1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	CHRIS BAKER, State Bar No. 181557 <u>cbaker@bakerlp.com</u> DEBORAH SCHWARTZ, State Bar No. 208934 <u>dschwartz@bakerlp.com</u> BAKER CURTIS & SCHWARTZ, P.C. 1 California Street, Suite 1250 San Francisco, CA 94111 Telephone: (415) 433-1064 Fax: (415) 366-2525 Attorneys for Plaintiffs JOHN DOE, DAVID GUDEMAN AND DAOL A CODDEA	4
9	AND PAOLA CORREA	
10	SUPERIOR COUR	T OF CALIFORNIA
11	COUNTY OF SA	AN FRANCISCO
12		
13	JOHN DOE, DAVID GUDEMAN, and PAOLA CORREA, on behalf of the State of	Case No. CGC-16-556034
14	California and aggrieved employees,	BAKER DECLARATION AND REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE IN
15	Plaintiffs, vs.	SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF CORREA'S MOTION FOR INCENTIVE PAYMENT
16	GOOGLE, INC., ALPHABET, INC.	
17	ADECCO USA INC., ADECCO GROUP NORTH AMERICA and ROES 1 through 10,	
18	Defendants.	Hearing Date: March 4, 2019 Time: 2:00 p.m.
19 20	Derendants.	Department: 304 (COMPLEX) Judge: Hon. A.C. Massullo
21		Complaint Filed: December 20, 2016
22		Trial Date: Not set
23	I, Chris Baker, declare as follows:	-
24	1. I am counsel of record for the Plaintiffs in this action. I have personal knowledge	
25	of the following facts.	
26	2. Attached to this declaration are co	opies of court records concerning incentive
27	payments and/or enhancement awards that super	ior courts have awarded to PAGA plaintiffs in
28	other cases.	
	BAKER DECLARATION/RJN IN SUPPORT	Γ OF MOTION FOR INCENTIVE PAYMENT

1	a. <b>Exhibit 1</b> is an order from the Alameda County Superior Court in <i>Garrett v</i> .
2	Bank of America, Case No. RG13699027 (October 28, 2016). In this order, the
3	superior court awarded three PAGA plaintiffs \$25,000 each as service awards.
4	b. <u>Exhibit 2</u> is an order and related papers from the Orange County Superior Court
5	in Brewer v. Connell Chevrolet, Case No. 30-2016-00852123. In this case, the
6	superior court approved a PAGA settlement in which the PAGA representative
7	was awarded an individual settlement payment of \$15,000.
8	c. <u>Exhibit 3</u> is an order and related papers from the Los Angeles Superior Court in
9	Jones v. J.C. Penny Corporation, Case No. 30-2016-00852123. In this case, the
10	superior court approved a PAGA settlement in which the PAGA representative
11	received a service award of \$10,000.
12	d. Exhibit 4 is an order and related papers from the San Bernardino Superior Court
13	in Garcia v. Macy's West Stores, Case No. CIVDS1516007. In this case, the
14	superior court approved a PAGA settlement in which the superior court approved
15	a service award of \$10,000.
16	3. The Court is authorized to take judicial notice of its own and other courts' records.
17	Cal. Evid. Code § 452. The above-referenced records are relevant because they help demonstrate
18	the reasonableness of Correa's request for an incentive payment.
19	4. In addition, plaintiff Correa has actively supported this case. She has been
20	responsive. She has been communicative. She has asked very good questions and she understand
21	the case. She has risked a lot. It is scary to sue Google and Adecco (Google's largest supplier of
22	temporary labor and a huge staffing firm with hundreds of thousands of temporary employees), and
23	this is a high-profile case. Correa attended the day long mediation with Adecco in April 2018. She
24	has reviewed the documents in this case. She responded to discovery and provided evidentiary
25	support to the motion practice and otherwise, including an extensive declaration in support of
26	Plaintiff's motion for summary judgment. She will not "benefit financially" from this settlement in
27	any meaningful sense, yet she has obtained a substantial payment to the State of California.
28	Moreover, through her efforts, she has changed Adecco's employment practices with respect to the
	- 2 -
_	BAKER DECLARATION/RJN IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR INCENTIVE PAYMENT

1	Adult Content Liability Release and accomplished the rescission of more than 2,000 unlawful
2	provisions in employment agreements signed by Adecco employees.
3	5. I fully support Correa's request for a modest incentive payment of \$1000.
4	I declare, under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the
5	foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 28th day of January, 2019, in San Francisco,
6	California.
7	15219/
8	Chris Baker
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	- 3 - BAKER DECLARATION/RJN IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR INCENTIVE PAYMENT

## Exhibit 1

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<b>0CT 2 6 2016</b> 3 4		FILED ALAMEDA COUNTY
<b>9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9</b>		OCT 2 3 3016
10 4		CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
5		By Deputy
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. <b>8</b>	SUPERIOR COURT OF TH	IE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
9	IN AND FOR THE CO	DUNTY OF ALAMEDA
10		
11	NICOLE GARRETT, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,	CASE NO. RG13699027
12	Plaintiff,	[PROPOSED] ORDER APPROVING
13 14	vs.	SERVICE AWARDS
14	BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATION, and DOES 1- 10, inclusive,	
16 17	Defendants.	
18	This Court is familiar with this lawsuit, h	aving had jurisdiction over the past 10 months. This
19	19 Court has reviewed the Joint Stipulation for Settlement, the Motion for Service Awards, and the	
20	Declaration of Kevin J. McInerney in Support of	f the Service Awards.
21	IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, w	vithin five calendar days after the Settlement
. 22	Administrator receives the deposit of funds from defendants following the Effective Date (as defined	
23	by the Joint Stipulation for Settlement), the Set	tlement Administrator shall disburse the following
24	payments:	
25	Nicole Garrett	\$25,000.00
26	Rhonique Green	\$25,000.00
27	Olivia Giddings	\$25,000.00
28	Pursuant to the Joint Stipulation for Set	lement, these amounts shall be paid from the 25%
		PROVING SERVICE AWARDS 9. RG13699027

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of the Net Settlement Fund (as defined by the Joint Stipulation for Settlement) available for
 payments to Aggrieved Employees, to compensate the PAGA Representatives for their services as
 representatives of the LWDA and the Aggrieved Employees, for the risks associated with filing the
 litigation, and in exchange for a General Release of claims.

5 || IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: Destober 28, 016 

JUDGE OF THE ALAMEDA SUPERIOR COURT

### (PROPOSED) ORDER APPROVING SERVICE AWARDS CASE NO. RG13699027

## Exhibit 2

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
Superior Court of California,
County of Orange

1	Driven I. Montrin, East [CCD No. 216229]	County of Orange
1	Brian J. Mankin, Esq. [CSB No. 216228] Peter J. Carlson, Esq. [CSB No. 295611]	06/15/2017 at 02:31:00 PM
2	Fernandez & Lauby LLP	Clerk of the Superior Court By Olga Lopez,Deputy Clerk
3	4590 Allstate Drive	
4	Riverside, CA 92501 Tel: (951) 320-1444	
	Fax: (951) 320-1445	
5	bjm@fernandezlauby.com	
6	Attorneys for Plaintiff on behalf of the State	of California and Aggrieved Employees
7		
8	SUPERIOR COURT OF	F THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
9	COUNT	ΓY OF ORANGE
10		
11	BRANDON BREWER, on behalf of all	Case No.: 30-2016-00852123-CU-OC-CXC
12	aggrieved employees and the State of California;	(Assigned to Honorable Judge Glenda Sanders, Dept. CX101)
13	Cumonia,	ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT
14	Plaintiff,	PURSUANT TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT AND JUDGMENT ENTERED
15	VS.	THEREON
16	CONNELL CHEVROLET, a California	Hearing
17	Corporation; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive;	Date: June 9, 2017 Time: 1:30 p.m.
18		Dept.: CX 101
19	Defendants.	
20		Complaint Filed: May 11, 2016
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The Motion to Approve the Settlement in accordance with Labor Code § 2699(1)(2) of the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") came before this Court on a regularly noticed motion.

