	Programme Company	
1	Gregory N. Karasik (SBN 115834)	
2	Karasik Law Firm 16021 Aiglon St.	
3	Pacific Palisades, CA90272 Tel (310) 463-9761	
4	Fax (310) 943-2582 greg@karasiklawfirm.com	
5	Santos Gomez (SBN 172741)	
6	Law Offices of Santos Gomez 1003 Freedom Boulevard	
7	Watsonville, CA 95076 Tel (831) 228-1560	
8	Fax (831) 228-1542 santos@lawofficesofsantosgomez.com	
9	Attorneys for Plaintiff	
10	JOSE MARIO MENDOZA	TEG DICTRICT COLUMN
11		TES DISTRICT COURT
12		STRICT OF CALIFORNIA
13	JOSE MARIO MENDOZA,	Case No. 22-cv-07164 TLT
14	Plaintiff, vs.	DECLARATION OF GREGORY N. KARASIK IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S
15	TRANS VALLEY TRANSPORT et al.	MOTION FOR AN AWARD OF ATTORNEY'S FEES, COSTS AND ENHANCEMENT
16	*	PAYMENT IN CONNECTION WITH FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
17	Defendants.	SETTLEMENT
18	And Related Cross-Action	Date: October 8, 2024
19		Time: 2:00 p.m. Ctrm: 9
20		
21		
22	I, Gregory N. Karasik, declare:	
23	I am an attorney duly licensed to	practice before all courts of the State of California. I
24	am one of the attorneys of record for Jose Marie	o Mendoza ("Plaintiff") in this action against
25	Defendants Trans Valley Transport ("TVT") and	d FTU Labor Contractors, Inc. ("FTU"). I have
26		
27		1
28	KARASIK DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF MOTIO Case No. 22-cv-07164 TLT	N FOR FEES, COSTS AND ENHANCEMENT PAYMENT

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27 28 personal knowledge of the matters stated herein and if called and sworn as a witness, I could and would competently testify under oath thereto.

Qualifications as Class Counsel

- 2. I graduated from Stanford Law School in 1984. Prior to April 2006, I spent more than 20 years as a labor and employment law litigator, primarily at large and well-known law firms in Los Angeles, where I typically represented the interests of management. I have substantial experience in all facets of litigation in state and federal court, including discovery, law and motion, trial, appeals, arbitration and mediation. I also have many years experiencing representing clients in connection with investigations or adversarial proceedings conducted by state and federal government agencies. In the course of my practice as a defense lawyer, I worked on many class actions against large companies and gained significant experience with a wide variety of class action issues.
- I worked at the Spiro Moss law firm from April 2006 to August 2011. At Spiro Moss, 3. my practice was devoted exclusively to class actions lawsuits on behalf of employees and consumers and I litigated numerous class actions on behalf of plaintiffs. At Spiro Moss I was lead counsel or otherwise exercised significant case handling responsibilities in cases resulting in class action judgments or settlements with a cumulative value in excess of \$70 million.
- 4. In August 2011, I left Spiro Moss to open my own law practice under the name Karasik Law Firm. As before, my practice is now devoted exclusively to class actions lawsuits on behalf of employees and consumers. Currently, I am lead counsel for plaintiffs in numerous class actions that are pending in state or federal court, including several in which a settlement was reached and preliminary or final approval of the settlement is pending. Since becoming a plaintiff's lawyer at Spiro Moss, I have negotiated more than 70 class action settlements.
- Over the course of my legal career, I have been involved in filing appeals, writs and/or 5. amicus curiae briefs on issues directly related to wage and hour or consumer class actions, resulting in several published and unpublished opinions, and have been an author or speaker at various legal seminars. Among other achievements, I personally briefed and argued the plaintiff's successful appeal

before the California Supreme Court in the wage and hour class action case *Pineda v. Bank of America*, *N.A.* (2010) 50 Cal.4th 1389 and briefed and argued the plaintiff's successful appeal before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in the consumer class action case *Bateman v. American Multi-Cinema, Inc.* (9th Cir. 2010) 623 F.3d 708. Most recently, I briefed and argued Plaintiff's successful opposition to Defendants' appeal from the denial of their motion to compel arbitration in this case, which was upheld by the California Court of Appeal in the published decision *Mendoza v. Trans Valley Transport* (2022) 75 Cal.App.5th 748.

