

Cherokee McClinton v. Cal. Ned. Inc., et al.
c/o Apex Class Action, LLC
PO Box 54668
Irvine, CA 92619

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Apex ID: «Apex_ID» «Tray_PC»



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«City», «State» «Zip»

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Cherokee McClinton v. Cal. Ned. Inc., et al.

Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles, Case No. 24STCV34288

PLEASE READ THIS CLASS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

You have received this Class Notice because Defendants' 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 Cherokee McClinton ("Plaintiff") and Defendants Cal. Ned. Inc. and Ned Pan, Inc. (together, "Defendants") (Plaintiff and Defendants are collectively referred to as the "Parties") in the case entitled *Cherokee McClinton v. Cal. Ned. Inc., et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 24STCV34288 ("Action"), which may affect your legal rights. On August 19, 2026, the Court granted preliminary approval of the settlement and scheduled a hearing on January 13, 2027, at 10:30 a.m. ("Final Approval Hearing") to determine whether or not the Court should grant final approval of the settlement.

I. IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

"Class" or "Class Member(s)" means all current and former California non-exempt hourly employees of Ned Pan, Inc. or Cal. Ned. Inc. (as the payroll agent for Ned Pan, Inc.) who worked at any time during the Class Period in the positions of Usher and/or Stage Do or Attendant.

"Class Period" means the period from December 26, 2020, through December 15, 2025.

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

"Aggrieved Employee(s)" means all current and former California non-exempt hourly employees of Ned Pan, Inc. or Cal. Ned. Inc. (as the payroll agent for Ned Pan, Inc.) who worked at any time during the PAGA Period in the positions of Usher and/or Stage Door Attendant.

"PAGA Period" means the period from December 23, 2023, through December 15, 2025.

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

II. BACKGROUND OF THE ACTION

On December 23, 2024, Plaintiff provided written notice to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and Defendants of the specific provisions of the California Labor Code that Plaintiff contends were violated. On December 26, 2024, Plaintiff commenced a putative class action lawsuit by filing a Class Action Complaint in the Action. On January 2, 2025, Plaintiff provided an amended notice to the LWDA and Defendants. Together, the December 23, 2024 and January 2, 2025 notices are referred to as the "PAGA Letters." On April 16, 2026, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint ("Operative Complaint") in the Action.

Plaintiff contends that Defendants 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.

Defendants strongly deny all of the allegations in the Action or that they violated any law. Defendants assert that at all relevant times, they paid Plaintiff and all Class Members and Aggrieved Employees in accordance with applicable law.

The Parties participated in mediation with a respected class action mediator, and as a result, the Parties reached a settlement. The Parties have since entered into a Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement (“Settlement” or “Settlement Agreement”).

On August 19, 2026, the Court entered an order preliminarily approving the Settlement. The Court has appointed Apex Class Action, LLC as the administrator of the Settlement (“Settlement Administrator”), Plaintiff Cherokee McClinton as representative of the Class (“Class Representative”), and the following Plaintiff’s attorneys as counsel for the Class (“Class Counsel”):

Jonathan M. Genish
Miriam L. Schimmel
Joana Fang
Alexandra Rose
Jared C. Osborne

Blackstone Law, APC
8383 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 745
Beverly Hills, California 90211
Tel: (310) 622-4278 /
Fax: (855) 786-6356

If you are a Class Member, you need not take any action to receive an Individual Settlement Payment, but you have the opportunity to request exclusion from the Class Settlement (in which case you will not receive an Individual Settlement Payment), object to the Class Settlement, and/or dispute the Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you, if you so choose, as explained more fully in Sections III and IV below. If you are an Aggrieved Employee, you do not need to take any action to receive an Individual PAGA Payment; you will not have the opportunity to object or seek exclusion from the PAGA Settlement and all Aggrieved Employees will be bound to the PAGA Settlement if the Court grants final approval of the Settlement.

The Settlement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. **Nothing in the Settlement is intended or will be construed as an admission by Defendants that the claims in the Action have merit or that Defendants have any liability to Plaintiff, Class Members, or Aggrieved Employees.** Plaintiff and Defendants, and their respective counsel, have concluded and agree that, in light of the risks and uncertainties to each side of continued litigation, the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in the best interests of the Class Members, the State of California, and Aggrieved Employees.

III. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

A. Settlement Formula

The total gross settlement amount is Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$700,000.00) (the “Gross Settlement Amount”). The portion of the Gross Settlement Amount that is available for payment to Class Members is referred to as the “Net Settlement Amount.” The Net Settlement Amount will be the Gross Settlement Amount less the following payments which are subject to approval by the Court: (1) attorneys’ fees, in an amount not to exceed Thirty-Five Percent (35%) of the Gross Settlement Amount (i.e., \$245,000.00), and reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses, in an amount not to exceed Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$25,000.00) to Class Counsel; (2) Enhancement Payment in an amount not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$5,000.00) to Plaintiff for her services in the Action; (3) the amount of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$35,000.00) allocated toward civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA Amount”), of which the LWDA will be paid 65% (\$22,750.00) (“LWDA Payment”) and the remaining 35% (\$12,250.00) will be distributed to Aggrieved Employees (“Aggrieved Employee Amount”); and (4) Settlement Administration Costs in an amount not to exceed Seven Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$7,000.00) to the Settlement Administrator.

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 worked for Defendants as a non-exempt hourly employee in California in the positions of Usher and/or Stage Door Attendant during the Class Period (“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 employers’ share of taxes and contributions in connection with the wages portion of Individual Settlement Shares (“Employer Taxes”) will be paid by Defendants separately and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount.

Aggrieved Employees are eligible to receive payment under the PAGA Settlement of their *pro rata* share of the Aggrieved Employee Amount (“Individual PAGA Payment”) based on the number of pay periods each Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendants as a non-exempt hourly employee in California in the positions of Usher and/or Stage Door Attendant during the PAGA Period (“Pay Periods”). The Settlement Administrator has divided the Aggrieved Employee Amount, i.e., 35% of the PAGA Amount, by the Pay Periods of all Aggrieved Employees to yield the “Pay Period Value,” and multiplied each Aggrieved Employee’s individual Pay Periods by the Pay Period Value to yield each Aggrieved 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 Aggrieved 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 Defendants' Records

According to Defendants' records:

- From December 26, 2020, through December 15, 2025 (i.e., the Class Period), you are credited as having worked «Class_Weeks» Workweeks.
- From December 23, 2023, through December 15, 2025 (i.e., the PAGA Period), you are credited as having worked «PAGA_Periods» 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 ("Dispute"). The Dispute must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action (*Cherokee McClinton v. Cal. Ned. Inc., et al.*, Case No. 24STCV34288); (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 Administrator at the specified address listed in Section IV.B below, postmarked on or before October 26, 2026.

C. Your Estimated Individual Settlement Share and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable)

As explained above, your estimated Individual Settlement Share and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable) are based on the number of Workweeks and Pay Periods (if applicable) credited to you.

Under the terms of the Settlement, your Individual Settlement Share is estimated to be \$«Est_Class_PMT». The Individual Settlement Share is subject to reduction for the employee's share of taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of the Individual Settlement Share and will only be distributed if the Court approves the Settlement and after the Settlement goes into effect.

Under the terms of the Settlement, your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$«Est_PAGA_PMT» and will only be distributed if the Court approves the Settlement and after the Settlement goes into effect.

The settlement approval process may take multiple months. Your Individual Settlement Share and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable) reflected in this Class Notice is only an estimate. Your actual Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA Payment (if applicable) may be higher or lower.

D. Release of Claims

Upon the Effective Date and full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff and all Settlement Class Members will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties of all Released Class Claims.

Upon the Effective Date and full funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff, the State of California with respect to all Aggrieved Employees, and all Aggrieved Employees will be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, and discharged the Released Parties of all Released PAGA Claims.

"Released Class Claims" means any and all claims which were alleged or which could have been reasonably alleged based on the factual allegations in the Operative Complaint, arising during the Class Period, which shall specifically include claims for Defendants' alleged failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, provide compliant meal and rest periods and associated premium payments, timely pay wages during employment and upon termination, provide accurate wage statements, and reimburse necessary business-related expenses in violation of California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, and 2802, the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order, and California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*

"Released PAGA Claims" means any and all claims arising from any of the factual allegations in the PAGA Letters and the Operative Complaint, arising during the PAGA Period, for civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code Sections 2698 *et seq.*, which shall specifically include claims for Defendants' alleged failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, provide compliant meal and rest periods and associated premium payments, timely pay wages during employment and upon termination, provide compliant wage statements, maintain complete and accurate payroll records, and reimburse necessary business-related expenses in violation of California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, and 2802, and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order.