Plaintiff's Complaint contains a causes of action under the PAGA based on alleged violations of California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 256, 405, 510, 512, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198 and 2802, and Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order No. 4, §§ 3(A), 4, 9(B), 12. Plaintiff's Complaint seeks civil penalties on behalf of the State of California and other similarly situated aggrieved employees, as authorized by PAGA, in relation to alleged violations of those predicate statutes on behalf of all current and former non-exempt automobile repair mechanics and/or technicians who are and/or were employed by Defendant Connell Chevrolet, Inc., ("Defendant" or "Connell") in California between April 8, 2015, and the Effective Date (which is the date the Court enters a Final Order approving the Settlement).

The Court, having considered the settlement, including proposed PAGA penalties, embodied in the Stipulation of Settlement and Release ("Settlement" or "Settlement Agreement") (attached hereto as Exhibit "A") between Plaintiff Brandon Brewer and Defendant Connell Chevrolet, Inc. ("Defendant") pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(1)(2); having considered the papers filed in support of the Motion and the arguments of counsel; and good cause appearing, HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:

 In a settlement of a PAGA action brought by an aggrieved employee, the Court "shall review and approve any settlement of any civil action filed pursuant to this part." Cal. Lab. Code § 2699(1)(2).

2. The Court finds that the instant Action presented a good faith dispute of the claims alleged, and the Court finds in favor of settlement approval. Specifically, the claims on behalf of the Aggrieved Employees alleged that Defendant: (a) failed to pay or underpaid wages for all time worked, resulting in failure to pay regular, minimum and/or overtime wages; (b) failed to provide all requisite rest periods; (c) failed to indemnify employees for hand tools and equipment; (d) failed to provide and maintain accurate itemized wage statements; and (e) failed

to timely pay wages due during or at separation of employment, which include claims for alleged violations of California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 226, 226.7, 510, 1194, 1197, 1198, 2802, 2810.5, and 2699 et seq. to the extent they arise out of the underlying Labor Code claims against Defendant (the "Operative Claims").

3. The Court approves the Settlement of the above-captioned action, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and each of the releases and other terms, as fair, just, reasonable, and adequate. The Settling Parties are directed to perform in accordance with the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

4. All of the Released Claims, as defined in the Settlement Agreement, are dismissed with prejudice as to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees. The Parties are to bear their own costs, except as otherwise provided in the Settlement Agreement.

5. In accordance with the Settlement Agreement, Defendant agreed to pay 12 \$190,000.00 (the "Settlement Amount"), inclusive of payments to the LWDA and Aggrieved 13 14 Employees, Plaintiff's Individual Settlement Payment, attorneys' fees and litigation costs, as well 15 as Administrator costs. As part of the Settlement, Plaintiff's Counsel sought an award of 16 attorney's fees of \$63,333.33, litigation expenses of \$7,500, an Individual Settlement Payment to 17 Plaintiff Brandon Brewer of \$15,000, and \$2,500 to the Settlement Administrator, Rust 18 Consulting. Defendant does not oppose these requests. The Court finds that the Settlement 19 Amount is fair, reasonable and adequate, and approves each of these payments set from the 20 Settlement Amount.

21 6. After deducting the foregoing payments, the remainder of approximately \$101,667 22 shall form the Net PAGA Settlement Fund (aka the "Net Settlement Amount"), which shall be 23 allocated as PAGA Penalties. Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(i), the PAGA penalties shall be divided with 75% (\$76,250) being paid to the LWDA, and the remaining 25% (\$25,417) paid to 24 25 the Aggrieved Employees on a pro rata basis, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement. The 26 Court approves the PAGA Penalties, and directs the Administrator to issue checks to the LWDA 27 and Aggrieved Employees, along with the Notice Letter (attached hereto as Exhibit "B"), as set forth Settlement Agreement. 28