The Settlement

6. The Court granted preliminary approval of the Settlement on April 17, 2024. Pursuant to the Settlement, Defendants are required to pay the Gross Settlement Amount of \$700,000 in addition to the employer's share of payroll taxes on the portion of settlement payments allocated to wages. Plaintiff calculated that Defendants faced a maximum potential liability of approximately \$2,556,209 for unpaid minimum wages, so the Gross Settlement Amount reflects a recovery of approximately 27.4% of Defendants' potential liability for unpaid minimum wages. Although the parties initially believed there were 206 class members, upon finalization of the class list it was determined that there are 200 class members so the average gross recovery per class member is approximately \$3,500. The expected Net Settlement Amount – assuming the Court awards Plaintiff the full amounts of attorney's fees, costs and enhancement payment requested – is approximately \$436,967 so the average gross settlement payment per class member is approximately \$436,967 so the average gross

Attorney's Fees

7. Attached as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of my time records for this case reflecting that, to date, I have spent at least 291.1 hours on this case. I estimate that I will spend at least an additional 15 hours on this case in connection with preparing Plaintiff's motion for final approval of the Settlement, appearing at the final approval hearing, and settlement administration after final approval. My hourly rate for lodestar purposes in this case (I do not charge any clients by the hour but work exclusively on a contingency basis) is \$850 an hour (which is less than the current rate

of \$875 an hour for my cases in Los Angeles). I am familiar with the market rate for attorneys of my level of skill and experience in the San Francisco Bay Area, and I believe that an \$850 hourly rate is equivalent to, or lower than, the market rate for attorneys with comparable level of experience. Most recently, I was awarded fees based on a lodestar rate of \$850 an hour by the San Francisco Superior Court in the case of *Jimenez v. Environmental Service Partners, Inc.*, Case No. CGC-19-576544 (final approval granted on March 15, 2024). Based on the hourly rate of \$850 the total lodestar value of my time in this case will be at least \$260,185.

- 8. As set forth in the declaration of Santos Gomez he will have spent at 102.25 hours on this case by the time it has been fully administered so the lodestar value of his time on this case, based on his hourly rate of \$850 an hour, is at least \$86,912.50. The total lodestar value for all the time of Plaintiff's counsel for this case is thus at least \$347,097.50
- 9. Based on the lodestar value of \$347,097.50 the amount of attorney's fees requested by Plaintiff (\$233,333.33) reflects a "negative" multiplier (i.e. less than 1) of approximately 0.67. From my experience, a negative multiplier of 0.67 falls well below the range of lodestar multipliers typically applicable to attorney's fees awards in wage and hour class actions, which are usually between 1 and 3 and sometimes greater than 4. The negative multiplier resulting from a lodestar cross check confirms that Plaintiff's request for fees equal to 33.3% of the Gross Settlement Amount is reasonable, as that amount, while commensurate with the result obtained by Plaintiff's counsel on behalf of the class, compensates Plaintiff's counsel far less than the lodestar value of their time on this case.

 Litigation Costs
- 10. Attached as Exhibit 2 is a true and correct copy of expenses recorded by my Quicken software program reflecting \$12,776.56 in litigation expenses in connection with this case to date. In addition to these expenses, I incurred \$60 for parking expenses at LAX airport on April 16, 2024 (which was not tracked in Quicken because I used a personal credit card to pay that expense) and the expense of \$130.07 for a roundtrip flight between Los Angeles and Oakland on October 8, 2024 to appear at the final approval hearing (which is not yet recorded in Quicken because the credit card

Case No. 5:17-CV-01863, Judge Edward Davila awarded each of the two plaintiffs an enhancement payment of \$10,000 where the average amount of settlement benefits payable to class members was \$1,163 (final approval granted May 24, 2018).

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed in Pacific Palisades, California on June 18, 2024.

