# Nunez v. F.G. Mediterranean, Inc., et al. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Case No. 24STCV05626

# COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL

The Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles has authorized this Notice. Read it carefully! It's not junk mail, spam, an advertisement, or solicitation by a lawyer. You are not being sued.

You may be eligible to receive money from an employee class action and claims brought under the California Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq.) ("PAGA") lawsuit ("Action") against F.G. Mediterranean, Inc. d/b/a Fresh Grill and Farzad Cheshmaghil (collectively hereinafter referred to as "Fresh Grill" or "Defendant") alleging wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by a former Fresh Grill employee Pedro Nunez ("Plaintiff") and seeks payments of (1) back wages and other relief for a class of current and former non-exempt, hourly-paid restaurant employees ("Class Members") who were employed by Fresh Grill as restaurant employees or any other similar non-exempt, hourly position in California during the Class Period (from September 10, 2019 to March 12, 2025); and (2) penalties under the PAGA for all current and former non-exempt, hourly employees employed by Fresh Grill in California at any time during the PAGA Period (from March 6, 2023 through March 12, 2025) ("PAGA Employees").

The proposed Settlement has two main parts: (1) a Class Settlement requiring Fresh Grill to fund Individual Class Payments, and (2) a PAGA Settlement requiring Fresh Grill to fund Individual PAGA Payments and pay penalties to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA").

Based on Defendants' records, and the Parties' current assumptions, your Individual Class Payment is estimated to be \$<<MERGED\_ClassAward>> (less legally required withholdings) and Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$<<MERGED\_PAGAAward>>. The actual amount you may receive likely will be different and will depend on a number of factors. (If no amount is stated for the Individual PAGA Payment that is because you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you didn't work during the PAGA Period.)

The above estimates are based on Fresh Grill's records showing that **you were employed <<MERGED ClassWW>> workweeks** during the Class Period and **<<MERGED PAGAWW>> workweeks** during the PAGA Period. If you believe that you worked more workweeks during either period, you can submit a challenge by the deadline date. See Section 4 of this Notice.

The Court has already preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement and approved this Notice. The Court has not yet decided whether to grant final approval. Your legal rights are affected whether you act or not act. Read this Notice carefully. You will be deemed to have carefully read and understood it. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will decide whether to finally approve the Settlement and how much of the Settlement will be paid to Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' attorneys ("Class Counsel"). The Court will also decide whether to enter a judgment that requires Fresh Grill to make payments under the Settlement and requires Class Members and PAGA Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against Defendant.

If you worked for Fresh Grill during the Class Period and/or the PAGA Period, you have two basic options under the Settlement:

- (1) **Do Nothing.** You don't have to do anything to participate in the proposed Settlement and be eligible for an Individual Class Payment and/or an Individual PAGA Payment. As a Participating Class Member, though, you will give up your right to assert Class Period wage claims and PAGA Period penalty claims against Defendant.
- (2) **Opt-Out of the Class Settlement**. You can exclude yourself from the Class Settlement (opt-out) by submitting the written Request for Exclusion or otherwise notifying the Administrator in writing. If you opt-out of the Settlement, you will not receive an Individual Class Payment. You will, however, preserve your right to personally pursue wage claims against Defendant, and, if you are an PAGA Employee, remain eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

DEFENDANTS WILL NOT RETALIATE AGAINST YOU FOR ANY ACTIONS YOU TAKE OR DO NOT TAKE WITH RESPECT TO THE SETTLEMENT.

#### SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT

Do Nothing. You Don't Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement  You Can Opt-out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement  The Opt-out Deadline is January 15, 2026	If you do nothing, you will be a Participating Class Member, eligible for an Individual Class Payment and an Individual PAGA Payment (if any). In exchange, you will give up your right to assert the wage claims against Defendant that are covered by this Settlement (Released Claims defined below).  If you don't want to fully participate in the Settlement, you can opt-out of the Class Settlement by sending the Administrator a written Request for Exclusion. Once excluded, you will be a Non-Participating Class Member and no longer eligible for an Individual Class Payment. Non-Participating Class Members cannot object to any portion of the Settlement. See Section 6 of this Notice.  You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Defendant must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all PAGA Employees and the PAGA Employees must give up their rights to pursue Released Claims (defined below).
Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement Written Objections Must be Submitted by January 15, 2026	All Class Members who do not opt-out ("Participating Class Members") can object to any aspect of the proposed Settlement. The Court's decision whether to finally approve the Settlement will include a determination of how much will be paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiffs who pursued the Actions on behalf of the Class. You are not personally responsible for any payments to Class Counsel or Plaintiffs. You can object to the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiffs if you think they are unreasonable. See Section 7 of this Notice.
You Can Participate in April 27, 2026, Final Approval Hearing	The Court's Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on April 27, 2026. You don't have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone or by using the Court's virtual appearance platform. Participating Class Members can verbally object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing. See Section 8 of this Notice.
You Can Challenge the Calculation of Your Workweeks/Pay Periods Written Challenges Must be Submitted by January 15, 2026	The amount of your Individual Class Payment and PAGA Payment (if any) depend on how many workweeks you worked at least one day during the Class Period and how many Pay Periods you worked at least one day during the PAGA Period, respectively. The number of Class Period Workweeks and number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked according to Fresh Grill's records is stated on the first page of this Notice. If you disagree with either number, you must challenge it by <a href="January 15, 2026">January 15, 2026</a> . See Section 4 of this Notice.

### 1. WHAT IS THIS ACTION ABOUT?

Plaintiff is a former Fresh Grill employee who worked as a restaurant employee. The Action alleges that Defendants failed to pay compensation for all hours worked, minimum wages, and overtime compensation, failed to furnish accurate, itemized wage statements, failed to provide meal and rest periods, failed to timely pay wages during employment, and failed to pay all wages due at termination. Based on the same claims, Plaintiff has also asserted a claim for civil penalties under PAGA.

Defendants deny all liability and wrongdoing. Defendants maintain that it was in compliance with the California Labor Code and enters into this Settlement with no admission of liability and solely for the purposes of compromising and settling the Action to avoid the cost and operational burden of continued litigation. The Court has not ruled on the merits of Plaintiff's claims or Defendants' defenses.

The parties are represented as follows:

#### **Class Counsel:**

Michael H. Boyamian
BOYAMIAN LAW, INC.
550 North Brand Boulevard, Suite 1500
Glendale, California 91203
michael@boyamianlaw.com
Telephone: (818) 547-5300

Telephone: (818) 547-5300 Facsimile: (818) 547-5678

#### Fresh Grill's Counsel:

Neda Roshanian ROSHANIAN LAW FIRM, INC. 15260 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 845 Sherman Oaks, California 91403 Tel.: (818) 616-3442 neda@roshanianlaw.com

### 2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE ACTIONS HAVE SETTLED?

So far, the Court has made no determination whether Defendant or Plaintiff is correct on the merits.

In the meantime, Plaintiff and Defendants hired an experienced, neutral mediator in an effort to resolve the Action by negotiating an end to the case by agreement (settle the case) rather than continuing the expensive and time-consuming process of litigation. The negotiations were successful. By signing a lengthy written settlement agreement ("Agreement") and agreeing to jointly ask the Court to enter a judgment ending the Action and enforcing the Agreement, Plaintiff and Defendants have negotiated a proposed Settlement that is subject to the Court's Final Approval. Both sides agree the proposed Settlement is a compromise of disputed claims. By agreeing to settle, Defendants do not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims.

Plaintiff and Class Counsel strongly believe the Settlement is a good deal for you because they believe that: (1) Fresh Grill has agreed to pay a fair, reasonable and adequate amount considering the claims, risks, and uncertainties of continued litigation; and (2) Settlement is in the best interests of the Class Members and PAGA Employees. The Court preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, authorized this Notice, and scheduled a hearing to determine Final Approval.