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## Exhibit 3

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	1	Mónica Balderrama (SBN 196424)	FILED Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles
	_	MBalderrama@InitiativeLegal.com	(.)
WN IS G	2	G. Arthur Meneses (SBN 105260) AMeneses@InitiativeLegal.com	APR 20 2017 (K3
المعلكي المحين	3	Joseph Liu (SBN 256956) JLiu@InitiativeLegal.com	Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk By R. Castle
G	4	Initiative Legal Group APC 1801 Century Park East, Suite 2500	' R. Castle
	5	Los Angeles, California 90067 Telephone: (310) 556-5637	AEC'D
$\mathbf{O}$	6	Facsimile: (310) 861-9051	
	7	Attorneys for Plaintiff Alyssa Jones	×017
	8.	(Counsel continued on Next Page)	APR I & 2017 WINDOW
	9		
	10	· · ·	HE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RECEIVED
	11	FOR THE COUNT	Y OF LOS ANGELES APR 2 0 2017
	12	ALYSSA JONES, individually, and on	Case No.: BC451823 DEPT. 39
	13	behalf of other members of the general public similarly situated,	ENFORCEMENT ACTION UNDER THE
	14	Plaintiff,	PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT,
			CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE §§ 2698 <i>ET SEQ</i> .
	15	VS.	Assigned for all purposes to
	16	J. C. PENNEY CORPORATION, INC., a Delaware Corporation; J. C. PENNEY	Hon. Elizabeth R. Feffer, Department 39
	17	COMPANY, INC., a Delaware Corporation; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,	JOINT STIPULATION RE PAGA
	18	Defendants.	PENALTY SETTLEMENT; [PROPOSED] ORDER APPROVING PAGA PENALTIES
	19		SETTLEMENT AND JUDGMENT
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	. 1	MICHAEL D. WEIL (STATE BAR NO. 209056) mweil@orrick.com				
	2	STEPHANIE GAIL LEE (STATE BAR NO. 265379)				
	3	Stephanie.lee@orrick.com ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE LLP The Orrick Building				
	4	The Orrick Building 405 Howard Street San Francisco, California 94105-2669				
	5	Telephone: (415) 773-5700 Facsimile: (415) 773-5759				
	6					
	7	Attorneys for Defendants J. C. PENNEY CORPORATION, INC. and J. C. PENNEY COMPANY, INC.				
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		JOINT STIPULATION RE PAGA PENALTY SETTLEMENT; ORDER APPROVING PAGA PENALTIES SETTLEMENT AND JUDGMENT				

#### JOINT STIPULATION RE PAGA PENALTY SETTLEMENT

Plaintiff Alyssa Jones ("Plaintiff") and Defendants J.C. Penney Corporation, Inc. ("JCP") and J.C. Penney Company, Inc. (collectively, "Defendants") (together with Plaintiff, the "Parties"), by and through their respective counsel of record, hereby stipulate as follows:

WHEREAS, Plaintiff Alyssa Jones worked for JCP at the Lakewood, California store as 5 6 a seasonal sales associate/cashier from November 2007 to January 2008, and again from 7 November 2009 to December 2009. On December 23, 2010, Plaintiff filed a class action 8 complaint against Defendants. On January 27, 2011, Plaintiff amended her complaint to reflect 9 that her lawsuit was only a representative action under the California Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") seeking to recover penalties for California Labor Code violations. The First 10 11 Amended Complaint asserted a single cause of action under the PAGA, and sought relief based 12 on Defendants' alleged violations of Labor Code section 1198 and California Code of 13 Regulation section 11070(4) (failure to provide seating). On March 18, 2011, Defendants 14 removed the action to the United States District Court for the Central District of California and 15 on June 9, 2011, the district court remanded the action. On July 8, 2011, Defendants removed 16 the action a second time and on or about October 5, 2011, the action was remanded to the Los 17 Angeles Superior Court. On March 26, 2012, Defendants filed an Answer to the First Amended 18 Complaint. On July 25, 2012, Defendants filed a motion to compel arbitration. After the Court 19 denied arbitration, Defendants appealed the order. The court of appeal affirmed the order 20 denying arbitration and the action was remitted to the trial court on November 13, 2014. On 21 April 30, 2015, the court granted Defendants' motion to stay, and the action was stayed until 22 May 2, 2016.

