. Class Information shall be transmitted in electronic form and shall include: each Class Member's full name; last known address; Social Security Number; and total number of Compensable Workweeks.

6. "Class Members" means Plaintiff and all other persons who work or have worked as non-exempt employees of any Defendant, including Chartwell Staffing Services, Inc., American Food Processing & Packing, LLC, Avalon Cold Storage, LLC, or American Logistics International Fulfillment, LLC, at the facility located at 2501 Rosecrans Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90059 at any time during the Class Period.

"Class Information" means information regarding Class Members that

Defendants shall in good faith compile from the records within their possession,

custody, or control, and shall be authorized by the Court to transmit in a secured

manner to the Settlement Administrator. To the extent that Class Information is not

within Defendants' possession, custody, or control, and that Class Information is

believed to be in the possession, custody, or control of third-parties, Defendants

shall take all necessary legal action to compel production of such Class

Information, including, but not limited to, issuing and enforcing subpoenas, filing

- 7. "Class Notice" means the Notice of Class Action Settlement, substantially in the form attached as **Exhibit 1**, including English and Spanish translations, which shall be subject to Court approval and which the Settlement Administrator shall mail to each Class Member explaining the terms of this Stipulation and the Settlement.
- 8. "Class Period" means the period from December 12, 2012 through the date the Court grants preliminary approval.
- 9. "Class Representative Service Award" means the amount that the Court authorizes to be paid to Plaintiff, not to exceed \$10,000.00, in addition to

- 10. "Compensable Workweeks" means the total number of weeks during which a Class Member worked for any Defendant, including Chartwell Staffing Services, Inc., American Food Processing & Packing, LLC, Avalon Cold Storage, LLC, and American International Logistics Fulfillment, LLC, as a non-exempt, hourly employee at the facility located at 2501 Rosecrans Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90059 during the Class Period based on Defendants' records and which shall be used to calculate Individual Settlement Awards.
- 11. "Defendants" means Defendant Chartwell Staffing Services, Inc. d/b/a Chartwell Staffing Solutions ("Chartwell"), Cross-Defendant American Food Processing and Packing, LLC d/b/a Avalon Food Packing ("Food Packing"), Avalon Cold Storage, LLC ("Cold Storage"), and American Logistics International Fulfillment, LLC ("Fulfillment") (collectively Food Packing, Cold Storage, and Fulfillment shall be referred to as the "Avalon Entities").
- 12. "Defense Counsel" means Christopher Archibald and Alis Moon of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. for Defendant Chartwell; and Farhad Novian and Heather Davis of Novian & Novian, LLP for the Avalon Entities.
- 13. "Effective Date" refers to the date by which the last of the following has occurred: (1) the Stipulation has been executed by all Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel; (2) the Court has given preliminary approval to the Settlement; (3) the Class Notice has been sent to the Class Members, providing them with an opportunity to object to the terms of the Settlement; (4) the Court has held a Final Approval Hearing and entered a Final Order and Judgment, and approved the Stipulation; (5) five (5) business days after the period for filing any appeal, writ or other appellate proceeding opposing the Court's Final Order and

Judgment has elapsed without any appeal, writ or other appellate proceeding having been filed. For purposes of determining the Effective Date, the Parties agree that only California Courts and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals have jurisdiction over any such appeals, except for any appellate procedure over which the United States Supreme Court may exercise jurisdiction.

- 14. "Employers' Share of Payroll Taxes" means Defendant Chartwell and the Avalon Entities' portion of payroll taxes, including, but not limited to FICA and FUTA, on the portion of the Individual Settlement Awards that constitutes wages, which is to be paid to the Settlement Administrator in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount.
- 15. "Final Approval Hearing" means the hearing to be conducted by the Court after the filing by Plaintiff of an appropriate motion and following appropriate notice to Class Members giving Class Members an opportunity to object to the Settlement, at which time Plaintiff shall request that the Court finally approve the fairness, reasonableness and adequacy of the terms and conditions of the Settlement, enter the Final Order and Judgment, and take other appropriate action.
- 16. "Final Order and Judgment" means the order and judgment to be entered by the Court upon granting final approval of the Settlement and this Stipulation as binding upon the Parties and the Participating Class Members.
- 17. "Gross Settlement Amount" means the maximum amount Defendants shall have to pay in connection with this Settlement, by way of a common fund, which shall be inclusive of all Individual Settlement Awards to Class Members, the Class Counsel Award, Settlement Administration Costs, the Class Representative Service Award, the LWDA's share of the PAGA payment, and required employee-side withholdings from Individual Settlement Awards (exclusive of the Employer's Share of Payroll Taxes and withholdings). Subject to Court approval and the terms of this Stipulation, the Gross Settlement Amount that Defendants shall be required

to pay is Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000.00). Defendants shall issue payment to the Settlement Administrator for one-half of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$400,000) within (6) months after the date of entry of the Preliminary Approval Order. Defendants shall issue payment to the Settlement Administrator for the remaining one-half of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$400,000), within 120 days after the due date of the first payment. Chartwell is responsible for paying \$500,000 of the Gross Settlement Amount. The Avalon Entities are responsible for paying \$300,000 of the Gross Settlement Amount. Chartwell and the Avalon Entities shall each pay half of their portions of the Gross Settlement Amount in each installment.