# 3. WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT?

- 1. Fresh Grill Will Pay \$90,000 as the Gross Settlement Amount (Gross Settlement). Fresh Grill has agreed to deposit the Gross Settlement into an account controlled by the Administrator of the Settlement. Fresh Grill will make quarterly installment payments and will deposit a final sum following and assuming the Court's granting of final approval. The Administrator will use the Gross Settlement to pay the Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel's attorney's fees and expenses, the Administrator's expenses, and penalties to be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA"). The Judgment will be final on the date the Court enters Judgment, or a later date if Participating Class Members object to the Settlement or the Judgment is appealed.
- 2. <u>Court Approved Deductions from Gross Settlement.</u> At the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiffs and/or Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve the following deductions from the Gross Settlement, the amounts of which will be decided by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing:
  - A. Up to \$30,000.00 (33-1/3% of the Gross Settlement) to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and up to \$10,000.00 for their litigation expenses. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.
  - B. Up to a sum of \$5,000 to the Class Representative for filing the Action, working with Class Counsel, and representing the Class. A Class Representative Award will be the only money Plaintiff will receive other than Plaintiff's Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment.
  - C. A flat rate of \$5,000 to the Administrator for services administering the Settlement.
  - D. Up to \$10,000.00 for PAGA Penalties, allocated 75% to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% in Individual PAGA Payments to the PAGA Employees based on their PAGA Pay Periods.

Participating Class Members have the right to object to any of these deductions. The Court will consider all objections.

- 3. <u>Net Settlement Distributed to Class Members</u>. After making the above deductions in amounts approved by the Court, the Administrator will distribute the rest of the Gross Settlement (the "Net Settlement") by making Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members based on their Class Period Workweeks.
- 4. Taxes Owed on Payments to Participating Class Members. Plaintiff and Defendant are asking the Court to approve an allocation of 20% of each Individual Class Payment to taxable wages ("Wage Portion") and 80% to interest and penalties ("Non-Wage Portion"). The Wage Portion is subject to withholdings and will be reported on IRS W-2 Forms. Fresh Grill will separately pay the employer share of payroll taxes it owes on the Wage Portion. The Individual PAGA Payments are counted as penalties rather than wages for tax purposes. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments and the Non-Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

Although Plaintiff and Defendants have agreed to these allocations, neither side is giving you any advice on whether your Payments are taxable or how much you might owe in taxes. You are responsible for paying all taxes (including penalties and interest on back taxes) on any Payments received from the Settlement. You should consult a tax advisor if you have any questions about the tax consequences of the Settlement.

- 5. Need to Promptly Cash Payment Checks. The front of every check issued for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments will show the date when the check expires (the void date). If you don't cash it by the void date, your check will be automatically cancelled, and the monies will be transmitted to the California Controller's Office under your name.
- 6. Requests for Exclusion from the Class Settlement (Opt-Outs). You will be treated as a Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Class Settlement, unless you notify the Administrator in writing, not later than January 15, 2026, that you wish to opt-out. The easiest way to notify the Administrator is to send a written and signed statement by the January 15, 2026, Response Deadline. The statement should be a letter or any writing from a Class Member setting forth a Class Member's name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement electing to be excluded from the Settlement. Excluded Class Members (i.e., Non-Participating Class Members) will not receive Individual Class Payments, but will preserve their rights to personally pursue wage and hour claims against Defendant.

You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Class Members who exclude themselves from the Class Settlement (Non-Participating Class Members) remain eligible for Individual PAGA Payments and are required to give up their right to assert PAGA claims against Defendant based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action.

- 7. The Proposed Settlement Will be Void if the Court Denies Final Approval. It is possible the Court will decline to grant Final Approval of the Settlement or decline enter a Judgment. It is also possible the Court will enter a Judgment that is reversed on appeal. Plaintiff and Defendant have agreed that, in either case, the Settlement will be void: Fresh Grill will not pay any money and Class Members will not release any claims against Defendant.
- 8. <u>Administrator</u>. The Court has appointed a neutral company (the "Administrator") to send this Notice, calculate and make payments, and process Class Members' Requests for Exclusion. The Administrator will also decide any Class Member Challenges over Workweeks, mail and re-mail settlement checks and tax forms, and perform other tasks necessary to administer the Settlement. The Administrator's contact information is contained in Section 9 of this Notice.
- 9. Participating Class Members' Release. After the Judgment is final and Fresh Grill has fully funded the Gross Settlement and separately paid all employer payroll taxes, Participating Class Members will be legally barred from asserting any of the claims released under the Settlement. This means that unless you opted out by validly excluding yourself from the Class Settlement, you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendant and related entities for wages based on circumstances during the Class Period and PAGA penalties based on circumstances during the PAGA Period, as alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