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WHEREAS, this representative action was filed by Plaintiff after she complied with the administrative requirements set forth in California Labor Code section 2699.3.

WHEREAS, the Parties participated in a mediation on February 7, 2017, at the offices of experienced wage and hour mediator David Rotman in San Francisco, California. The Parties reached an agreement at the time, and the principle terms of the PAGA settlement were subsequently outlined and are now set forth in complete and final form in the Settlement

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Page 1

Agreement, attached as Exhibit 1.

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WHEREAS, in negotiating this settlement, Plaintiff has considered the expense and length of continued proceedings necessary to litigate her case through trial and through any possible appeals, and the burdens of proof necessary to establish liability for the claims asserted in the action, both generally and in response to Defendants' defenses. Plaintiff has also taken into account the uncertainty and risk of the outcome of further litigation, and the difficulties and delays inherent in such litigation. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff has determined that the settlement is fair and promotes PAGA's objectives.

9 WHEREAS, Defendants maintain that they had, and continue to have, legally-compliant 10 employment policies and practices throughout the statutory period. Defendants do not admit 11 that they ever violated any provision of the California Labor Code, including, but not limited to, 12 those sections for which Plaintiff seeks penalties pursuant to PAGA, for the time period from 13 December 23, 2009 through the date the Court signs the Order for Approval of Settlement under 14 Labor Code section 2699 and Judgment by Court ("Order and Judgment"). Moreover, even if 15 such violations had occurred, which Defendants deny, they would only be considered to be an 16 "initial violation" under Labor Code section 2699(f)(2).

17 WHEREAS, the Parties and their counsel recognize the expense and length of continued 18 proceedings necessary to litigate the disputes through trial and through any possible appeals, 19 and have also taken into account the uncertainty and risk of the outcome of further litigation, 20 and the difficulties and delays inherent in such litigation. The Parties and their counsel are also 21 aware of the burdens of proof necessary to establish liability for the claims alleged, and the affirmative and other defenses asserted. Thus, reaching this settlement now has the potential for 22 23 having a higher value today than it might have later if this litigation was to continue. The 24 Parties and their counsel have also taken into account that this settlement confers substantial 25 benefits to the State of California and to the Allegedly Aggrieved Employees (Defendants' current and former nonexempt employees who worked at JCP's Store Nos. 0250, 1778, 2648, 26 2649, 2823 and/or 2937 at any time between December 23, 2009 and January 5, 2017, and 27 28 whose duties included operating a cash register). Based on the foregoing, each Party and their

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counsel have determined that the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement is a fair, adequate and reasonable settlement, and is in the best interests of the Allegedly Aggrieved Employees. Based on the extensive experience of Plaintiff's attorneys of record with wage and hour class actions as well as PAGA-only representative actions, they believe that the terms of the Settlement Agreement are fair and reasonable and approximate or exceed the result that would have reasonably been obtained by the State agency, as required by the PAGA.

WHEREAS, PAGA provides that "[t]he superior court shall review and approve any settlement of any civil action filed pursuant to this part." Cal. Lab. Code § 2699(l)(2). No other duties are conferred on the Court by PAGA, and thus the Court is to review the settlement in light of the specific policy goals and stated objectives of PAGA, as well as California's policy of encouraging settlements.<sup>1</sup>

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties stipulate to settle this matter according to the terms
and conditions set forth in the attached PAGA Settlement Agreement.

