

FILED
San Diego Superior Court

SEP 18 2024

Clerk of the Superior Court
By: R. Cersosimo, Deputy

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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

J'NECIA MONIQUE MCCLENTON,
individually and on behalf of all others
similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ALLIANCEONE INCORPORATED;
and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 37-2022-00017402-CU-OE-CTL

*Assigned for All Purposes to:
Hon. Judge Richard S. Whitney
Dept. C-68*

**ORDER AND JUDGMENT GRANTING
FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT**

Date: September 13, 2024

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Dept: C-68

1 This matter came on for hearing on September 13, 2024 at 10:30 a.m., in Department C-
2 68 of the above-captioned Court on the unopposed Motion for Final Approval of Class Action
3 Settlement pursuant to California Rule of Court 3.769, this Court's Order Granting Preliminary
4 Approval filed November 22, 2023 and the CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE PAGA ACTION
5 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE ("Settlement Agreement"), a copy of
6 which was filed in conjunction with the Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class
7 Action Settlement.

8 Having received and considered the Settlement Agreement, the supporting papers filed by
9 the Parties, and the evidence and argument received by the Court in conjunction with the
10 unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement heard November 22,
11 2023 and the instant Motion for Final Approval, the Court grants final approval of the Settlement
12 and HEREBY ORDERS AND MAKES THE FOLLOWING DETERMINATIONS:

13 1. Pursuant to the Order Granting Preliminary Approval, a Notice Packet was sent to
14 each Class Member by first-class mail. These papers informed the Class of the terms of the
15 Settlement, their right to receive an Individual Settlement Payment, their right (a) to comment on
16 or object to the Settlement, (b) to request exclusion from the Settlement and pursue their own
17 remedies, and (c) of their right to appear in person or by counsel at the final approval hearing and
18 to be heard regarding approval of the Settlement. Adequate periods of time were provided by
19 each of these procedures. No member of the Class filed written objection to the proposed
20 Settlement as part of this notice process or stated an intention to appear at the final approval
21 hearing.

22 2. The Court finds and determines that this notice procedure afforded adequate
23 protections to Class Members and provides the basis for the Court to make an informed decision
24 regarding approval of the Settlement based on the responses of the Class. The Court finds and
25 determines that the notice provided in this case was the best notice practicable, which satisfied
26 the requirements of law and due process.

27 3. With respect to the Class and for purposes of approving this Settlement only, this
28 Court finds and concludes that: (a) the members of the Class are ascertainable and so numerous

1 that joinder of all members is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law or fact common to the
2 Class, and there is a well-defined community of interest among members of the Class with respect
3 to the subject matter of the Action; (c) the claims of Class Representative J’Necia Monique
4 McClenton are typical of the claims of the members of the Class; (d) the Class Representative has
5 fairly and adequately protected the interests of the members of the Class; (e) a class action is
6 superior to other available methods for an efficient adjudication of this controversy; and (f) the
7 counsel of record for the Class Representative, i.e., Class Counsel, are qualified to serve as
8 counsel for Plaintiff in their individual and representative capacities for the Class.

9 1. 4. The Court has certified a Class, as that term is defined in and by the terms
10 of the Settlement Agreement as all non-exempt employees employed by Defendant at any time
11 during the Class Period of November 8, 2017 through August 31, 2023, and the Court deems this
12 definition sufficient for purposes of California Rule of Court 3.765(a).

13 5. The Court hereby confirms Aegis Law Firm, PC as Class Counsel.

14 6. The Court hereby confirms Plaintiff J’Necia Monique McClenton as the Class
15 Representative in this Action.