Gregory W. Karasik

EXHIBIT 1

12/7/15	12/2/15	11/5/15	11/4/15	10/30/15	10/29/15	10/20/15	9/25/15	9/9/15	9/8/15	9/2/15	9/1/15	7/31/15	6/25/15	5/22/15
0.6 emails defense counsel	0.7 review and respond to meet and confer letter; emails defense counsel	2.6 draft interrogatories and document requests; emails Santos	0.6 appear at informal conference	0.8 revise letter brief; tel call Alex	1.8 emails re informal conference; prepare letter brief re informal conference	0.4 tel call defense counsel	1.8 draft first amended complaint; prepare for and attend cmc	0.2 emails defense counsel	0.2 finalize joint status report	1.3 prepare for and attend meeting with defense counsel; prepare joint CMC statement	0.2 email defense counsel	0.4 tel call defense counsel	0.2 emails defense counsel	4.4 review client documents; research defendant; draft complaint

3/21/16	3/18/16	3/11/16	2/23/16	2/22/16	2/18/16	2/11/16	2/10/16	1/25/16	1/13/16	1/4/16	12/16/15	12/15/15	12/14/15	12/8/15
3.2 prepare discovery responses; tel conf Hector and plaintiff; tel call Santos	2.2 review defendant's discovery responses; prepare plaintiff's discovery responses	0.7 appear at CMC	0.4 revise cmc statement; emails defense counsel	0.7 prepare cmc statement	0.2 tel call and email Santos re discovery	0.6 appear at motion hearing	0.4 review tentative ruling; email defense counsel	6.8 prepare opposition to motion for stay and protective order	0.2 emails defense counsel	0.6 legal research; emails defense counsel	15.0 appear at ex parte hearing (travel between Spokane and San Jose)	0.6 finalize, serve and file ex parte papers	1.0 prepare ex parte application papers	4.3 emails defense counsel; prepare ex parte application papers

review tentative ruling; prepare order denying motion to compel; prepare for motion 1.2 hearing	11/17/16
0.6 revise cmc statement; emails defense counsel	11/1/16
0.4 prepare CMC statement	10/31/16
0.4 finalize opposition to motion to compel arbitration papers	9/23/16
prepare memorandum in opposition to motion to compel arbitration; prepare 6.2 declarations in opposition to motion to compel arbitration	9/22/16
3.6 prepare opposition to motion to compel arbitration and evidentiary objections	9/21/16
review motion to compel arbitration documents; meeting with client (travel to/from 10.0 Fresno); prepare opposition to motion to compel arbitration	9/20/16
emails Hector re meeting with client; review court orders; revise travel arrangements 0.8 for hearing	9/15/16
0.4 emails Santos and Hector re scheduling of meeting with client	9/13/16
0.6 email defense counsel re deposition issues	7/20/16
0.6 tel call Santos re litigation strategy	6/28/16
2.3 research arbitration issues; email Santos	6/28/16
0.8 prepare cmc statement; emails opposing counsel	6/7/16
0.8 finalize discovery responses	3/28/16
0.2 email defense counsel	3/22/16

8/16/18	8/15/18	8/13/18	5/25/18	5/9/18	11/8/17	6/9/17	5/23/17	2/17/17	1/18/17	12/23/16	12/22/16	11/29/16	11/21/16	11/18/16
0.7 prepare respondents' brief	1.2 prepare respondents' brief; prepare certificate of interested parties	7.4 prepare respondents' brief	0.2 emails defense counsel	0.5 review joint statement; emails office	0.3 review joint status conference statement; emails defense counsel	0.7 appear at CMC	0.2 email defense counsel re cmc statement	0.2 prepare appellate mediation statement	0.4 review designation of record and appeal procedures	0.5 appear at CMC	0.8 review tentative ruling; prepare order;	prepare opposition to motion to compel arbitration, evidentiary objections, and 5.6 declarations	0.4 tel call defense counsel re motion scheduling issues	2.3 appear at motion hearing and CMC