- 18. "Individual Settlement Award" means the amount payable from the Net Settlement Amount to each Class Member.
- 19. "Information Sheet" means the form that shall be prepared by the Settlement Administrator and sent to each Class Member that sets forth the total number of Compensable Workweeks and the estimated Individual Settlement Award for the Class Member, substantially in the form attached as **Exhibit 2**.
- 20. "LWDA" means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.
- 21. "Net Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount less the Class Counsel Award, Settlement Administration Costs, the Class Representative Service Awards, the LWDA's share of the PAGA payment, and required employee-side withholdings from Individual Settlement Awards (exclusive of the Employer's Share of Payroll Taxes and withholdings).
- 22. "Notice of Objection" means a Class Member's written objection to the Settlement.
- 23. "Notice Packet" means the packet of documents which shall be mailed to all Class Members by the Settlement Administrator, including the Class Notice, Information Sheet, and Exclusion Form.

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- 24. "PAGA" means the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code sections 2698, et seq.
- 25. "Participating Class Member" means a Class Member who does not request exclusion from the Settlement.
- "Parties" means Plaintiff and Defendants, and each of them. 26. "Plaintiff" means Plaintiff Jeremey Edwards.
- 27. "Preliminary Approval Order" means the order to be issued by the Court approving and authorizing the mailing of the Notice Packet by the Settlement Administrator, setting the date of the Final Approval Hearing, and granting preliminary approval of the Settlement set forth in this Stipulation, among other things.
- "Released Claims" means all claims alleged or that could have been 28. alleged in the operative complaint based on the facts, allegations, and legal theories raised in the operative complaint including all of the following claims, actions, demands, causes of action, suits, debts, obligations, damages, rights or liabilities, of any nature and description whatsoever (whether or not the factual cause of the alleged underpayment or violation was alleged with particularity in the operative complaint): (a) failure to pay minimum wages, straight time wages, or overtime wages; (b) failure to provide proper meal and rest periods, to properly provide premium pay in lieu thereof, or to properly calculate premium pay in lieu of meal and rest periods; (c) failure to maintain required records; (d) failure to provide complete and/or accurate wage statements; (e) failure to timely pay wages due or final wages due; (f) unfair business practices; (g) civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA"); (h) any other claims or penalties under the wage and hour laws pleaded in the Action; (k) any other claims or penalties under the wage and hour laws pleaded in the Action or that could have been pleaded in the operative complaint against the Released Parties, and each of them, based on the

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facts alleged in the operative complaint pursuant to the Labor Code, Business & Professions Code section 17200 et seq., Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, the Fair Labor Standards Act, applicable sections of the California Industrial Wage Orders, and applicable sections of the California Code of Regulations, all claimed or unclaimed compensatory, consequential, incidental, liquidated, punitive and exemplary damages, penalties, restitution, interest, costs and attorneys' fees, injunctive or equitable relief, and any other remedies available at law or equity, and other amounts recoverable under said causes of action under California and federal law, to the extent permissible (collectively, the "Released Claims"). judicata effect of the judgment will be the same as that of the release obtained by this Agreement and Settlement. The Released Claims are limited to claims arising out of Class Members' employment at the facility located at 2501 W. Rosecrans Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90059 during the Class Period. Additionally, only Participating Class Members who timely cash their Individual Settlement Award checks will be deemed to have "opted in" to the release of the Released Claims arising under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) ("FLSA").

29. "Released Claims" with respect to Plaintiff means any and all claims, demands, rights, liabilities, and/or causes, of any form whatsoever, whether known or unknown, unforeseen, unanticipated, unsuspected or latent, that have been or could have been asserted by Plaintiff, or the heirs, successors and/or assigns of Plaintiff, whether directly, indirectly, representatively, derivatively or in any other capacity, against Defendants, and each of them, or any of the other Released Parties, arising at any time prior to entry of the Final Order and Judgment.

In addition to the Released Claims, Plaintiff also expressly waive all rights and benefits under the terms of section 1542 of the California Civil Code. Section 1542 reads as follows:

"A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1542, and for the purpose of implementing a full and complete release and discharge of all of his Released Claims, Plaintiff expressly acknowledges that this Settlement is intended to include in its effect, without limitation, all Released Claims which Plaintiff does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of execution hereof, and that the Settlement contemplates the extinguishment of all such Released Claims.

- 30. "Released Parties" means Chartwell and the Avalon Entities, and each of them, and their respective present or former parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, managers, members, principals, employees, partners, shareholders, attorneys, and agents, and any other successors, assigns, or legal representatives.
- 31. "Response Deadline" means the date that is forty-five (45) days after the Settlement Administrator mails the Notice Packets to Class Members, and the last date on which Class Members may submit an Exclusion Form (**Exhibit 3**) or Notice of Objection.
- 32. "Chartwell" means Defendant Chartwell Staffing Services, Inc. d/b/a Chartwell Staffing Solutions.
- 33. "Avalon Entities" collectively means Cross-Defendant American Logistics Food Processing and Packing LLC d/b/a Avalon Food Packing, Avalon Cold Storage, LLC, and American Logistics International Fulfillment, LLC.
- 34. "Settlement" means the final and complete disposition of the Action pursuant to this Stipulation.
- 35. "Settlement Administration Costs" means the reasonable costs and fees of administration of the Settlement to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, including but not limited to: (i) printing and mailing and re-mailing (if necessary) of Notice Packets to Class Members; (ii) preparing and providing notice

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by publication (iii) preparing and submitting to Class Members and government entities all appropriate tax filings and forms; (iv) computing the amount of and distributing Individual Settlement Awards, Class Representative Service Award, the Class Counsel Award, and the LWDA's share of the PAGA payment; (v) processing Notices of Objection; (vi) establishing a Qualified Settlement Fund, as defined by the Internal Revenue Code; and (vii) calculating and remitting to the appropriate government agencies all employer and employee payroll tax obligations arising from the Settlement and preparing and submitting filings required by law in connection with the payments required by the Settlement.

