1	Barbara DuVan-Clarke (State Bar No. 259268)		FILED	
2	bdc@blackstonepc.com Danielle Ling GruppChang, (State Bar No. 313)	881)	uperior Court of California County of Los Angeles	
3	dgruppchang@blackstonepc.com P.J. Van Ert (State Bar No. 234858)	,	10/09/2025	
	pjvanert@blackstonepc.com		Slayton, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court	
4	Annabel Blanchard (State Bar No. 258135) ablanchard@blackstonepc.com	Ву:	E. Martinez Deputy	
5	BLACKSTONE LAW, APC 8383 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 745			
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8	Attorneys for Plaintiff ARMIDA BURTON			
9	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
10	FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE			
11	ARMIDA BURTON, individually and on behalf of other members of the general public similarly situated,	Case No.: 24STCV02628		
12		Honorable Timothy Patrick Dillon Department 15		
13	Plaintiff,	[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT		
14	Vs.			
15	MERCURY MISSION SYSTEMS, LLC; and			
16	DOES 1 through 25, inclusive,	Date: Time:	October 9, 2025 10:00 a.m.	
17	Defendants.	Dept.:	15	
18	Defendants.	Complaint Filed:	January 31, 2024	
19		Trial Date:	Not Set	
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[PROPOSED] ORDER

On October 9, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in Department 15 of the above-captioned Court located at Spring Street Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, Plaintiff Arminda Burton's ("Plaintiff") Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement, came on for hearing before the Honorable Timothy Patrick Dillon. Blackstone Law, APC appeared on behalf of Plaintiff and Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, LLP appeared on behalf of Defendant Mercury Mission Systems, LLC ("Defendant").

The Court, having carefully considered the papers, argument of counsel, and all matters presented to the Court, and good cause appearing, hereby **GRANTS** Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement.

### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Court preliminarily approves the Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement ("Settlement" or "Settlement Agreement") attached as Exhibit 3 to the Declaration of Annabel Blanchard in Support of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement. This is based on the Court's determination that the Settlement falls within the range of possible approval as fair, adequate, and reasonable.
- 2. This Order incorporates by reference the definitions in the Settlement Agreement, and all capitalized terms defined therein shall have the same meaning in this Order as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.
- 3. It appears to the Court on a preliminary basis that the Settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable. It appears to the Court that extensive investigation and research have been conducted such that counsel for the parties at this time are able to reasonably evaluate their respective positions. It further appears to the Court that the Settlement, at this time, will avoid substantial additional costs by all parties, as well as avoid the delay and risks that would be presented by the further prosecution of the case. It further appears that the Settlement has been reached as the result of intensive, serious, and non-collusive, arms-length negotiations, and was entered into in good faith.
- 4. The Court preliminarily finds that the Settlement, including the allocations for the Attorneys' Fees and Costs, Enhancement Payment, LWDA Payment, Settlement Administration Costs, and payments to the Settlement Class Members and PAGA Employees provided for in the

Settlement Agreement, appear to be within the range of reasonableness of a settlement that could ultimately be given final approval by this Court. Indeed, the Court has reviewed the monetary recovery that is being granted as part of the Settlement and preliminarily finds that the monetary settlement awards made available to the Class Members and PAGA Employees are fair, adequate, and reasonable when balanced against the probable outcome of further litigation relating to certification, liability, and damages issues and are consistent with the requirements of California Labor Code § 2699(1).

- 5. The Court concludes that, for settlement purposes only, the proposed Class meets the requirements for certification under section 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure in that: (a) the Class is ascertainable and so numerous that joinder of all members of the Class is impracticable; (b) common questions of law and fact predominate, and there is a well-defined community of interest amongst the members of the Class with respect to the subject matter of the litigation; (c) Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class; (d) Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class; (e) a class action is superior to other available methods for the efficient adjudication of the controversy; and (f) Class Counsel is qualified to act as counsel for Plaintiff in her individual capacity and as the representative of the Class.
- 6. The Court conditionally certifies, for settlement purposes only, the Class, defined as follows:

All current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees employed by Defendant within the State of California at any time during the Class Period.

(The Class Period is defined as the period from January 31, 2020 through February 12, 2025.)

