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Attorneys for Plaintiff, Julia Thompson, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated

FILED
San Francisco County Superior Court
SEP 28 2026
CLERK OF THE COURT
BY: _____ Deputy Clerk

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

JULIA THOMPSON, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

CURIOUS CARDINALS INC, a Delaware corporation; ALEC KATZ, an individual; AUDREY WISCH, an individual; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. CGC-25-629580

Judge: Hon. Stephen M. Murphy
Department: 606
Action Filed: September 24, 2025

CLASS ACTION

~~[PROPOSED]~~ **ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR AN ORDER (1) PRELIMINARILY APPROVING CLASS AND PAGA ACTION SETTLEMENT; (2) APPROVING NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT; AND (3) SETTING FINAL APPROVAL HEARING**

Date: September 28, 2026
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Dept.: 606

Plaintiff Julia Thompson ("Plaintiff") filed a Motion for an Order (1) preliminarily approving the Class and PAGA Action Settlement; (2) approving Notice of Class Action Settlement, and (3) setting the Final Approval Hearing (the "Motion"). The hearing on the Motion is set for September 28, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., in Department 606 of the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of San Francisco located at 440 McAllister Street, San Francisco, California 94102. Defendant Curious Cardinals Inc. ("Defendant") did not oppose the Motion. (Plaintiff and Defendant shall be collectively referred to herein as the "Parties").

The Court, having considered Plaintiff's Motion, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities in support thereof and supporting evidence, the Declaration of Robert B. Payaslyan, and Defendant's agreement with and/or non-opposition to the Motion, hereby ORDERS, ADJUDGES, AND DECREES as follows:

1. The Preliminary Approval Motion is GRANTED and the Parties' Class and PAGA Action Settlement Agreement (the "Settlement" or "Settlement Agreement") attached to the Declaration of Robert B. Payaslyan is preliminarily approved.

2. This Order incorporates by reference the definitions in the Settlement Agreement and all terms defined therein shall have the same meaning in this Order.

3. The Class is preliminarily certified for settlement purposes only. The Class is defined as: all persons currently or formerly engaged by Defendant, either directly or through any subsidiary, staffing agency, or professional employer organization, as " mentors" and/or " tutors" and classified as independent contractors in the State of California during the Class Release Period. The Class Release Period is the period from September 24, 2021, through September 24, 2026. Should the Settlement not become final, this Order shall be rendered null and void and shall be vacated, and the fact that the Parties were willing to stipulate to class certification as part of the settlement shall have no bearing on, nor be admissible in connection with, the issue of whether a class should be certified in a non-settlement context. Should the Settlement not become final, the Parties shall revert to their respective positions prior to notifying the Court of the settlement of the action.

4. The class action settlement contemplated by the Settlement Agreement is preliminarily approved based upon the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement. The class action settlement appears to be fair, adequate, and reasonable to the Class. The class action settlement contemplated by the Settlement Agreement falls within the range of reasonableness that could ultimately be granted final approval by the Court. The preliminary approval of the class action settlement includes the approval for purposes of the settlement of Robert B. Payaslyan of Payaslyan Law, P.C. and Michelle Avidisyans of Consumer Advocate Lawyer, P.C. as Class Counsel; Julia Thompson as the Class Representative; and Apex Class Action Administration as the Class Action Administrator. Class Counsel is authorized to act on behalf of the Class Members with respect to all acts or consents required by or which may be given pursuant to the Settlement Agreement and the class action settlement contemplated by the Settlement Agreement, and such other acts reasonably necessary to consummate the settlement. The Class Action Administrator is authorized to perform such acts as set forth in this Order and the Settlement Agreement.

5. The Court approves the Parties' allocation of $15,000.00 to settle claims under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA"). Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(m), 65% of this amount, or $9,750.00, shall be paid to the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and the remaining 35%, or $5,250.00, shall be paid to PAGA Members in the manner set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

6. The Notice of Class Settlement ("Class Notice" or "Notice"), attached to the Settlement and attached as **Exhibit 1** to the Order, advises the Class of material terms and provisions of this settlement, the procedure for approval thereof, and their rights with respect thereto, and is approved as to form and content. The Court approves the procedure set forth in the Settlement Agreement for the Class to participate in, opt out of, and object to the Settlement as set forth in the Notice.

7. The Notice shall be sent by first class mail to the Class in accordance with the schedule set forth below. The dates selected for the mailing and distribution of the Notice Packet as set forth below meet the requirements of due process and provide the best notice practicable

under the circumstances and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto:

a. Deadline for Defendant to provide to Class Action Administrator the class list and related information in electronic form: 14 calendar days after the Order granting preliminary approval.

b. Deadline for Class Action Administrator to mail the Class Notice by first-class regular U.S. mail: 14 calendar days after receiving the class list and related information.

c. Deadline for Class Members to mail requests for exclusion to the Class Action Administrator: 45 calendar days after the mailing of the Notice, plus an additional 14 calendar days for Class Members whose Notices are re-mailed.

d. Deadline for Class Members to mail objections to the Class Action Administrator: 45 calendar days after the mailing of the Notice, plus an additional 14 calendar days for Class Members whose Notices are re-mailed.

e. Deadline for Class Counsel to file a Motion for Final Approval and a Motion for Attorneys' Fees: per code of California Code of Civil Procedure.

f. A Final Approval Hearing on the question of whether the proposed settlement, attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel, and the class representative enhancement should be approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate as to the Settlement Class: 2-1-2027, ~~202~~ at 9 a.m. / p.m.

8. Defendant's agreement with and/or non-opposition to the Motion shall not be construed as an admission or evidence of either liability or the appropriateness of class certification in the non-settlement context. Entry of this Order is without prejudice to the rights of Defendant to oppose certification of a class in this action should the proposed settlement not be granted final approval.

9. All further proceedings in this action shall be stayed except such proceedings necessary to review, approve, and implement this Settlement.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: 9-28-26

HONORABLE STEPHEN M. MURPHY
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 September 28, 2026, I electronically served the ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR AN ORDER (1) PRELIMINARILY APPROVING CLASS AND PAGA ACTION SETTLEMENT; (2) APPROVING NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT; AND (3) SETTING FINAL APPROVAL HEARING, via File & ServeXpress on the recipients designated on the Transaction Receipt located on the File & ServeXpress website.

Dated: September 28, 2026,

Court Executive Officer, Brandon E. Riley

By: _____
Johnny Sengmany, Deputy Clerk