

FILEDSUPERIOR COURT of CALIFORNIA
COUNTY of SANTA BARBARA**05/19/2026**Angela Braun, Executive Officer
BY Chavez, Terri

Deputy Clerk

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Attorney for Plaintiff,
ERIK FRANCO
and all putative class members

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

ERIK FRANCO, an individual, on behalf of
himself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SBR9, L.P., DBA RARE SOCIETY, a
California Limited Partnership, and DOES 1-
50, inclusive,

Defendant.

Case No.: 24CV04218

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS AND
REPRESENTATIVE ACTION
SETTLEMENT**Class Action Filed: July 29, 2024
FAC Filed: October 4, 2024

The Court has before it the Motion for Preliminary Approval brought by Plaintiff ERIK FRANCO. After reviewing the Motion for Preliminary Approval and the Class Action and PAGA Settlement (“Settlement Agreement”) filed with the Court, and good cause appearing therefor, the Court hereby finds and orders as follows:

1. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that the settlement memorialized in the Settlement Agreement appears to be fair, adequate, and reasonable, and therefore meets the requirements for preliminary approval. The monetary terms of the settlement detailed in the following chart are discussed further below.

Gross Settlement Amount	\$88,350
Plaintiff’s Class Representative Award	-\$5,000
Plaintiff’s Attorney Fees	-\$29,447
Plaintiff’s Costs (up to)	-\$10,000
PAGA Payment	-\$8,000
Settlement Administration (up to)	-\$6,950
Net Settlement Amount for Distribution to Class Members	\$29,953.00

2. “Class” means all current or former hourly, non-exempt employees who were employed by Defendant in California during the Class Period. “Class Period” means the period from July 29, 2020, to the date the Court grants preliminary approval, subject to Defendant’s option under paragraph 8 of the Settlement Agreement. In the event that Defendant elects to exercise its right to shorten the Class Period, the Parties will submit a [Proposed] Amended Order revising the class definition.

3. The Court finds, for purposes of settlement only, that the Class meets the requirements for certification under Section 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure in that: (1) the Class is so numerous that joinder is impracticable; (2) there are questions of law and fact that are common, or of general interest, to all Settlement Class Members, which predominate over individual issues; (3) the named Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the claims of the Class; (4) the named Plaintiff and Plaintiff’s counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class;

1 and (5) a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication
2 of the controversy.

3 4. The Court appoints for settlement purposes only ERIK FRANCO as the Class
4 Representative. A Class Representative Award of \$5,000 to Plaintiff is conditionally approved and
5 will be determined at final approval.

6 5. The Court appoints for settlement purposes only Koul Law Firm, APC as Class
7 Counsel. The proposed payment to Class Counsel for reasonable attorneys' fees is an amount not
8 to exceed 33.33% of the Gross Settlement Amount (\$29,447), which will be determined at final
9 approval. The proposed payment to Class Counsel for actual Litigation Costs in an amount not to
10 exceed \$10,000 is conditionally approved and will be determined at final approval.

11 6. The Court appoints ILYM Group, Inc. as the Settlement Administrator. The
12 proposed payment of the Settlement Administration Costs in an amount not to exceed \$6,950 to
13 ILYM Group, Inc. for its services is conditionally approved and will be determined at final
14 approval.

15 7. The Parties are ordered to carry out the Settlement according to the terms of the
16 Settlement Agreement.

17 8. The Court orders the following implementation schedule:

18 a. Deadline for Defendant to submit Class Data to the Settlement Administrator:
19 within fourteen (14) calendar days after entry of the Preliminary Approval Order;

20 b. Deadline for Settlement Administrator to send Class Notice to Class Members
21 providing notice of settlement: within fourteen (14) calendar days of Preliminary Approval by the
22 Court.

23 c. Deadline for Class Members to postmark written objections, challenges to Class
24 Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Out) related to the
25 Settlement: Within forty-five (45) days for initial mailing of Notice Packet; to be extended by
26 fourteen (14) days for remailing;
27
28

1 d. Deadline for serving and filing Motion for Final Approval, Attorneys' Fees Award,
2 Cost Award, and Class Representative Award: Sixteen (16) court days before Final Approval
3 Hearing in conformity with Code of Civil Procedure section 1005;

4 e. Final Approval Hearing: 11/16/2026 at 10:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~

5 9. The Court approves as to form and content the Notice included as Exhibit A to the
6 Settlement Agreement, which advises Class Members and PAGA Settlement Employees of the
7 Settlement terms, the preliminary approval of the Settlement, and the scheduling of the Final
8 Approval Hearing.

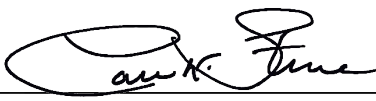
9 10. The Court finds that the timing for the mailing and distribution of the Notice meets
10 the requirements of due process, provides the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and
11 constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto. The Court directs the mailing
12 of the Notice to all identified Class Members in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

13 11. The Court retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or
14 in connection with the Settlement.

15 12. If the Settlement does not become effective in accordance with the terms of the
16 Settlement Agreement, or if the Settlement is not finally approved, or is terminated, canceled, or
17 fails to become effective for any reason, this Order shall be rendered null and void and shall be
18 vacated.

19 IT IS SO ORDERED.

20
21 Dated: 05/19/2026

22 
23 Hon. COLLEN K. STERNE
24 JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
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PROOF OF SERVICE

Case No. 24CV04218
Franco v. SBR9, L.P. dba Rare Society

I, NADIA CHAVEZ declare that I am a resident of or employed in the County of Los Angeles, California. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the entitled case. The name and address of my residence or business is KOUL LAW FIRM, 217 South Kenwood Street, Glendale, California 91205.

On January 27, 2026, I served the foregoing document described as:

- 1. NOTICE OF MOTION FOR: (1) PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT; (2) APPROVAL OF NOTICE TO CLASS MEMBERS; (3) APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR; AND (4) SETTING HEARING FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT**
- 2. PLAINTIFFS MEMORANDUM OF POINT AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR: (1) PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT; (2) APPROVAL OF NOTICE TO CLASS MEMBERS; (3) APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR; AND (4) SETTING HEARING FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT;**
- 3. [PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION SETTLEMENT;**
- 4. DECLARATION OF NAZO KOULLOUKIAN IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT;**
- 5. DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF ERIK FRANCO;**
- 6. DECLARATION OF LISA MULLINS**

 X

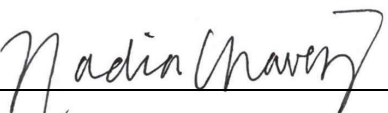
BY E-MAIL: I hereby certify that this document was served from Glendale, California, by e-mail delivery on the parties listed herein at their most recent known e-mail address from e-mail nadia@koullaw.com pursuant to California Rules of Court. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

on the interested parties in this action by sending [] the original [or] [✓] a true copy thereof [✓] to interested parties as follows [or] [] as stated on the attached service list:

SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on this January 27, 2026, in Glendale, California.



NADIA CHAVEZ

PROOF OF SERVICE

Case No. 24CV04218

Franco v. SBR9, L.P. dba Rare Society

Debra Meppen

Sonia J. Taylor

Jordan Meppen

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