- 7. The Court provisionally appoints Jonathan M. Genish, Barbara DuVan-Clarke, Danielle GruppChang, P.J. Van Ert, and Annabel Blanchard of Blackstone Law, APC as counsel for the Class ("Class Counsel").
- 8. The Court provisionally appoints Plaintiff Armida Burton as the representative of the Class ("Class Representative").
- 9. The Court provisionally appoints Apex Class Actions, LLC to handle the administration of the Settlement ("Settlement Administrator").
  - 10. Within fourteen (14) calendar days after entry of this Order, Defendant will provide the

Class Period; (5) Workweeks worked for Defendant during the Class Period; (6) Pay Periods worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period (if applicable); and (7) such other information as is necessary for the Settlement Administrator to calculate Workweeks and Pay Periods (collectively referred to as the "Class List") in conformity with the Settlement Agreement.

11. The Court approves, both as to form and content, the Notice of Class Action Settlement

Settlement Administrator with the following information about each Class Member: (1) full name; (2)

last known mailing address; (3) Social Security number; (4) dates worked for Defendant during the

- ("Class Notice") attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**. The Class Notice shall be provided to Class Members in the manner set forth in the Settlement Agreement. The Court finds that the Class Notice appears to fully and accurately inform the Class Members of all material elements of the Settlement, of Class Members' right to be excluded from the Class Settlement by submitting a Request for Exclusion, of Class Members' right to dispute the Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to each of them by submitting a Workweeks Dispute, and of each Settlement Class Member's right and opportunity to object to the Class Settlement by submitting a Notice of Objection to the Settlement Administrator. The Court further finds that distribution of the Class Notice substantially in the manner and form set forth in the Settlement Agreement and this Order, and that all other dates set forth in the Settlement Agreement and this Order, meet the requirements of due process and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto. The Court further orders the Settlement Administrator to mail the Class Notice by First-Class U.S. Mail to all Class Members within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the Class List, pursuant to the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement.
- 12. The Court hereby preliminarily approves the proposed procedure, set forth in the Settlement Agreement, for seeking exclusion from the Class Settlement. Any Class Member may choose to be excluded from the Class Settlement by submitting a Request for Exclusion in conformity with the requirements set forth in the Class Notice, to the Settlement Administrator, postmarked on or before the date that is forty-five (45) calendar days from the initial mailing of the Class Notice by the Settlement Administrator to Class Members ("Response Deadline"), or, in the case of a re-mailed Class Notice, the Response Deadline shall be extended fifteen (15) calendar days from the original Response Deadline. Any such person who timely and validly chooses to opt out of, and be excluded

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## EXHIBIT 1 NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Armida Burton v. Mercury Mission Systems, LLC
Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles, Case No. 24STCV02628

### PLEASE READ THIS CLASS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

You have received this Class Notice because Defendant's records indicate that you may be eligible to take part in the class action settlement reached in the above-referenced case.

You do not need to take any action to receive a settlement payment.

This Class Notice is designed to advise you of your rights and options with respect to the settlement, and how you can request to be excluded from the Class Settlement, object to the Class Settlement, and/or dispute the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods that you are credited with, if you so choose.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT: A class and representative action settlement has been reached between Plaintiff Armida Burton ("Plaintiff") and Defendant Mercury Mission Systems, LLC ("Defendant") (Plaintiff and Defendant are collectively referred to as the "Parties") in the case entitled *Armida Burton v. Mercury Mission Systems, LLC.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 24STCV02628 ("Action"), which may affect your legal rights. On [date of Preliminary Approval], the Court granted preliminary approval of the settlement and scheduled a hearing on [hearing date] at [hearing time] ("Final Approval Hearing") to determine whether or not the Court should grant final approval of the settlement.

### I. <u>IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS</u>

"Class" or "Class Member(s)" means all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees employed by Defendant within the State of California at any time during the Class Period.

"Class Period" means the period from January 31, 2020, through February 12, 2025.

"Class Settlement" means the settlement and resolution of all Released Class Claims.

"PAGA Employee(s)" means all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant within the State of California at any time during the PAGA Period.

"PAGA Period" means the period from October 18, 2022, through February 12, 2025.

"PAGA Settlement" means the settlement and resolution of all Released PAGA Claims.

