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8 Attorneys for Plaintiffs  
9 Josue Torres, individually and on behalf of all  
10 others similarly situated

11 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
12 **FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE**

13 JOSUE TORRES, an Individual, on behalf of )  
14 himself and all others similarly situated )

15 Plaintiffs, )

16 v. )

17 STEPSTONE, INC., a California )  
18 Corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, )  
19 Inclusive )

20 Defendants. )

CASE NO. 23STCV14073

[Assigned for all purposes to the Honorable Lawrence  
P. Riff - Dept. 7]

**CLASS ACTION**

**NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER GRANTING  
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR FINAL  
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION  
SETTLEMENT**


21 **TO ALL PARTIES AND TO THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD:**

22 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on March 20, 2025, the Honorable Samantha Jessner entered  
23 an Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement. A true and correct  
24 copy of the executed Order is attached hereto.

25 DATED: March 20, 2025

KOKOZIAN LAW FIRM, APC

26 By:

27   
28 \_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Kokozyan, Esq.  
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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11 Josue Torres, individually and on behalf of all others  
12 similarly situated

**FILED**  
Superior Court of California  
County of Los Angeles  
03/20/2025  
David W. Stryba, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court  
By:           A. Morales           Deputy

13 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
14 **FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE**

15 JOSUE TORRES, an Individual, on behalf of ) CASE NO. 23STCV14073  
16 himself and all others similarly situated )  
17 ) [Assigned for all purposes to the Honorable  
18 ) Lawrence P. Riff - Dept. 7]  
19 Plaintiffs, ) **CLASS ACTION**  
20 )  
21 v. )  
22 ) **[PROPOSED] AMENDED ORDER GRANTING**  
23 STEPSTONE, INC., a California ) **PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR FINAL**  
24 Corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, ) **APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION**  
25 Inclusive ) **SETTLEMENT**  
26 )  
27 Defendants. )  
28 ) Date: March 20, 2025  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Dept: 7  
Action Filed: 06/16/2023

**[PROPOSED] AMENDED ORDER**

This matter came on for hearing on March 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 7 of the above-captioned Court on Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement pursuant to: (1)

1 California Rules of Court, rule 3.769(g); (2) the Order Granting Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary  
2 Approval of Class Action Settlement (hereinafter referred to as the “Preliminary Approval Order”); and  
3 the (3) Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Class Notice (the ”Settlement Agreement)  
4 filed previously with this Court.

5 Having received and considered the Settlement Agreement, the supporting papers filed by the  
6 Parties, and the evidence and argument received by the Court in conjunction with Plaintiff’s Motion for  
7 Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement and Plaintiff’s Motion for Final Approval of Class  
8 Action Settlement, the Court grants final approval of the Settlement and **HEREBY ORDERS AND**  
9 **MAKES THE FOLLOWING DETERMINATIONS:**

10 1. Pursuant to the Preliminary Approval Order, the Class Notice [Court Approved Notice  
11 of Class Action Settlement and Hearing Date for Final Court Approval] (hereinafter referred to as the  
12 “Notice”) was mailed to all members of the Class by first-class U.S. mail. The Notice informed the  
13 Class of the terms of the Settlement, of their right to receive their proportional settlement payment, of  
14 their right to request exclusion from the Class, of their right to comment upon or object to the  
15 Settlement and to appear at the final approval hearing and of the date set for the Final Approval hearing.  
16 Adequate periods of time were provided by each of these procedures.

17 2. In response to the Notice, no Class Member objected to the Settlement; as such there are  
18 zero (0) objections to the settlement. Further, there are zero (0) requests for exclusion from the  
19 Settlement.

20 3. The Court finds and determines that this notice procedure afforded adequate protections  
21 to Class Members and provides the basis for the Court to make an informed decision regarding  
22 approval of the Settlement based on the Class Members’ response. The Court finds and determines that  
23 the Notice provided in conjunction with preliminary approval was the best notice practicable, which  
24 satisfied the requirements of law and due process.

25 4. The Court further finds and determines that the terms of the Settlement Agreement are  
26 fair, reasonable and adequate to the Class and to each Class Member and Aggrieved Employee, and that  
27 the Settlement is ordered finally approved, and that all terms and provisions of the Settlement

1 Agreement should be and hereby are ordered to be consummated.

2 5. The Court certifies, for purposes of settlement only, a Class, as that term is defined in  
3 and by the terms of the Settlement Agreement, and the Court deems this definition sufficient for  
4 purposes of California Rules of Court, rule 3.765(a). The Class is defined as follows: all persons  
5 employed by STEPSTONE in California and classified as a non-exempt hourly paid employee who  
6 worked for STEPSTONE during the Class Period. The “Class Period” is June 16, 2019 to August 23,  
7 2024.

