



FILED
San Francisco County Superior Court

OCT 02 2025

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
By Alvira Allen Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
DEPARTMENT 304

JOSE I. SORIANO RODRIGUEZ, on behalf of
himself and all others similarly situated, and the
general public, and as an "Aggrieved
Employee" on behalf of other "Aggrieved
Employees" under the Private Attorneys
General Act of 2004,

Plaintiff,

v.

EVENTS MANAGEMENT, INC. DBA
MCCALLS CATERING & EVENTS, a
California corporation; and DOES 1 to 25,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. CGC-24-615022

ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND
PAGA SETTLEMENT

1 Plaintiff Jose I. Soriano Rodriguez ("Plaintiff") and Defendant Events Management, Inc.
2 dba McCalls Catering & Events ("Defendant") have reached terms of settlement for a putative
3 class and representative action. Plaintiff filed a motion for preliminary approval of joint
4 stipulation of class action and PAGA settlement. The Court, having reviewed and considered
5 Plaintiff's motion, its accompanying memoranda, the First Amended Joint Stipulation of Class
6 Action and PAGA Settlement and Release ("Settlement" or "Settlement Agreement") attached as
7 Exhibit 9 to the Supplemental Declaration of Maralle Messrelian filed on September 18, 2025,
8 and the file in this action, and good cause appearing thereto, HEREBY ORDERS THE
9 FOLLOWING:

10 1. The Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement based upon the terms set forth
11 in the Settlement. All capitalized terms used herein shall have the same meaning as defined in
12 the Settlement. The Court has determined that the Settlement appears at this stage to be (a) fair,
13 adequate, and reasonable to the Class and (b) within the range of final approval. The Court will
14 make a determination at the Final Approval Hearing of whether the Settlement is fair, adequate
15 and reasonable to the Class.
16

17 2. The Court preliminarily finds that the Settlement was the product of serious, informed,
18 non-collusive negotiations conducted at arm's-length by the Parties. In making this preliminary
19 finding, the Court considered the nature of the claims set forth in the pleadings, the amounts and
20 kinds of benefits which shall be paid pursuant to the Settlement, the allocation of Settlement
21 proceeds to the Class, and the fact that the Settlement represents a compromise of the Parties'
22 respective positions. The Court further preliminarily finds that the terms of the Settlement have
23 no obvious deficiencies and do not improperly grant preferential treatment to any individual Class
24 Member.

25 3. Pursuant to section 382 of the Code of Civil Procedure, in light of the proposed
26 Settlement, the Court hereby finds that the prerequisites for conditional certification of a
27 settlement class have been met and preliminarily certifies the following Class for settlement
28 purposes only:

1 All current and former non-exempt, hourly paid employees who worked for Defendant
2 Events Management, Inc. dba McCalls Catering & Events in California at any time
3 during the Class Period. "Class Period" means the time from May 28, 2020 to June
4 10, 2025.

4 4. The Court approves, for settlement purposes only, Maralle Messrelian of MM Law,
5 APC as Class Counsel.

6 5. The Court approves, for settlement purposes only, Plaintiff Jose I. Soriano Rodriguez
7 as the Class Representative.

8 6. The Court approves ILYM Group, Inc. as the Settlement Administrator and orders
9 ILYM Group, Inc. to perform the duties described in the Settlement Agreement and this Order.

10 7. The Court finds that the dates set forth in the Settlement for mailing and emailing
11 (where email addresses are available) the Class Notice preliminarily meet the requirements of due
12 process and provide the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constitute due and
13 sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto.

14 8. The Court approves, as to form and content, the Notice of Class Action and PAGA
15 Settlement, attached as Exhibit 11 to the Supplemental Declaration of Maralle Messrelian filed on
16 September 18, 2025.

17 9. The Court hereby directs the mailing and emailing (where email addresses are
18 available) of the Class Notice by first-class mail and email (where email addresses are available)
19 to the Class as set forth in the Settlement. Accordingly, the Court orders the following
20 implementation schedule for further proceedings:

21 a. Within thirty (30) business days following the date of this Order, Defendant
22 shall provide ILYM Group Inc. the Class List with the following information about each Class
23 Member: (1) full name; (2) most recent mailing address and telephone number; (3) email address
24 (where available); (4) Social Security Number; (5) dates of employment; (5) the respective number
25 of Workweeks that each Class Member worked during the Class Period and the number of PAGA
26 Pay Periods worked during the PAGA Period.
27
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1 b. Within ten (10) calendar days after the receipt of the Class List, the
2 Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for calculating the estimated payouts to the Class
3 Members assuming all Class Members participate in the Settlement.

4 c. Within ten (10) calendar days after the receipt of the Class List, the
5 Settlement Administrator shall mail the Class Notice to all Class Members pursuant to the terms
6 of the Settlement, by first-class U.S. mail and email (where email addresses are available). Prior
7 to mailing, the Settlement Administrator will conduct a search based on the National Change of
8 Address Database for information to update and correct any known or identifiable address changes.

9 d. Within sixty (60) calendar days following the mailing and emailing (where
10 email addresses are available) of the Class Notice, all requests to be excluded from the Settlement
11 must be returned to the Settlement Administrator via email or postmarked by U.S. Mail, as set
12 forth in the Settlement. Those Class Members who receive a re-mailed Class Notice, will have
13 either (a) fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of re-mailing or (b) until the Response Deadline,
14 whichever is later, to submit a Request for Exclusion. The Settlement Administrator shall file a
15 declaration concurrently with the filing of any motion for final approval of the Settlement
16 authenticating a copy of every Request for Exclusion received by the Settlement Administrator.

17 e. Within sixty (60) calendar days following the mailing and emailing (where
18 email addresses are available) of the Class Notice, all disputes concerning the calculation of
19 Individual Settlement Payments must be returned to the Settlement Administrator via email or
20 postmarked by U.S. Mail, as set forth in the Settlement. Those Class Members who receive a re-
21 mailed Class Notice, will have either (a) fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of re-mailing or
22 (b) until the Response Deadline, whichever is later, to submit a dispute. All disputes will be
23 decided within ten (10) business days after the Response Deadline. The Settlement Administrator
24 is the final decision maker for disputes regarding the calculation of individual settlement payments.
25 The Settlement Administrator will inform Class Members, who submitted disputes, of its final
26 determination.
27
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1 f. Within sixty (60) calendar days following the mailing and emailing (where
2 email addresses are available) of the Class Notice, all written objections to the Settlement should
3 be mailed or emailed to the Settlement Administrator and should state the basis for the objection.
4 Those Class Members who receive a re-mailed Class Notice, will have either (a) fifteen (15)
5 calendar days from the date of re-mailing or (b) until the Response Deadline, whichever is later,
6 to submit an objection to the Settlement. The Settlement Administrator shall forward a copy of
7 the objection to counsel for the parties within two (2) business days of receipt. The Settlement
8 Administrator shall file a declaration concurrently with the filing of any motion for final approval
9 of the Settlement authenticating a copy of every Notice of Objection received by the Settlement
10 Administrator. The Court will consider any written or oral objections or comments from Class
11 Members at the time of the Final Approval Hearing, as set forth in the Class Notice. Class
12 Members may appear at the Final Approval Hearing to be heard on their objections, even if they
13 have not previously served a written objection.
14

15 10. A Final Approval Hearing shall be held at 9:00 a.m. on February 26, 2026 in
16 Department 304 of the Superior Court for the State of California, County of San Francisco, located
17 at 400 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA 94102, to consider the fairness, adequacy and
18 reasonableness of the Settlement preliminarily approved by this Order, and to consider the
19 application of Class Counsel for an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred and the
20 Class Representative Enhancement Payment. All briefs and materials in support of the Motion for
21 an Order of Final Approval and Judgment and Application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs shall be
22 filed with this Court no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing.

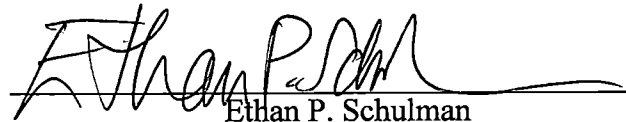
23 11. If for any reason the Court does not execute and file an Order of Final Approval and
24 Judgment, or if the Final Effective Date, as defined in the Settlement, does not occur for any
25 reason, the Settlement that is the subject of this Order, and all evidence and proceedings had in
26 connection therewith, shall be without prejudice to the status quo ante rights of the Parties to the
27 litigation, as more specifically set forth in the Settlement.
28

1 12. The Court expressly reserves the right to adjourn or continue the Fairness Hearing from
2 without further notice to members of the Class. However, the Settlement Administrator shall give
3 prompt notice of any continuance to Class Members who object to the Settlement.

4 13. Class Counsel shall submit a copy of this Order to the Labor and Workforce
5 Development Agency within 10 days of entry pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(s)(3).
6

7 IT IS SO ORDERED.

8 Date: OCT. 1, 2025


Ethan P. Schulman
Judge of the Superior Court

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE
(CCP 1010.6 & CRC 2.251)

I, Felicia Green, a Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court of the County of San Francisco, certify that I am not a party to the within action.

On October 2, 2025, I electronically served ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT via File & ServeXpress on the recipients designated on the Transaction Receipt located on the File & ServeXpress website.

Dated: **OCT 02 2025**

Brandon E. Riley, Court Executive Officer

By: 
Felicia Green, Deputy Clerk