### II. BACKGROUND OF THE ACTION

On October 18, 2023, Plaintiff provided written notice to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and Defendant of the specific provisions of the California Labor Code that Plaintiff contends were violated ("PAGA Letter"). On January 31, 2024, Plaintiff commenced a putative class action lawsuit by filing a Class Action Complaint for Damages in the Action. On July 24, 2025, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint ("Operative Complaint") in the Action.

Plaintiff contends that Defendant failed to properly pay minimum and overtime wages, provide compliant meal and rest breaks and associated premiums, timely pay wages during employment and upon termination of employment and associated waiting-time penalties, provide accurate wage statements, and reimburse business expenses, and thereby engaged in unfair business practices in violation of the California Business and Professions Code section 17200, et seq., and conduct that gives rise to penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 pursuant to California Labor Code Section 2698, et seq. ("PAGA"). Plaintiff seeks, among other things, recovery of unpaid wages and meal and rest period premiums, unreimbursed business expenses, restitution, penalties, interest, and attorneys' fees and costs.

Defendant denies all of the allegations in the Action or that it violated any law.

Class Members are eligible to receive payment under the Class Settlement of their *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Amount ("Individual Settlement Share") based on the number of weeks each Class Member was employed by Defendant as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee in California during the Class Period based on dates of employment for each Class Member, as reflected in Defendant's records ("Workweeks"). The Settlement Administrator has divided the Net Settlement Amount by the Workweeks of all Class Members to yield the "Estimated Workweek Value," and multiplied each Class Member's individual Workweeks by the Estimated Workweek Value to yield an estimated Individual Settlement Share that each Class Member may be entitled to receive under the Class Settlement (which is listed in Section III.C below).

Class Members who do not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion ("Settlement Class Members") will be issued their final Individual Settlement Payment.

Each Individual Settlement Share will be allocated as twenty percent (20%) as wages, which will be reported on an IRS Form W-2, and eighty percent (80%) as penalties, interest, and non-wage damages, which will be reported on an IRS Form 1099 (if applicable). Each Individual Settlement Share will be subject to reduction for the employee's share of payroll taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Shares resulting in a net payment to the Settlement Class Member ("Individual Settlement Payment"). The employer's share of taxes and contributions in connection with the wages portion of Individual Settlement Shares ("Employer Taxes") will be paid by Defendant separately and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount.

PAGA Employees are eligible to receive payment under the PAGA Settlement of their *pro rata* share of the PAGA Employee Amount ("Individual PAGA Payment") based on the number of pay periods each PAGA Employee worked for Defendant as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee in California during the PAGA Period based on dates of employment for each PAGA Employee, as reflected in Defendant's records ("Pay Periods"). The Settlement Administrator divided the PAGA Employee Amount, i.e., 25% of the PAGA Amount, by the Pay Periods of all PAGA Employees to yield the "PAGA Pay Period Value," and multiplied each PAGA Employee's individual Pay Periods by the Pay Period Value to yield each PAGA Employee's Individual PAGA Payment.

Each Individual PAGA Payment will be allocated as one hundred percent (100%) penalties, will not be subject to taxes or withholdings, and will be reported on IRS Form 1099 (if applicable).

If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, Individual Settlement Payments will be mailed to Settlement Class Members and Individual PAGA Payments will be mailed to PAGA Employees at the address that is on file with the Settlement Administrator. If the address to which this Class Notice was mailed is not correct, or if you move after you receive this Class Notice, you must provide your correct mailing address to the Settlement Administrator as soon as possible to ensure you receive any payment that you may be entitled to under the Settlement.

### B. Your Workweeks and Pay Periods (if applicable) Based on Defendant's Records

According to Defendant's records:

- From January 31, 2020 through February 12, 2025 (i.e., the Class Period), you are credited as having Workweeks.
- From October 18, 2022 through February 12, 2025 (i.e., the PAGA Period), you are credited as having worked Pay Periods.