8 6. The Court hereby approves the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement and finds  
9 that the Settlement is, in all respects, fair, adequate, and reasonable, and directs the Parties to effectuate  
10 the settlement according to its terms. The Court finds that the settlement was reached as a result of  
11 informed and non-collusive arm’s-length negotiations facilitated by a neutral mediator. The Court  
12 further finds that the Parties conducted extensive investigation, research, and discovery and that their  
13 attorneys were able to reasonably evaluate their respective positions. The Court also finds that  
14 settlement will enable the Parties to avoid additional and potentially substantial litigation costs, as well  
15 as delay and risks if the Parties were to continue to litigate the case. The Court has reviewed the  
16 monetary recovery of \$400,000 provided as part of the settlement and recognizes the significant value  
17 accorded to the Class and Aggrieved Employees.

18 7. The Court hereby confirms Bruce Kokozyan of Kokozyan Law Firm, APC as Class  
19 Counsel in this action.

20 8. The Court hereby confirms Josue Torres as the Class Representative in this action.

21 9. The Court finds and determines that the individual settlement payments provided for by  
22 the terms of the Settlement Agreement to be paid to Participating Class Members and Aggrieved  
23 Employees are fair and reasonable. The Court hereby gives final approval to and orders the payment of  
24 those amounts be made to the Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees in accordance  
25 with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

26 10. The Court finds and determines that payment to the California Labor and Workforce  
27 Development Agency of \$15,000 as its share of the settlement of civil penalties and \$5,000 to

1 Aggrieved Employees in this case is fair, reasonable, and appropriate. The Court hereby gives final  
2 approval to and orders that the payment of those amounts be paid in accordance with the Settlement  
3 Agreement.

4 11. The Court finds and determines the Class Representative Service Payment of \$5,000 to  
5 Plaintiff/Class Representative is fair and reasonable. The Court hereby orders the Administrator to  
6 make this payment to the Plaintiff/Class Representative in accordance with the terms of the Settlement  
7 Agreement.

8 12. The Court finds and determines that the payment to be paid to the Settlement  
9 Administrator CPT Group, Inc. of \$9,700 for its fee and expenses incurred is fair and reasonable. The  
10 Court hereby orders the Administrator to make this payment to itself in accordance with the terms of  
11 the Settlement Agreement.

12 13. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement, and the authorities, evidence and argument  
13 submitted by Class Counsel, the Court hereby awards Class Counsel attorneys' fees in the sum of  
14 \$133,333.33 and litigation costs of \$12,205.88. The Court finds such amounts to be fair and reasonable.  
15 The Court hereby orders the Settlement Administrator to make these payments in accordance with the  
16 terms of the Settlement Agreement.

17 14. Neither Defendants nor any of the Released Parties shall have any further liability for  
18 costs, expenses, interest, attorneys' fees, or for any other charge, expense, or liability, except as  
19 provided for by the Settlement Agreement.

20 15. Nothing in this Order shall preclude any action to enforce the Parties' obligations  
21 pursuant to the Settlement Agreement or pursuant to this Order, including the requirement that  
22 Defendants make payments to Participating Class Members, through the Settlement Administrator, in  
23 accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

24 16. The Court hereby enters final judgment in this case in accordance with the terms of the  
25 Settlement Agreement, the Court's Preliminary Approval Order and this Order.

26 17. The Parties shall bear their own costs and attorneys' fees except as otherwise provided  
27 for by the Settlement Agreement.

1 18. Without affecting the finality of this Order in any way, the Court retains jurisdiction of  
2 all matters relating to the interpretation, administration, implementation, effectuation and enforcement  
3 of this order and the Settlement.

4 19. Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, effective on the date when Defendant fully funds  
5 the entire Gross Settlement Amount and funds all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of  
6 the Individual Class Payments, Plaintiff and Participating Class Members release all Released Class  
7 Claims for the Class Period against the Released Parties. Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement,  
8 effective on the date when Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount and funds all  
9 employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments, Aggrieved  
10 Employees release all Released PAGA Claims for the PAGA Period against the Released Parties.

11 20. If this Settlement does not become final and effective in accordance with the terms of the  
12 Settlement Agreement, this Order, the Judgment, and all orders entered in connection herewith, shall be  
13 vacated and shall have no further force or effect.

14 21. Neither this Order nor the Judgment nor the Settlement Agreement is, may be construed  
15 as, or may be used as, an admission or concession by or against the Defendants, or any of the other  
16 Released Parties (as defined in the Settlement Agreement) of the validity of any claim or any actual or  
17 potential fault, wrongdoing or liability.

18 22. Pursuant to Cal. Code of Civil Proc. Section 384, a compliance hearing is scheduled for  
19 03/20/2025 at 10:00 a.m. in Department 7 of this Court. The  
20 Parties are ordered to file a report 5 court days before this compliance hearing regarding distribution per  
21 the settlement agreement.

22 Dated: 03/20/2025



*Samantha Jessner*

Samantha Jessner / Judge

BY ORDER OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
THE HONORABLE LAWRENCE P. RIFF