36. "Settlement Administrator" means KCC, LLC.

### **RECITALS**

37. Class Certification. The Parties stipulate and agree to the certification of an opt-out class under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(3) for purposes of this Settlement only. This Agreement is subject to the approval of the Court pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e) and is made for the sole purpose of consummating settlement of the Action. Should the Settlement not become final and effective as herein provided, class certification shall immediately be set aside and the Settlement Class immediately decertified (subject to further proceedings on motion of any party to certify or deny certification thereafter). The Parties' willingness to stipulate to class certification as part of the Settlement shall have no bearing on, and shall not be admissible in or considered in connection with, the issue of whether a class should be certified in a non-settlement context in this Action and shall have no bearing on, and shall not be admissible or considered in connection with, the issue of whether a class should be certified in any other lawsuit.

38. <u>Procedural History</u>. On December 12, 2016, Plaintiff Jeremey Edwards filed a putative class action Complaint in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, Eastern Division, on behalf of himself and all others

similarly situated, entitled Jeremey Edwards v. Chartwell Staffing Services, Inc. d/b/a Chartwell Staffing Solutions, et al., Case No. 2:16-cv-9187-PSG-KS. The 2 Complaint alleges claims for (1) failure to provide required meal periods; (2) failure to provide required rest periods; (3) failure to pay overtime compensation; (4) failure to pay minimum wages; (5) failure to pay all wages due to discharged and quitting employees; (6) failure to maintain required records; (7) failure to furnish accurate itemized wage statements; (8) unfair and unlawful business practices; (9) civil penalties under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004; and (10) failure to pay all wages and overtime compensation in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act. On June 13, 2017, Defendant Chartwell brought a Cross-Claim against Cross-Defendant American Food Processing & Packing, LLC d/b/a Avalon Food Packing asserting claims for (1) indemnity and defense; and (2) declaratory relief (the "Cross-Claim"). On November 9, 2017, the Court granted the Parties' stipulation to extend the date for Food Packing to respond to the Cross-Claim. Following a mediation on November 2, 2017, and the Parties' acceptance of the mediator's proposal on November 16, 2017, the Court vacated all relevant 16 dates, including Food Packing's response deadline.

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- 39. Settlement Negotiations. On November 2, 2017, the Parties participated in a private mediation session with experienced mediator Hon. Louis Meisinger (retired). The mediation resulted in a mediator's proposal which outlined the material terms of a proposed class action settlement that would fully resolve Class Members claims in this Action.
- 40. On November 16, 2017, the Parties accepted the mediator's proposal, subject to the Parties entering into a more comprehensive written settlement agreement, as well as receiving additional confirmatory documents.
- 41. Benefits of Settlement to Plaintiff and the Class Members. **Plaintiff** and Class Counsel recognize the expense and length of continued proceedings necessary to litigate Plaintiff's dispute in the Action through trial and through any

possible appeals. Plaintiff also has taken into account the uncertainty and risks of the outcome of further litigation, and the difficulties and delays inherent in such litigation. Plaintiff and Class Counsel are also aware of the burdens of proof necessary to establish liability for the claims asserted in the Action, both generally and in response to Defendants' defenses thereto, and the difficulties in establishing damages, penalties, restitution and other relief sought in the Action. Plaintiff and Class Counsel also have taken into account Defendants' agreement to enter into a settlement that confers substantial benefits upon the Class Members. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff and Class Counsel have determined that the Settlement set forth in this Stipulation is fair, adequate, and reasonable and is in the best interests of all Class Members.

- 42. <u>Defendants' Reasons for Settlement</u>. Defendants have concluded that any further defense of this litigation would be protracted and expensive for all Parties. Substantial amounts of Defendants' time and resources have been and, unless this Settlement is made, will continue to be devoted to the defense of the claims asserted by Plaintiff and Class Members. Defendants have also taken into account the risks of further litigation in reaching its decision to enter into this Settlement. Despite continuing to contend that it is not liable for any of the claims set forth by Plaintiff, Defendants have, nonetheless, agreed to settle in the manner and upon the terms set forth in this Agreement to put to rest the claims as set forth in the Action.
- Claims have merit and give rise to liability on the part of Defendants. This Agreement is a compromise of disputed claims. The monies being paid as part of the settlement are genuinely disputed and the Parties agree that the provisions of Labor Code section 206.5 are not applicable to this Settlement. Nothing contained in this Agreement and no documents referred to herein and no action taken to carry out this Agreement may be construed or used as an admission by or against the

Class Members or Class Counsel as to the merits or lack thereof of the claims asserted.

44. <u>Defendants' Defenses</u>. Defendants claim that the Released Claims have no merit and do not give rise to liability. This Agreement is a compromise of disputed claims. The monies being paid as part of the settlement are genuinely disputed and the Parties agree that the provisions of Labor Code section 206.5 are not applicable to this Settlement. Nothing contained in this Agreement and no documents referred to herein and no action taken to carry out this Agreement may be construed or used as an admission by or against Defendants as to the merits or lack thereof of the claims asserted.