The Participating Class Members will be bound by the following release:

All Participating Settlement Class Members, on behalf of himself or herself and his or her heirs and assigns, release Releasees from all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged based on the facts contained in the Operative Complaint, including, but not limited to: (1) failure to pay overtime wages; (2) failure to pay minimum wages; (3) failure to provide meal periods or compensation in lieu of; (4) failure to provide paid rest periods or compensation in lieu of; (5) failure to timely furnish accurate itemized wage statements; (6) violation of labor code §203; (7) violation of labor code §2802;(8) unfair business practices; and (9) civil penalties pursuant to Private Attorneys' General Act of 2004, and those claims predicated on the same or similar facts and/or claims alleged in the Lawsuit and/or any PAGA letter sent to the LWDA by Plaintiff, as well as any claims that could have been pled which arise from the same or similar facts concerning the named Plaintiff or the putative class, and claims for interest, penalties (including but not limited to waiting time penalties), as well as any claims

under the California Labor Code and California Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, including violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 216, 221, 223, 225.5, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 511, 512, 551, 552, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1194-1197.1, 1198, and 2698, et seq, and IWC Wage Order No. 4 and/or applicable IWC Wage Orders, and California Code of Regulations, Title 8, section 11000 et seq.; or which could have been alleged under the same or similar facts, allegations and/or claims pleaded in the Action.

The PAGA Employees' Releases for Participating and Non-Participating Class Members are as follows:

All PAGA Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective heirs and assigns, the Releasees Parties from all all claims for civil penalties, and any other available relief pursuant to PAGA, that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged based on the facts contained in Plaintiff's March 6, 2024 Notice Letter to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and the Operative Complaint, including all PAGA claims premised upon (1) failure to pay overtime wages; (2) failure to pay minimum wages; (3) failure to provide meal periods or compensation in lieu of; (4) failure to provide paid rest periods or compensation in lieu of; (5) failure to timely furnish accurate itemized wage statements; (6) violation of labor code §203; (7) unfair business practices; and (8) civil penalties pursuant to Private Attorneys' General Act of 2004, and those claims predicated on the same or similar facts and/or claims alleged in the Lawsuit and/or any PAGA letter sent to the LWDA by Plaintiff, as well as any claims that could have been pled which arise from the same or similar facts concerning the named Plaintiff or the putative class, and claims for interest, penalties (including but not limited to waiting time penalties), as well as any claims under the California Labor Code and California Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, including violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 216, 221, 223, 225.5, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 511, 512, 551, 552, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1194-1197.1, 1198, and 2698, et seq., and IWC Wage Order No. 4 and/or applicable IWC Wage Orders, or which could have been alleged under the same or similar facts, allegations and/or claims pleaded in the Action;

#### 4. HOW WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR CALCULATE MY PAYMENT?

- 1. <u>Individual Class Payments.</u> The Administrator will calculate Individual Class Payments by (a) dividing your total number of Workweeks by (b) the total number of Workweeks of all Participating Class Members, and (c) multiplying the result by the Net Settlement minus the PAGA Settlement Payments.
- 2. <u>Individual PAGA Payments</u>. The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing your total number of PAGA Pay Periods by (b) the total number of Pay Periods of all PAGA Employees during the PAGA Period and (c) multiplying the result by the PAGA Settlement Payment of \$2,500.
- 3. Workweek/Pay Period Challenges. The number of your Class Workweeks during the Class Period and the number of your PAGA Pay Periods during the PAGA Period, as recorded in Fresh Grill's records, are stated in the first page of this Notice. You have until January 15, 2026, to challenge the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you. You can submit your challenge by signing and sending a letter to the Administrator via mail or email. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

You need to support your challenge by sending copies of pay stubs or other records. The Administrator will accept Fresh Grill's calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods based on Defendant's records as accurate unless you send copies of records containing contrary information. You should send copies rather than originals because the documents will not be returned to you. The Administrator will resolve Workweek and/or Pay Period challenges based on your submission and on input from Class Counsel (who will advocate on behalf of Participating Class Members) and Defendant's Counsel. The Administrator's decision is final. You can't appeal or otherwise challenge its final decision.