0.3 emails and tel call court clerk	11/30/21
0.5 appear at CMC	11/10/21
0.2 arrange court call appearance	11/9/21
0.3 review and revise CMC statement; email defense counsel	11/3/21
0.8 review new case authority; prepare, serve and file letter to court re new case authority	10/25/21
0.5 prepare, serve and file notice of change of address	10/6/21
0.6 telephone call defense counsel; emails Santos; email defense counsel	9/10/21
0.2 emails defense counsel and Santos	4/29/21
0.2 email defense counsel	11/8/19
0.6 prepare, serve and file request for oral argument	7/19/19
0.5 tel call Santos; email Peter Hart	6/20/19
emails Santos; review court decision re preemption of meal and rest period claims; 0.6 legal research; review motion to dismiss; tel call Alex	5/7/19
0.3 emails clerk and defense counsel	11/13/18
0.2 review stipulation; email defense counsel	11/7/18
1.8 finalize and file respondent's brief	8/27/18

3/22/22	3/15/22	3/14/22	3/10/22	3/8/22	3/7/22	2/18/22	2/10/22	2/8/22	2/7/22	2/5/22	2/1/22	1/31/22	1/20/22	12/30/21
2.2 tel call Santos; prepare interrogatories and document requests	0.2 emails defense counsel	2.3 emails Horace and Santos; tel call Santos; legal research	0.8 emails defense counsel and Santos	0.6 email defense counsel re data for mediation	0.4 emails defense counsel and Santos	0.2 email defense counsel	0.2 email defense counsel	1.8 prepare, serve and file letter requesting publication	2.2 legal research; prepare letter requesting publication	0.8 review court of appeal opinion; emails Santos	1.5 prepare for and appear at court of appeal or al argument	1.6 prepare for oral argument; attend video orientation	0.1 email court clerk re oral argument	0.5 prepare and submit letter re new case authority

9/5/22 4.2	8/26/22 0.3	8/19/22 0.2	7/6/22 0.2	6/28/22 0.2	6/23/22 0.4	6/21/22 1.6	6/17/22 0.7	6/16/22 0.6	6/3/22 0.8	5/31/22 1.2	5/11/22 0.3	4/28/22 0.2	3/31/22 0.4	3/23/22 0.8
4.2 prepare mediation brief	0.3 emails defense counsel, Santos and mediator	0.2 email defense counsel	0.2 email defense counsel and counsel for cross-defendant	0.2 emails defense counsel	0.4 emails defense counsel, Santos and mediator	tel call and emails Santos; review new appellate decision; emails defense counsel; 1.6 research mediators	prepare deposition notice; email Santos	0.6 review supplemental discovery responses; emails Santos	0.8 tel calls defense counsel and Santos	1.2 review discovery responses; emails defense counsel and Santos	0.3 review request for admissions; email Santos	0.2 email Santos	0.4 emails defense counsel; tel call Santos	0.8 finalize and serve discovery; email defense counsel

draft stipulation and proposed order; email counsel for defendants and counsel for 0.9 cross-defendant; file stipulation and proposed order	2/1/23
0.5 emails defense counsel and counsel for cross-defendant; email Magistrate Judge clerk	1/31/23
0.2 finalize, serve and file ADR certification	1/30/23
prepare for and participate in meet and confer; emails and tel call Santos; email court 1.2 clerkre MSC scheduling; prepare and file certification re interested entities	1/18/23
0.2 email counsel for defendants and counsel for cross defendant	1/13/23
1.4 legal research; email Santos	11/30/22
1.2 review federal court orders; emails Santos and defense counsel	11/23/22
2.6 review removal papers; research removal issues; emails Santos	11/16/22
1.2 finalize and serve discovery	10/27/22
review and revise CMC statement; emails Santos and defense counsel; prepare 2.8 interrogatories, document requests and requests for admissions	10/26/22
0.4 prepare amended complaint; email Santos	10/17/22
0.4 emails Horace and Santos	10/14/22
5.2 mediation	9/23/22
4.7 prepare mediation brief; emails and tel call Santos	9/19/22
2.2 prepare mediation brief	9/6/22