## **TERMS OF SETTLEMENT**

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, promises, and agreements set forth herein, the Parties agree, subject to the Court's approval, as follows:

- 45. <u>Binding Settlement</u>. This Settlement shall bind the Parties and all Participating Class Members, subject to the terms and conditions hereof and the Court's approval.
- 46. No Future Employment As To Plaintiff. Plaintiff acknowledges that because of circumstances that are unique to Plaintiff, including but not limited to irreconcilable differences with the Released Parties, Chartwell and the Avalon Entities have no obligation, contractual or otherwise, to hire or employ Plaintiff in the future. Further, Plaintiff agrees not to seek employment with Chartwell or the Avalon Entities in the future. In the event that Plaintiff breaches his contractual obligations not to re-apply for employment with Chartwell or the Avalon Entities under this section, Chartwell or the Avalon Entities may deny Plaintiff's application or terminate his employment and Plaintiff agrees that his breach of his contractual obligations is good and sufficient cause for such denial or termination and that such denial or termination is not retaliatory but rather is a matter of contract.

47. Tax Liability. The Parties make no representations as to the tax treatment or legal effect of the payments specified herein, and Class Members are not relying on any statement or representation by the Parties, Class Counsel or Defense Counsel in this regard. Participating Class Members understand and agree that they shall be responsible for the payment of all taxes and penalties assessed on the payments specified herein, and shall hold the Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel free and harmless from and against any claims resulting from treatment of such payments as non-taxable, including the treatment of such payments as not subject to withholding or deduction for payroll and employment taxes.

48. Circular 230 Disclaimer. The Parties acknowledge and agree that (1) no provision of this Stipulation, and no written communication or disclosure between or among the Parties, Class Counsel or Defense Counsel 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 Stipulation, (b) has not entered into this Stipulation 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 Stipulation.

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- 50. Release by Plaintiff and Other Participating Class Members: Upon the Effective Date, Plaintiff and the Participating Class Members shall be deemed to have released their respective Released Claims against the Released Parties (provided, however, that only Participating Class Members who cash their Individual Settlement Award checks will be deemed to have released the Released Claims arising under the FLSA).
- 51. <u>CAFA Notice</u>. Within ten (10) days of receiving notice of filing of a Motion for Preliminary Approval of this Agreement, Defendants shall serve the CAFA Notice of this Agreement on the appropriate federal and state officials, as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1715(b).
- 52. Release of Claims Arising Under the FLSA. Only Participating Class Members who timely cash their Individual Settlement Award checks will be deemed to have "opted in" to the Settlement for purposes of the FLSA, and will be be deemed, upon the Effective Date, to have released and discharged the Released Parties from any and all Released Claims arising under the FLSA.
- 53. Release Language on Individual Settlement Award Checks. Each check issued to a Participating Class Member for his or her share of the Settlement shall contain a release on the back that states: "My signature hereon constitutes my declaration, under penalty of perjury, that I am the individual to whom this check was made payable and serves as my full and complete release of all 'Released Claims' as described more fully in the Stipulation and the Class Notice. I further understand that by cashing this check I am electing to opt into an FLSA action and to release any and all claims I may have under the FLSA related to the claims that were made or arise out of the facts asserted in this Action."

#### 54. Settlement Administration.

a. Within fourteen (14) days of entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, Defendants shall provide the Settlement Administrator with the Class Information for purposes of mailing the Notice Packets to Class Members. To the extent that any Class Member's full name, last known address, or social security number are not within Defendants' possession, custody, or control, and are believed to be in the possession, custody, or control of third parties, and such third parties refuse to provide Defendants with such information upon Defendants' request, Defendants shall request a Court Order compelling the production of such information to Defendants.

i. Notice by First Class U.S. Mail. Upon receipt of the Class Information, the Settlement Administrator shall perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database maintained by the United States Postal Service to update and correct any known or identifiable address changes. Within ten (10) days after receiving the Class Information from Defendants as provided herein, the Settlement Administrator shall mail copies of the Notice Packet to all Class Members via regular First Class U.S. Mail. The Settlement Administrator shall exercise its best judgment to determine the current mailing address for each Class Member. The address identified by the Settlement Administrator as the current mailing address shall be presumed to be the most current mailing address for each Class Member. The Parties agree that this procedure for notice provides the best notice practicable to Class Members and fully complies with due process.

ii. <u>Undeliverable Notice Packets</u>. Any Notice Packet returned to the Settlement Administrator as non-delivered on or before the Response Deadline shall be re-mailed to the forwarding address affixed thereto. If no forwarding address is provided, the Settlement Administrator shall promptly attempt to determine a correct address by the use of skip-tracing, or other type of automated search, using the name, address and/or Social Security number of the

Class Member involved, and shall then perform a re-mailing to the Class Member whose Notice Packet was returned as non-delivered, assuming another mailing address is identified by the Settlement Administrator. Class Members who are sent a re-mailed Notice Packet shall have their Response Deadline extended by ten (10) days from the date the Settlement Administrator re-mails the Notice Packet. If these procedures are followed, notice to Class Members shall be deemed to have been fully satisfied, and if the intended recipient of the Notice Packet does not receive the Notice Packet, the intended recipient shall nevertheless remain a Class Member and shall be bound by all terms of the Settlement and the Final Order and Judgment.