16 7. The Court finds and determines that the terms set forth in the Settlement
17 Agreement are fair, reasonable, and adequate and directs the Parties to effectuate the Settlement
18 according to its terms, having found that the Settlement was reached as a result of informed and
19 non-collusive arm’s-length negotiations facilitated by a neutral mediator. The Court further finds
20 that the Parties conducted extensive investigation, research, and discovery and that their attorneys
21 were able to reasonably evaluate their respective positions. The Court also finds that the
22 Settlement will enable the Parties to avoid additional and potentially substantial litigation costs,
23 as well as delay and risks if the Parties were to continue to litigate the case. The Court has
24 reviewed the monetary recovery provided as part of the Settlement and recognizes the significant
25 value accorded to the Class.

26 8. The Court further finds and determines that the terms of the Settlement are fair,
27 reasonable and adequate to the Class and to each Participating Class Member and that the
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1 Settlement is ordered finally approved, and that all terms and provisions of the Settlement should
2 be and hereby are ordered to be consummated.

3 9. The Court hereby approves the Gross Settlement Amount of \$750,000.00

4 10. The Court finds and determines that the Individual Settlement Payments to be paid
5 to Participating Class Members as provided for by the Settlement are fair and reasonable. The
6 Court hereby gives final approval to and orders the payment of those amounts be made to the
7 Participating Class Members in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

8 11. The Court finds and determines that payment to the California Labor and
9 Workforce Development Agency of \$37,500.00 as its share of the settlement of civil penalties in
10 this case is fair, reasonable, and appropriate. The Court hereby gives final approval to and orders
11 that the payment of that amount be paid in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

12 12. The Court finds and determines that the fees and expenses in administrating the
13 Settlement incurred by CPT Group Class Action Administrators in the amount of \$10,000.00, are
14 fair and reasonable. The Court hereby gives final approval to and orders that the payment of that
15 amount in accordance with the Settlement.

16 13. The Court finds and determines the Class Representatives Enhancement Award
17 of up to \$10,000.00 for Plaintiff is fair and reasonable. The Court hereby orders the
18 Administrator to make this payment to the Plaintiff/Class Representative in accordance with the
19 terms of the Settlement Agreement.

20 14. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement, and the authorities, evidence and
21 argument submitted by Class Counsel, the Court hereby awards Class Counsel attorneys' fees
22 in the sum of \$250,000.00 and litigation costs of \$15,934.82. The Court finds such amounts to
23 be fair and reasonable. The Court hereby orders the Settlement Administrator to make these
24 payments in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

25 15. Without affecting the finality of this order or the entry of judgment in any way,
26 the Court retains jurisdiction of all matters relating to the interpretation, administration,
27 implementation, effectuation, and enforcement of this order and the Settlement.

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1 16. Neither Defendant nor any related persons or entities shall have any further
2 liability for costs, expenses, interest, attorneys' fees, or for any other charge, expense, or liability,
3 except as provided for by the Settlement Agreement.

4 17. Neither the making of the Settlement Agreement nor the entry into the Settlement
5 Agreement constitutes an admission by Defendant, nor is this order a finding of the validity of
6 any claims in this case or of any other wrongdoing. Further, the Settlement Agreement is not a
7 concession, and shall not be used as an admission of any wrongdoing, fault, or omission of any
8 entity or persons; nor may any action taken to carry out the terms of the Settlement Agreement
9 be construed as an admission or concession by or against Defendant or any related person or
10 entity.

11 18. Nothing in this order shall preclude any action to enforce the Parties' obligations
12 under the Settlement or under this order, including the requirement that Defendants make
13 payment to the Participating Class Members in accordance with the Settlement.

14 19. This Judgment is intended to be a final disposition in its entirety of the above
15 captioned action. Without affecting the finality of this judgment in any way, the Court retains
16 jurisdiction of all matters relating to the interpretation, administration, implementation,
17 effectuation, and enforcement of the Settlement pursuant to C.C.P. § 664.6.

18 20. The Parties will bear their own costs and attorneys' fees except as otherwise
19 provided by this Court's Order awarding Class Counsels' Award for attorneys' fees and
20 litigation costs.

21
22 DATED: 9-18-24



Honorable Richard S. Whitney
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT