

**FILED**  
San Francisco County Superior Court

**FEB 27 2026**

CLERK OF THE COURT

BY:   
Deputy Clerk

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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 FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT

Plaintiff’s unopposed motion for final approval of class action and PAGA settlement came before this Court on February 27, 2026. Having considered the motion and accompanying memorandum, the Settlement Agreement,<sup>1</sup> and the file in this case, the Court hereby finds and orders as follows.

1. Unless otherwise specified, terms in this Order Granting Final Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement (the “Final Approval Order”) shall have the same definition as used in the Settlement Agreement.

<sup>1</sup> “Settlement Agreement” or “Settlement” refers to the First Amended Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement and Release attached as Exhibit 9 to the Supplemental Declaration of Maralle Messrelian filed on September 18, 2025.

1           2.       The Court granted preliminary approval of the class action and PAGA settlement on  
2 October 2, 2025 (“Preliminary Approval Order”). In accordance with the Settlement Agreement and the  
3 Preliminary Approval Order, ILYM Group, Inc. distributed notice to all members of the putative class by  
4 first-class mail and email. The Class Notice informed the putative class of the terms of the Settlement, of  
5 their right to receive their proportional Settlement Payment, of their right to request exclusion from the  
6 Class and the Settlement, of their right to comment upon or object to the Settlement, and to appear by  
7 themselves or by counsel at the Final Approval Hearing.

8           3.       The Court finds that the Class Notice and notice procedure met the requirements of due  
9 process and constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances.

10          4.       No Settlement Class Member filed a written objection to the proposed Settlement as part of  
11 this notice process or stated an intention to appear at the Final Approval Hearing. No Settlement Class  
12 Member appeared and objected at the Final Approval Hearing.

13          5.       Three Settlement Class Members, Kathleen S. Joyce, Berly John Ponce Velasquez, and  
14 Nicolás Criollo Manrique, requested to be excluded from the Settlement. The Court hereby excludes  
15 Kathleen S. Joyce, Berly John Ponce Velasquez, and Nicolás Criollo Manrique from the Settlement Class  
16 and the Settlement. This Order is binding on all remaining Settlement Class Members.

17          6.       With respect to the Settlement Class and for purposes of approving this Settlement only,  
18 this Court finds and concludes that: (a) the members of the Class are ascertainable and so numerous that  
19 joinder of all members is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law or fact common to the Class, and  
20 there is a well-defined community of interest among members of the Class with respect to the subject  
21 matter of the Action; (c) the Class Representative’s claims are typical of the claims of the members of the  
22 Class; (d) the Class Representative has fairly and adequately protected the interests of the members of the  
23 Class; (e) a class action is superior to other available methods for an efficient adjudication of this  
24 controversy; and (f) the counsel of record for the Class Representative, i.e., Class Counsel, are qualified to  
25 serve as counsel for Plaintiff in their individual and representative capacities for the Class.

26          7.       The Court hereby certifies the following Class for settlement purposes only: All current  
27 and former non-exempt, hourly paid employees who worked for Defendant Events Management, Inc. dba  
28

1 McCalls Catering & Events in California at any time during the Class Period. “Class Period” means the  
2 time from May 28, 2020 to June 10, 2025.

3 8. For settlement purposes only, the Court finally appoints Plaintiff Jose I. Soriano Rodriguez  
4 as the Settlement Class Representative.

5 9. For settlement purposes only, the Court finally appoints Maralle Messrelian of MM Law,  
6 APC as Class Counsel.

7 10. The Court finds and determines that the terms of the Settlement Agreement are fair,  
8 reasonable, and adequate and directs the Parties to effectuate the Settlement according to its terms. The  
9 Court finds that the Settlement was reached as a result of informed and non-collusive arm’s-length  
10 negotiations facilitated by a neutral mediator after sufficient investigation by the Parties allowing them to  
11 reasonably evaluate their respective positions. The Court has reviewed the monetary recovery provided  
12 as part of the Settlement and recognizes the significant value accorded to the Class.

13 11. The Court hereby approves the Gross Settlement Amount of \$850,000.<sup>2</sup> Defendant shall  
14 fund the Settlement within 30 days of the Effective Date. The Court hereby orders the Settlement  
15 Administrator to disburse the payments from the Gross Settlement Amount as set forth herein, and in  
16 accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

17 12. The Court awards reasonable attorneys’ fees to Class Counsel in the amount of \$238,000.

18 13. The Court awards Class Counsel \$12,273.94 for litigation costs incurred.

19 14. The Court awards \$6,000 to the Class Representative in addition to his individual  
20 settlement payment in recognition of the time and effort spent litigating the case on behalf of the Class.

21 15. The Court awards \$50,000 in PAGA penalties (75% or \$37,500 allocated to the Labor and  
22 Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) and 25% or \$12,500 allocated to PAGA Members in  
23 accordance with the Settlement Agreement). The PAGA Members covered by the Settlement consist of  
24 the following individuals: All persons who worked for Defendant as non-exempt, hourly paid employees  
25 in California at any time during the PAGA Period. The PAGA Period is March 14, 2023 to June 10,  
26 2025.

27  
28 <sup>2</sup> Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, Defendant’s share of employer-side payroll taxes shall be paid  
separate and apart from the Gross Settlement Amount.

1           16.     The Court awards \$10,100 in settlement administration costs to ILYM Group, Inc.

2           17.     A status conference regarding settlement distribution is set for January 15, 2027 at 9:00  
3 a.m. A status report, accompanied by an admissible evidentiary declaration, shall be filed no later than  
4 five court days prior to the status conference. The status report must state: (1) the date the Settlement  
5 Administrator distributed individual settlement payments; (2) the number of checks issued; (3) the  
6 number of checks cashed; (4) the number of uncashed checks; and (5) the total amount of residual funds  
7 available for tender to the State Controller's Office Unclaimed Property Fund.

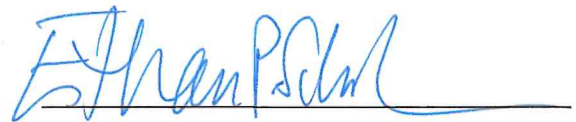
8           18.     Class Counsel must submit a copy of this order to the LWDA within ten days of entry  
9 pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(s)(3).

10          19.     This Order shall be posted on the Settlement Administrator's website for 180 days.

11          20.     The Court reserves exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over the Action, the Class  
12 Representative, the Class Members, and Defendant for the purposes of supervising the implementation,  
13 enforcement, construction, administration, and interpretation of the Settlement Agreement, pursuant to  
14 California Rules of Court, rule 3.769(h).

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16           IT IS SO ORDERED.

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18           Dated: February 27, 2026



Ethan P. Schulman  
Judge of the Superior Court

**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE**  
(CCP 1010.6 & CRC 2.251)

I, Johnny Sengmany, 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 February 27, 2026, I electronically served the ORDER GRANTING FINAL 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: February 27, 2026,

Court Executive Officer, Brandon E. Riley

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Johnny Sengmany, Deputy Clerk