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iii. Notice by Publication. The Avalon Entities represent that they were unable to satisfactorily identify potential class members from before August 2014, because the staffing agency the Avalon Entities utilized at that time is no longer operational, resulting in the Avalon Entities' inability to access many pertinent documents from that time period. Therefore, in order to identify Class Members prior to August 2014 and provide sufficient notice of this settlement to such Class Members, in addition to the mailing of the Notice Packets, notice will also be provided by publication in both an English and a Spanish news source, on the same date that the Notice Packet is mailed to Class Members, or as soon thereafter as possible. The published notice will instruct Class Members who did not receive a Notice Packet to contact the Settlement Administrator and provide their contact information and estimated number of Compensable Workweeks to the Settlement Administrator, if possible. The Settlement Administrator will mail any such individual(s) a Notice Packet via First Class U.S. Mail. Class Members shall have until the Response Deadline to submit an Exclusion Form. Subject to approval by the Court, the published notice shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit 4**, except that a Spanish translation of the published notice used in the Spanish publication. The costs associated with the notice by publication will be a part of the Settlement Administration Costs which will be deducted from the Gross Settlement Amount.

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Determination of Individual Settlement iv. Awards. Defendants shall make available to the Settlement Administrator for payment to Class Members, the Net Settlement Amount as defined in Paragraphs 17 and 21. The Net Settlement Amount shall be divided pro rata among Participating Class Members based on each Participating Class Member's number of Compensable Workweeks. The Individual Settlement Awards will be determined by dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Compensable Workweeks for all Participating Class Members, resulting in the Workweek Value. The Workweek Value will then be multiplied by the number of Compensable Workweeks worked by each Participating Class Member. Defendants' workweek data will be presumed to be correct, unless a Participating Class Member proves otherwise by credible documentary evidence. All workweek disputes will be resolved and decided by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator shall determine the eligibility for, and the amounts of, each Individual Settlement Award under the terms of this Stipulation. The Settlement Administrator's determination of the eligibility for and amount of each Individual Settlement Award shall be binding upon the Class Member and the Parties, yet subject to review by Class Counsel, Defense Counsel and the Court.

- v. <u>Disputes Regarding Administration of Settlement</u>. Any dispute not resolved by the Settlement Administrator concerning the administration of the Settlement shall be resolved by the Court. Prior to any such involvement of the Court, counsel for the Parties shall confer in good faith and make use of the services of mediator Hon. Louis Meisinger (retired), if necessary, to resolve the dispute without the necessity of involving the Court.
- b. <u>Objections and Exclusions</u>. The Class Notice shall state that Participating Class Members who wish to object to the Settlement shall submit to

the Settlement Administrator a Notice of Objection by the Response Deadline. The 1 2 Notice of Objection must: (1) state the full name of the Class Member; (2) be 3 signed by the Class Member; (3) state the grounds for the objection; and (4) must be postmarked by the Response Deadline and returned to the Settlement 4 Administrator at the specified address. The Class Notice shall also state that Class 5 Members who wish to exclude themselves from the settlement shall submit an 6 7 Exclusion Form by the Response Deadline. Subject to review by Class Counsel, 8 Defense Counsel and the Court, the date of the postmark on the return mailing 9 envelope on the Notice of Objection shall be the exclusive means used by the 10 Settlement Administrator to determine whether a Class Member has timely objected 11 to or excluded from the Settlement. Class Members who fail to timely object in the manner specified herein shall be deemed to have waived any objections and shall be 12 13 foreclosed from making any objections (whether by appeal or otherwise) to the 14 Settlement. At no time shall any of the Parties, Class Counsel or Defense Counsel 15 seek to solicit or otherwise encourage or discourage Class Members from requesting exclusion from the Settlement, submitting a Notice of Objection or filing 16 17 an appeal from the Final Order and Judgment.

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- c. <u>Monitoring and Reviewing Settlement Administration</u>. The Parties have the right to monitor and review the administration of the Settlement to verify that the monies allocated under the Settlement are distributed in a correct amount, as provided for in this Stipulation.
- d. <u>Best Efforts</u>. The Parties agree to use their best efforts to carry out the terms of this Settlement.
- 55. <u>Funding and Allocation of Gross Settlement Amount</u>. Class Members shall not be required to submit a claim in order to receive a share of the Net Settlement Amount, and no portion of the Gross Settlement Amount shall revert to Defendants or result in an unpaid residue. As set forth in Paragraph 17, Defendants shall issue payment for one-half of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$400,000 -

\$250,000 to be paid by Chartwell and \$150,000 to be paid by the Avalon Entities) to the Settlement Administrator within six (6) months after the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order. Defendants shall issue payment to the Settlement Administrator for the remaining one-half of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$400,000 - \$250,000 to be paid by Chartwell and \$150,000 to be paid by the Avalon Entities) within one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days after the date on which the first payment is due. If this Settlement is not finally approved by the Court in full, or is terminated, rescinded, canceled or fails to become effective for any reason, or if the Effective Date does not occur, then no portion of the Gross Settlement Amount shall be paid.