4/27/23	4/26/23	4/24/23	4/7/23	4/6/23	4/4/23	3/29/23	3/28/23	3/2/23	2/23/23	2/22/23	2/16/23	2/13/23	2/10/23	2/3/23
3.2 legal research; prepare confidential settlement letter; email Santos	4.5 legal research; prepare confidential settlement letter	3.2 prepare settlement conference statement; emails defense counsel	1.2 legalresearch	0.3 emails defense counsel and Santos	review records provided by defense counsel; tel call Santos; legal research; emails 4.6 Santos and defense counsel	2.4 legal research; emails defense counsel and Santos	2.2 legal research	0.7 appear at CMC; email defense counsel	0.4 finalize, serve and file CMC statement	0.4 emails counsel for defendant and counsel for cross defendant	revise case management statement; review Rule 26(f) report; emails counsel for 0.9 defendants and counsel for cross defendant	review discovery responses; prepare joint case management statement; email and tel 2.7 call Santos	3.4 emails defense counsel; draft joint case management statement	0.6 emails defense counsel and Santos; prepare ADR certification

6/7/23	6/6/23	5/24/23	5/22/23	5/19/23	5/17/23	5/15/23	5/12/23	5/11/23	5/10/23	5/4/23	5/2/23	5/1/23	5/1/23	4/28/23
6.5 prepare motion for preliminary approval	emails Horace and Santos; research tax issue; prepare motion for preliminary approval 2.2 of settlement	1.6 revise settlement agreement; prepare class notice; email Santos	0.6 emails Atticus; prepare settlement agreement and class notice	0.3 tel call defense counsel; email Atticus	settlement conference; legal research; prepare class settlement agreement; email 5.2 Santos	0.1 email defense counsel re CMC statement	8.1 settlement conference	0.5 tel conference with court; email Santos	3.2 prepare settlement conference statement; emails Santos	0.4 emails court and defense counsel; arrange for delivery of chambers copies	0.6 finalize confidential settlement letter; email defense counsel	2.2 legal research; revise confidential settlement letter; emails Santos	prepare settlement conference statement and confidential settlement letter; emails 1.2 Santos	0.3 emails Santos and defense counsel

11/28/23	11/27/23	10/10/23	10/9/23	10/3/23	10/2/23	7/6/23	7/5/23	7/3/23	6/30/23	6/28/23	6/20/23	6/12/23	6/9/23	6/8/23
10.2 prepare for and appear at motion hearing; travel to and from San Francisco	1.2 prepare for motion hearing	0.4 emails counsel for PeopLease; finalize, serve and file CMC statement	0.5 prepare CMC statement; email defense counsel and counsel for cross-defendant	0.2 tel call defense counsel	0.3 emails defense counsel and court clerk	revise notice of settlement; email counsel for defendants and cross-defendants; file 0.3 notice of settlement	0.2 email defense counsel	prepare notice of settlement and request to continue status conference; email counsel 0.4 for defendants and counsel for cross-defendant	revise motion for preliminary approval; prepare proposed order; email defense counsel; 1.2 email Santos; finalize and submit preliminary approval motion papers	check hearing date availability; email defense counsel; revise motion for preliminary 0.2 approval	review Gomez declaration; revise brief in support of preliminary approval motion; 1.8 prepare declaration in support of preliminary approval	1.8 prepare motion for preliminary approval	finalize settlement agreement; emails Santos and defense counsel; prepare motion for 1.5 preliminary approval	2.4 prepare motion for preliminary approval

prepare final approval papers; travel to/from San Francisco for final approval hearing: 15.0 appear at final approval hearing; settlement administration	expected
291.1	subtotal
1.6 finalize, serve and file fees motion	6/18/24
0.6 emails Atticus and defense counsel; prepare stipulation	6/14/24
3.2 prepare fees motion and supporting declaration	6/12/24
prepare fees motion; review and revise supporting declarations; emails and tel call 4.2 Santos	6/11/24
0.4 emails defense counsel and Atticus	6/7/24
0.4 emails Horace, Santos and Atticus	6/6/24
prepare stipulation and proposed order; email defense counsel; serve and file 0.8 stipulation and proposed order	5/30/24
0.2 email Atticus	5/13/24
prepare CMC statement; emails counsel for defendant and cross defendants; serve 0.6 and file CMC statement	5/7/24
0.3 review class notice; email Atticus	5/1/24
0.3 review settlement administration timeline; emails settlement administrator	4/30/24
0.6 review court order; email Atticus	4/17/24
prepare for motion hearing; travel to/from San Francisco; atte 10.2 emails Santos and defense counsel	4/16/24