"Released Parties" means Defendants and their respective and former parents, subsidiaries, and affiliated corporations, officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, and attorneys.

E. 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., \$245,000.00) and reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses in an amount not to exceed Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$25,000.00) (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 Aggrieved Employees on a contingency fee basis (that is, without being paid any money to date) and has been paying all litigation costs and expenses.

F. Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff

Plaintiff will seek the amount of Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$5,000.00) (“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.

G. Settlement Administration Costs to Settlement Administrator

Payment to the Settlement Administrator is estimated not to exceed Seven Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$7,000.00) (“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 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 an Aggrieved 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.

As a Class Member and Aggrieved Employee (if applicable), you will not be separately responsible for the payment of attorney’s fees or litigation costs and expenses, unless you retain your own counsel, in which event you will be responsible for your own attorney’s fees and expenses.

B. Request Exclusion from the Class Settlement

Class Members may request to be excluded from the Class Settlement by submitting a letter (“Request for Exclusion”) to the Settlement Administrator, at the following address:

Apex Class Action, LLC
PO Box 54668
Irvine, CA 92619

A Request for Exclusion must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action (*Cherokee McClinton v. Cal. Ned. Inc., et al.*, Case No. 24STCV34288); (b) contain your full name, signature, address, telephone number, and last four (4) digits of your Social Security number; (c) clearly state that you do not wish to be included in the Class Settlement; and (d) be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address above, postmarked **on or before October 26, 2026**.

If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, any Class Member who submits a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will not be issued an Individual Settlement Payment, will not be bound by the Class Settlement (and the release of Released Class Claims described in Section III.D above), and will not have any right to object to, appeal, or comment on the Class Settlement. Class Members who do not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will be deemed Settlement Class Members and will be bound by all terms of the Class Settlement, including those pertaining to the release of claims described in Section III.D above, as well as any judgment that may be entered by the Court based thereon. Aggrieved Employees will be bound to the PAGA Settlement (and the release of Released PAGA Claims described in Section III.D above) and will still be issued an Individual PAGA Payment, irrespective of whether they submit a Request for Exclusion.

C. Object to the Class Settlement

You can object to the Class Settlement as long as you have not submitted a Request for Exclusion by submitting a written objection (“Notice of Objection”) to the Settlement Administrator.

The Notice of Objection must: (a) contain the case name and number of the Action (*Cherokee McClinton v. Cal. Ned. Inc., et al.*, Case No. 24STCV34288); (b) contain your full name, signature, address, telephone number, and the last four (4) digits of your Social Security number; (c) contain a written statement of all grounds for the objection accompanied by any legal support for such objection; (d) contain copies of any papers, briefs, or other documents upon which the objection is based; and (e) be returned by mail to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address listed in Section IV.B above, postmarked **on or before October 26, 2026**.

You may also appear at the Final Approval Hearing and present your objection orally, regardless of whether you have submitted a Notice of Objection.

V. FINAL APPROVAL HEARING

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing in Department 1 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012 on **January 13, 2027**, at **10:30 a.m.**, to determine whether the Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court also will be asked to approve and grant the Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Class Counsel, Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff, and Settlement Administration Costs to the Settlement Administrator.

The Final Approval Hearing may be continued without further notice to the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. It is not necessary for you to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, although you may appear if you wish to.

You may appear remotely for the Final Approval Hearing through the Court's remote hearing platform, LA Court Connect. To do so, navigate to <https://www.lacourt.ca.gov/pages/lp/lacc-welcome>, select "All Other Case Types," and follow the onscreen instructions. You will need the case number (24STCV34288) to log in.

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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.

You may view the Settlement Agreement and other documents filed in the Action by going online or in person. To view them online, go to <https://www.lacourt.ca.gov/home>, select Online Services>Access a Case>Access Case Documents>Case Document Images and follow the onscreen instructions. You will need the case number (24STCV34288). To view them in person, you can visit the Los Angeles Superior Court Clerk's office at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse located at 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.



You may also visit the Settlement Administrator's website at www.apexclassaction.com/calnedinc for key documents in the Action.

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT OR THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS SETTLEMENT.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU MAY CALL THE SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR AT THE FOLLOWING TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 1-800-355-0700, OR YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT CLASS COUNSEL.