- a. <u>Individual Settlement Awards</u>. Individual Settlement Awards shall be paid by the Settlement Administrator from the Net Settlement Amount pursuant to the formula set forth herein. The Individual Settlement Awards shall be mailed by the Settlement Administrator by regular First Class U.S. Mail to each Participating Class Member's last known mailing address within ten (10) days after Defendants provide the Settlement Administrator with final installment of the Gross Settlement Amount, or ten (10) days after the Effective Date, whichever is later. Prior to mailing the Individual Settlement Awards, the Settlement Administrator shall perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database maintained by the United States Postal Service to update and correct any known or identifiable address changes.
- i. Individual Settlement Award payments shall be made by check and shall be made payable to each Participating Class Member as set forth in this Stipulation.
- ii. Individual Settlement Awards shall be allocated as follows: 1/3 as wages subject to all applicable tax withholdings, 1/3 as non-wage penalties not subject to payroll tax withholdings, and 1/3 as non-wage interest not subject to payroll tax withholdings. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an

IRS Form W-2 to each Participating Class Member for the portion of each Individual Settlement Award payment allocated as wages and subject to all applicable tax withholdings. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 to each Participating Class Member for the portion of each Individual Settlement Award payment allocated as non-wage penalties and interest and not subject to payroll tax withholdings.

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the Settlement Administrator in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administrator shall calculate the amount of the Employer's Share of Payroll Taxes and shall remit and report the applicable portions of the payroll tax payment to the appropriate taxing authorities in a timely manner.

iv. Individual Settlement Award checks issued by the Settlement Administrator to Participating Class Members must be cashed within one hundred and twenty (120) days of issuance. If an Individual Settlement Award check is returned to the Settlement Administrator as undeliverable, or remains uncashed after one hundred and twenty (120) days from issuance, the Settlement Administrator shall void any such checks. Thereafter, the funds represented by any uncashed or undeliverable checks shall be distributed as follows – 25% to the State Treasury for deposit in the Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund, 25% to the State Treasury for deposit into the Equal Access Fund, and 50% to a *Cy Pres* fund donated by Defendants to Safe Place for Youth, a 501c3 non-profit organization, providing services to homeless youth in the Los Angeles area, in accordance with California Code of Civil Procedure section 384, subject to approval by the Court.

v. All monies received by Class Members under the Settlement which are attributable to wages shall constitute income to such Class

Members solely in the year in which such monies actually are received by the Class Members. It is expressly understood and agreed that the receipt of Individual Settlement Awards shall not entitle any Class Member to additional compensation or benefits under any collective bargaining agreement or under any bonus, contest or other compensation or benefit plan or agreement in place during the period covered by the Settlement, nor shall it entitle any Class Member to any increased pension and/or retirement, or other deferred compensation benefits. It is the intent of the Parties that Individual Settlement Awards provided for in this Stipulation are the sole payments to be made by Defendants to Class Members in connection with this Settlement, with the exception of Plaintiff, and that Class Members are not entitled to any new or additional compensation or benefits as a result of having received the Individual Settlement Awards. Furthermore, the receipt of Individual Settlement Awards by Participating Class Members shall not, and does not, by itself establish any general, special, or joint employment relationship between and among the Class Member(s) and Defendants.

b. Class Representative Service Award. Subject to Court approval, Plaintiff shall be paid a Class Representative Service Award not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), or any lesser amount as awarded by the Court, for his time and effort in bringing and presenting the Action and for releasing his Released Claims. Defendants shall not oppose or object to and shall file a statement of non-opposition to Plaintiff's request for Class Representative Service Award in an amount not to exceed thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to Plaintiff. The Class Representative Service Award shall be paid to Plaintiff from the Gross Settlement Amount no later than fourteen (14) days after Defendants provide the Settlement Administrator with the final installment of the Gross Settlement Amount or ten (10) days after the Effective Date, whichever is later. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 to Plaintiff for his Class Representative Service Award. Plaintiff shall be solely and legally responsible to pay any and all

applicable taxes on his respective Class Representative Service Award and shall hold harmless Defendants, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel from any claim or liability for taxes, penalties, or interest arising as a result of payment of the Class Representative Service Award. The Class Representative Service Award shall be made in addition to Plaintiff's Individual Settlement Award. Any amount requested by Plaintiff for the Class Representative Service Award and not awarded by the Court shall become part of the Net Settlement Amount and shall be distributed to Class Members as part of their Individual Settlement Awards. In the event that the Court reduces or does not approve the requested Class Representative Service Award, Plaintiff shall not have the right to revoke the Settlement, and it will remain binding; however, Plaintiff does not waive any appellate rights, including but not limited to with respect to the Court's determination as to the Class Representative Service Award and the Class Counsel Award.

Class Counsel Award. Subject to Court approval, Class Counsel c. shall be entitled to receive reasonable attorneys' fees in an amount not to exceed one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount, which amounts to Two Hundred Sixty Six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Six Dollars and Sixty Seven Cents In addition, subject to Court approval, Class Counsel shall be (\$266,666.67). entitled to an award of reasonable costs associated with Class Counsel's prosecution of the Action in an amount not to exceed Twenty Two Thousand Dollars (\$22,000.00). Class Counsel shall provide the Settlement Administrator with a properly completed and signed IRS Form W-9 in order for the Settlement Administrator to process the Class Counsel Award approved by the Court. Defendants shall not oppose or object to and shall file a statement of nonopposition to Plaintiff's request for an award of attorneys' fees in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Sixty Six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Six Dollars and Sixty Seven Cents (\$266,666.67) and request for an award of reasonable costs not to exceed Twenty Two Thousand Dollars (\$22,000.00). In the event the Court awards Class Counsel less than Two Hundred Sixty Six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Six Dollars and Sixty Seven Cents (\$266,666.67) in attorneys' fees and/or less than Twenty Two Thousand Dollars (\$22,000.00) in costs, the difference shall become part of the Net Settlement Amount and shall be distributed to Class Members as part of their Individual Settlement Awards. Class Counsel shall be paid any Courtawarded attorneys' fees and costs no later than fourteen (14) days after Defendants provide the Settlement Administrator with the final installment of the Gross Settlement Amount, or ten (10) days after the Effective Date, whichever is later. Class Counsel shall be solely and legally responsible to pay all applicable taxes on the Class Counsel Award. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 to Class Counsel for the Class Counsel Award. This Settlement is not conditioned upon the Court awarding Class Counsel any particular amount of attorneys' fees or costs. In the event that the Court reduces or does not approve the requested Class Counsel Award, Plaintiff and Class Counsel shall not have the right to revoke the Settlement, and the Settlement will remain binding; however, Plaintiff and Class Counsel do not waive any appellate rights, including but not limited to with respect to the Court's determination as to the Class Representative Service Award and the Class Counsel Award.