If you wish to dispute the Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you, you must submit your dispute in writing to the Settlement Administrator ("Workweeks Dispute"). The Workweeks Dispute must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action (*Armida Burton v. Mercury Mission Systems, LLC*, Case No. 23STCV02628); (b) contain your full name, signature, address, telephone number, and the last four (4) digits of your Social Security number; (c) clearly state that you dispute the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you and what you contend is the correct number; and (d) be returned by mail to the Settlement

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calculation of the regular rate of pay; non-compliant (e.g., missed, short, late, and/or interrupted) meal periods and rest periods; failure to provide meal periods; failure to authorize and permit rest periods; the calculation and payment of meal period and rest period premiums; failure to reimburse for all necessary business expenses; payment for all hours worked, including off-the-clock work and rounded time; wage statements; failure to keep accurate records; unlawful deductions and/or withholdings from wages; failure to timely pay wages; and failure to timely pay final wages. The Released PAGA Claims include claims for violation of the Wage Orders of the California Industrial Welfare Commission and the following California Labor Code sections: 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 223, 224, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1194.3, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, 2802, 2698 et seq., and 2699 et seq.).

"Released Parties" means Defendant and each of its past, present and future agents, officers, directors, partners, employees, joint employers, insurers, affiliates, trustees, representatives, shareholders, stockholders, attorneys, parents, subsidiaries, predecessors, successors, joint venturers, alter-egos, and assigns.

### B. Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Class Counsel

Class Counsel will seek attorneys' fees in an amount not to exceed thirty-five percent (35%) of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$122,500.00) and reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses in an amount not to exceed Thirty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$30,000.00) (collectively, "Attorneys' Fees and Costs"), subject to approval by the Court. The Attorneys' Fees and Costs granted by the Court will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. Class Counsel has been prosecuting the Action on behalf of Plaintiff, Class Members, and PAGA Employees on a contingency fee basis (that is, without being paid any money to date) and has been paying all litigation costs and expenses.

### A. Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff

Plaintiff will seek the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$10,000.00) ("Enhancement Payment), in recognition of her services in connection with the Action. The Enhancement Payment will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, subject to approval by the Court, and if awarded, it will be paid to Plaintiff in addition to her Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA Payment that she is entitled to under the Settlement.

### B. <u>Settlement Administration Costs to Settlement Administrator</u>

Payment to the Settlement Administrator is estimated not to exceed Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$7,500.00) ("Settlement Administration Costs") for the costs of the notice and settlement administration process, including and not limited to, the expense of notifying the Class Members of the Settlement, processing Requests for Exclusion, Notices of Objection, and Workweeks Disputes, calculating Individual Settlement Shares, Individual Settlement Payments, and Individual PAGA Payments, and distributing payments and tax forms under the Settlement, and shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, subject to approval by the Court.

### IV. WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS AS A CLASS MEMBER?

#### A. Participate in the Settlement

If you want to participate in the Class Settlement and receive money from the Class Settlement, you do not have to do anything. You will automatically be included in the Class Settlement and issued your Individual Settlement Payment unless you decide to exclude yourself from the Class Settlement.

Unless you elect to exclude yourself from the Class Settlement and if the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, you will be bound by the terms of the Class Settlement and any judgment that may be entered by the Court based thereon, and you will release the Released Class Claims against the Released Parties as described in Section III.D above.

If you are a PAGA Employee and the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, you will automatically be included in the PAGA Settlement and issued your Individual PAGA Payment. This means you will be bound by the terms of the PAGA Settlement and any judgment that may be entered by the Court based thereon, and you will release the Released PAGA Claims against the Released Parties as described in Section III.D above.

1	VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
2 3	The above is a summary of the basic terms of the Settlement. For the precise terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement, you should review the detailed Settlement Agreement and other papers, which are on file with the Court.
4	You may view the Settlement Agreement and other documents filed in the Action by going to the Los Angeles
	Superior Court website (https://www.lacourt.org/online/civil) and clicking Case Access – Civil. Once the page is loaded you will see a search function and you will be asked to input the case number found above. Enter
5	the case number and hit search. Once completed, you will be taken to the public records of the matter above and will be able to access all documents related to the case, including but not limited to the Settlement Agreement.
6 7	You may also visit the Settlement Administrator's website at [] to access key documents in the Action.
8	PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT OR THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK FOR
9	INFORMATION REGARDING THIS SETTLEMENT. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU MAY CALL THE SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR AT
10	THE FOLLOWING TOLL-FREE NUMBER: [INSERT], OR YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT CLASS COUNSEL.
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