EXHIBIT 2

-91,324,44

-\$192.20 -\$411.25

-\$21.00 -\$46.75

-\$21.00

-921.00

-\$1,324,44

11 <i>772</i> 015	11/7/2015	7/27/2015 8/7/2015	7/27/2015	TVT Trucking	Attorney Service	1/7/2016 12/8/2023 5/8/2024	TVT Trucking	Airfare	▼ Money Out	▼ Money In	. J. p. son	Type	Tags:	Categories;	Accounts:	Date Range:
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XLT XLT	2	X X TI	<u> </u>													All Dates (8/1/2011 - 6/12/2024)
chase	chase	First Legal Network	First Legal Network			chase Chase Credit Crd Chase Credit Crd										

✓ Show Memo/Notes

\$0.00

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-\$1,088.58

-\$1,088,68

-\$162,96 -\$675.96

-\$229.96

Car Rental	6/7/2024	2/8/2024	TVT Trucking	ВАНТ	5/7/2024	5/7/2024	6/5/2023	3/8/2022	12/8/2021	11/7/2021	10/6/2021	10/6/2021	8/7/2020	3/7/2020	10/7/2018	10/7/2018	10/7/2018	1/7/2017	12/7/2016	11/7/2016	7/7/2016	5/7/2016	4/7/2016	3/7/2016	2/7/2016	2/7/2016	12/7/2015
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	Chase Credit Crd	Chase Credit Crd			CAEFILE	CAEFILE	First Legal Network	Chase Credit Crd	Chase Credit Crd	Chase Credit Crd	CAEFILE	CAEFILE	Chase Credit Crd	Chase Credit Crd	chase	chase	chase	chase	chase	chase	chase	chase	chase	chase	chase	chase	chase
-853.64	-\$24.00	-\$23.00	-\$47.00	-847,00	-\$2.05	-\$3.75	-841.50	-\$10.50	-810.50	-\$10 E0	-83.75	-\$2.05	-\$5.72	-\$10.50	-\$10.50	-810.50	-\$10.50	-\$3.60	-\$5.16	in in	90.72%·	-\$120.00	-\$24.00	-\$48,00	-\$21.00	-\$123.00	-\$84.00

Mediator Fee	TVT Trucking 2/7/2016	gas	6/24/2015 10/7/2018 2/7/2022	TVT Trucking	Filing	12/8/2021	8/7/2020	1/7/2019	7/7/2017	2/7/2017	1/7/2017	4/7/2016	3/7/2016	12/7/2015	10/7/2015	TVT Trucking	Court Call	ZHZVIO	277525	TVT Trucking
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	chase		First Legal Network chase Chase Credit Crd			Chase Credit Crd	Chase Credit Crd	chase	chase			CHASE	F ()							
-57,500,00	-\$5.17 -\$5.17		-\$1,435.00 -\$380.00 -\$10.50	-\$1,835.50	-\$1,835.50	-,964,00	-\$94.00	-\$30.00	-\$86.00	-\$65.00	-\$86.00	-\$86.00	-\$86,00	00.388°	-\$86,00	-\$820.00	-\$820.00	\$5.00@°	5.5	·8534

-\$12,776.56	Net Total:			
\$0.00	Money in: Money Out:			
-\$5.00 -\$60.00		235 North 2nd Chase Credit Crd	<u> </u>	12/21/2015 2/8/2024
-585,00				TVT Trucking
.\$65,00				Parking
-\$-36.92 69.82 89.82		chase	X.F.	TVT Trucking 10/7/2018
-\$36.93				Wessenger
-\$7,500.00 -\$7,500.00		Lisa Klerman	KL.	TVT Trucking 8/29/2022