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- d. <u>Settlement Administration Costs</u>. The Settlement Administration Costs, which are estimated not to exceed Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00), shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. Prior to Plaintiff filing a motion for final approval of this Settlement, the Settlement Administrator shall provide the Parties with a statement detailing the Settlement Administration Costs to date. The Parties agree to cooperate in the Settlement Administration process and to make all reasonable efforts to control and minimize Settlement Administration Costs.
- i. The Settlement Administrator shall keep the Parties timely apprised of the performance of all settlement administrator responsibilities

required by the Settlement. The Settlement Administrator shall be authorized to establish a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") pursuant to IRS rules and regulations in which the Gross Settlement Amount shall be placed and from which payments required by the Settlement shall be made.

- e. <u>Payment to the LWDA</u>. Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00), representing seventy-five percent (75%) of the total PAGA penalties (i.e., \$46,666.67), shall be paid by the Settlement Administrator directly to the LWDA. The payment to the LWDA for its share of the PAGA penalties shall be made no later than fourteen (14) days after Defendants provide the Settlement Administrator with the final installment of the Gross Settlement Amount, or ten (10) days after the Effective Date, whichever is later. The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of the PAGA penalties (i.e., \$11,666.67 out of \$45,666.67), shall be part of the Net Settlement Amount and shall be distributed to Participating Class Members as part of their Individual Settlement Awards. Class Counsel will take all action required by California Labor Code section 2699(1).
- f. Option to Terminate Settlement. If, after the Response Deadline and before the Final Approval Hearing, the number of Class Members who submitted timely and valid Exclusion Forms is at least five percent (5%) of all Class Members, Defendants shall have, in their sole discretion, the option to terminate this Settlement. If Defendants exercise their option to terminate this Settlement, Defendants shall provide written notice to Class Counsel no more than seven (7) calendar days after the Response Deadline and the Parties shall proceed in all respects as if this Agreement had not been executed.
- 56. <u>Final Settlement Approval Hearing and Entry of Final Order and Judgment</u>. Upon expiration of the Response Deadline, a Final Approval Hearing shall be conducted to determine whether to grant final approval of the Settlement, including determining the amounts properly payable for: (i) the Class Counsel Award; (ii) the Class Representative Service Award; (iii) Settlement Administration

Costs; and (iv) the PAGA payment to the LWDA. Prior to the Final Approval Hearing, the Settlement Administrator shall provide a written report or declaration to the Parties describing the process and results of the administration of the Settlement to date, which report or declaration shall be filed by Plaintiff with the Court prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator shall post notice of final judgment on its website within seven (7) calendar days of entry of the Final Order and Judgment.

- 57. Review of Motions for Preliminary And Final Approval. Class Counsel will provide an opportunity for Counsel for Defendants to review the Motions for Preliminary and Final Approval within a reasonable time before filing them with the Court. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to effect the Court's approval of the Motions for Preliminary and Final Approval.
- 58. <u>Nullification of Settlement</u>. In the event: (i) the Court does not enter the Preliminary Approval Order; (ii) the Court does not grant final approval the Settlement; (iii) the Court does not enter the Final Order and Judgment; or (iv) the Settlement does not become final for any other reason, this Stipulation shall be rendered null and void, any order or judgment entered by the Court in furtherance of this Settlement shall be treated as void from the beginning and this Stipulation and any documents related to it shall not be used by any Class Member or Class Counsel to support any claim or request for class certification in the Action, and shall not be used in any other civil, criminal or administrative action against Defendants or any of the other Released Parties. In the event an appeal is filed from the Court's Final Order and Judgment, or any other appellate review is sought, administration of the Settlement shall be stayed pending final resolution of the appeal or other appellate review.
- 59. <u>Escalation Clause</u>. In the event that the total Compensable Workweeks exceeds 45,000 for the class by more than five percent (5%), Plaintiff

shall have, in his sole discretion, the option to terminate the Settlement. If Plaintiff chooses to exercise his option to terminate the Settlement, Plaintiff will provide written notice to Defendants no more than seven (7) calendar days after the Response Deadline and the Parties shall proceed in all respects as if this Agreement had not been executed.