# 5. HOW WILL I GET PAID?

1. <u>Participating Class Members.</u> The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single check to every Participating Class Member (i.e., every Class Member who doesn't opt-out) including those who also qualify as PAGA Employees. The single check will combine the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment.

2. <u>PAGA Employees.</u> The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single Individual PAGA Payment check to PAGA Employees including those who opt out of the Class Settlement (i.e., every Non-Participating Class Member).

Your check will be sent to the same address as this Notice. If you change your address, be sure to notify the Administrator as soon as possible. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

#### 6. HOW DO I OPT-OUT OF THE CLASS SETTLEMENT?

Submit a written and signed letter with your name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement that you do not want to participate in the Settlement. The Administrator will exclude you based on any writing communicating your request be excluded. Be sure to personally sign your request, identify the Action as **F.G. Mediterranean**, **Inc. Class Action Settlement** and include your identifying information (full name, address, telephone number, approximate dates of employment, and last four digits of social security number for verification purposes). You must make the request yourself. If someone else makes the request for you, it will not be valid. **The Administrator must be sent your request to be excluded by January 15, 2026, or it will be invalid.** Section 9 of the Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

#### 7. HOW DO I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT?

Only Participating Class Members have the right to object to the Settlement. Before deciding whether to object, you may wish to see what Plaintiff and Defendant are asking the Court to approve. At least 16 court days or **April 27**, **2026**, before the Final Approval Hearing, Class Counsel and/or Plaintiffs will file in Court (1) a Motion for Final Approval that includes, among other things, the reasons why the proposed Settlement is fair, and (2) a Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Awards stating (i) the amount Class Counsel is requesting for attorneys' fees and litigation expenses; and (ii) the amount Plaintiffs are requesting as Class Representative Service Awards. You can view them on the Administrator's Website https://ilymgroup.com/F.G.Mediterranean or the Court's website [S.B.S.C. URL].

A Participating Class Member who disagrees with any aspect of the Agreement, the Motion for Final Approval and/or Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Award may wish to object, for example, that the proposed Settlement is unfair, or that the amounts requested

by Class Counsel or Plaintiffs are too high or too low. The deadline for sending written objections to the Administrator is January 15, 2026. Be sure to tell the Administrator what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. Make sure you identify the Action as F.G. Mediterranean, Inc. Class Action Settlement and include your name, current address, telephone number, and approximate dates of employment for Fresh Grill and sign the objection. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

Alternatively, a Participating Class Member can object (or personally retain a lawyer to object at your own cost) by attending the Final Approval Hearing. You (or your attorney) should be ready to tell the Court what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. See Section 8 of this Notice (immediately below) for specifics regarding the Final Approval Hearing.

# 8. CAN I ATTEND THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING?

You can, but don't have to, attend the Final Approval Hearing on April 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in Department SS10 of the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Spring Street Courthouse located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. At the Hearing, the Judge will decide whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and how much of the Gross Settlement will be paid to Class Counsel, Plaintiff, and the Administrator. The Court will invite comment from objectors, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel before making a decision. You may attend (or hire a lawyer to attend at your own cost) the Hearing. Check the Court's website for the most current information on whether virtual appearances are permitted.

It's possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the Administrator's website https://ilymgroup.com/F.G.Mediterranean beforehand or contact Class Counsel to verify the date and time of the Final Approval Hearing.

#### 9. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The Agreement sets forth everything Defendant and Plaintiff have promised to do under the Settlement. The easiest way to read the Agreement, the Judgment or any other Settlement documents is to go to ILYM Group, Inc.'s website at https://ilymgroup.com/F.G.Mediterranean.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS NOTICE, PLEASE CALL THE CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR AT (888) 250-6810

# PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS SETTLEMENT OR THE CLAIM PROCESS. BY ORDER OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

# 10. WHAT IF I LOSE MY SETTLEMENT CHECK?

If you lose or misplace your settlement check before cashing it, the Administrator will replace it as long as you request a replacement before the void date on the face of the original check. If your check is already void you will have no way to recover the money.

# 11. WHAT IF I CHANGE MY ADDRESS?

To receive your check, you should immediately notify the Administrator if you move or otherwise change your mailing address.