- 60. No Admission by Defendants. Defendants denied all claims alleged in this Action and deny all wrongdoing whatsoever by Defendants. Neither this Stipulation, nor any of its terms and conditions, nor any of the negotiations connected with it, is a concession or admission, and none shall be used against Defendants as an admission or indication with respect to any claim of any fault, concession, or omission by Defendants. The Parties further agree that this Stipulation will not be admissible in this or any other proceeding as evidence that Defendants are liable to Plaintiff or any Class Member, other than according to the terms of this Stipulation.
- 61. Exhibits and Headings. The terms of this Stipulation include the terms set forth in any attached Exhibits, which are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein. The Exhibits to this Stipulation are an integral part of the Settlement. The descriptive headings of any paragraphs or sections of this Stipulation are inserted for convenience of reference only.
- 62. <u>Interim Stay of Action</u>. The Parties agree to stay and to request that the Court stay all proceedings in the Action, except such proceedings necessary to implement and complete the Settlement and enter the Final Order and Judgment.
- 63. <u>Amendment or Modification</u>. This Stipulation may be amended or modified only by a written instrument signed by counsel for all Parties or their successors-in-interest.
- 64. <u>Entire Agreement</u>. This Stipulation and any attached Exhibits constitute the entire agreement between the Parties, and no oral or written representations, warranties, or inducements have been made to Plaintiff or

Defendants concerning this Stipulation or its Exhibits other than the representations, warranties, and covenants contained and memorialized in this Stipulation and its Exhibits. No other prior or contemporaneous written or oral agreements may be deemed binding on the Parties.

- 65. Authorization to Enter Into Settlement Agreement. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel warrant and represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Stipulation and to take all appropriate actions required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Stipulation to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents required to effectuate the terms of this Stipulation. The Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel shall cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to effect the implementation of the Settlement. In the event 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 and/or mediator Hon. Louis Meisinger (Ret.) to resolve such disagreement. The person signing this Stipulation on behalf of each Defendant represents and warrants that he/she is authorized to sign this Stipulation on behalf of that Defendant. Plaintiff represents and warrants that he is authorized to sign this Stipulation and that he has not assigned any claim, or part of a claim, covered by this Settlement to a third-party. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Stipulation. Hence, in any construction made of this Stipulation, the same shall not be construed against any of the Parties.
- 66. <u>Binding on Successors and Assigns</u>. This Stipulation shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors and assigns of the Parties.
- 67. <u>California Law Governs</u>. All terms of this Stipulation and the Exhibits hereto shall be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of

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- 68. <u>Counterparts</u>. This Stipulation may be executed in one or more counterparts. All executed counterparts and each of them shall be deemed to be one and the same instrument.
- 69. This Settlement is Fair, Adequate and Reasonable. Parties represent that this Settlement is a fair, adequate, and reasonable settlement of the Action and they have arrived at this Settlement after extensive arm's-length negotiations, taking into account all relevant factors, present and potential.
- 70. <u>Jurisdiction of the Court</u>. Following entry of the Final Order and Judgment, the Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of the terms of this Stipulation and all orders and judgments entered in connection therewith, and the Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel submit to the jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of interpreting, implementing, and enforcing the Settlement embodied in this Stipulation and all orders and judgments entered in connection therewith.
- 71. <u>Invalidity of Any Provision</u>. Before declaring any term or provision of this Stipulation invalid, the Parties request that the Court first attempt to construe the terms or provisions valid to the fullest extent possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of this Stipulation as valid and enforceable.
- 72. <u>Binding Nature of Notice of Class Action Settlement</u>. It is agreed that because the Class Members are so numerous, it is impossible or impractical to have each Class Member execute the Stipulation. The Class Notice shall advise all Class Members of the binding nature of the Settlement and the release of Released Claims, and shall have the same force and effect as if this Stipulation were executed by each Class Member.
- 73. <u>Publicity</u>. Plaintiff and Class Counsel agree not to disclose or publicize the Settlement, including the fact of the Settlement, its terms or contents,

and the negotiations underlying the Settlement, in any manner or form, directly or 1 indirectly, to any person or entity, except Class Members and as shall be 2 3 contractually required to effectuate the terms of the Settlement as set forth herein. For the avoidance of doubt, this section means Plaintiff and Class Counsel agree 4 not to issue press releases, communicate with, or respond to any media or 5 publication entities, publish information in manner or form, whether printed or 6 7 electronic, on any medium or otherwise communicate, whether by print, video, recording or any other medium, with any person or entity concerning the 8 9 Settlement, including the fact of the Settlement, its terms or contents and the 10 negotiations underlying the Settlement, except as shall be contractually required to effectuate the terms of the Settlement as set forth herein. In response to inquiries 11 from third parties, Plaintiff and Class Counsel may respond as follows: "The 12 parties reached an amicable resolution." However, for the limited purpose of 13 14 allowing Class Counsel to prove adequacy as class counsel in other actions, Class 15 Counsel may disclose the names of the Parties and the venue/case number of this Action, but not any settlement details. 16 17 18 19 Dated: \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2018 20 PLAINTIFF JEREMY EDWARDS 21 22 23 Dated: , 2018 DEFENDANT CHARTWELL STAFFING 24 SERVICES d/b/a CHARTWELL 25 STAFFING SOLUTIONS 26 27 By:\_\_\_\_\_ 28

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9	Dated:, 2018	MATERN LAW GROUP, PC
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13		By: MATTHEW J. MATERN
14		Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class
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16	Dated:, 2018	OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH,
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20		By: CHRISTOPHER J. ARCHIBALD
21		Attorneys for Defendant CHARTWELL STAFFING
22		Attorneys for Defendant CHARTWELL STAFFING SERVICES, INC. d/b/a CHARTWELL STAFFING SOLUTIONS
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