IT IS SO STIPULATED

16 || April 13, 2017

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INITIATIVE LEGAL GROUP APC Mónica Balderrama

G. Arthur Meneses

Attorneys for Plaintiff Alyssa Jones

<sup>1</sup>See McClure v. McClure, 100 Cal. 339, 343 (1893) (settlements "are highly favored as productive of peace and goodwill in the community, and reducing the expense and persistency of litigation"); Lamb v. Herndon, 97 Cal. App. 193, 203 (1929) ("it is the fixed policy of the law to encourage the settlement of disputes and the prevention of litigation"); Hamilton v. Oakland School Dist., 219 Cal. 322, 329 (1933)("[It] is the policy of the law to discourage litigation and to favor compromises of doubtful rights and controversies, made either in or out of court"); Potter v. Pacific Coast Lumber Co., 37 Cal. 2d 592, 602 (1951) ("The law wisely favors settlements"); Cilibrasi v. Reiter, 103 Cal. App. 2d 397, 400 (1951) ("the law favors settlement of legal controversies"); Brown v. Guarantee Ins. Co., 155 Cal. App. 2d 679, 696 (1957) ("it is fundamental that the law favors settlements"); and Central Basin etc. Wat. Dist. v. Fossette, 235 Cal. App. 2d 689, 705 (1965) ("It is the policy of the law to discourage litigation and to favor compromise and voluntary settlements of doubtful rights and controversies, made either in or out of court").

Page 3



#### **ORDER APPROVING PAGA SETTLEMENT AND JUDGMENT**

**GOOD CAUSE** having been shown, the Court hereby grants the Parties' stipulation to settle Plaintiff's claims for PAGA penalties, attorneys' fees, interest and costs.

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04-24-201

The Court approves and incorporates by reference the terms and conditions of the attached Settlement Agreement, and directs the implementation of all remaining terms, conditions, and provisions of the Settlement Agreement.

7
2. The Settlement Agreement is not an admission by Defendants, nor is this order a
finding of the validity of any allegations or of any wrongdoing by Defendants. Neither this
order, the Settlement Agreement, nor any document referred to herein, nor any action taken to
carry out the Settlement Agreement, may be construed as, or may be used as, an admission of
any fault, wrongdoing, omission, concession, or liability whatsoever by or against Defendants.

3. This Judgment shall be binding on all Allegedly Aggrieved Employees and the
State of California, who are hereby barred by the doctrine of res judicata from re-litigating the
Released Settled Claims. *See Arias v. Superior Court*, 46 Cal.4th 969, 986 (2009) (holding that
a judgment in a representative action brought by an aggrieved employee under PAGA is binding
not only on the named employee plaintiff but also on state labor law enforcement agencies and
any aggrieved employee not a party to the proceeding).

The Court shall retain exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over the above captioned action and the Parties for purposes of enforcing the terms of the Settlement
 Agreement as well as this Order and Judgment pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section
 664.6.

22 23 IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AIND DECREED 24 25 Date: abeth R. Feffer 26 Angeles County Superior Cour 27 28

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EXHIBIT 1

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Monica Balderrama (SBN 196424) MBalderram@InitiativeLegal.com G. Arthur Meneses (SBN 105260) AMeneses@InitiativeLegal.com Joseph Liu (SBN 256956) JLiu@InitiativeLegal.com Initiative Legal Group APC 1801 Century Park East, Suite 2500 Los Angeles, California 90067 Telephone: (310) 556-5637 Facsimile: (310) 861-9051 Attorneys for Plaintiff Alyssa Jones MICHAEL D. WEIL (STATE BAR NO. 209056 mweil@orrick.com STEPHANIE GAIL LEE (STATE BAR NO. 28 stephanie.lee@orrick.com ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE LLP The Orrick Building 405 Howard Street San Francisco, California 94105-2669 Telephone: +1-415-773-5700 Facsimile: +1 415-773-5759 Attorneys for Defendants J.C. PENNEY CORPORATION, INC., and J.C. PENNEY COMPANY, INC.	5379)
15		
16	SUPERIOR COURT OF TH	E STATE OF CALIFORNIA
17	COUNTY OF	LOS ANGELES
18		
19	ALYSSA JONES, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general public	Case No. BC451823
20 21	similarly situated, Plaintiff,	ASSIGNED FOR ALL PURPOSES TO JUDGE ELIZABETH R. FEFFER, DEPT. 39
22	V.	SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
23	J.C. PENNEY CORPORATION, INC., a	
24	Delaware Corporation; J.C. PENNEY COMPANY, INC., a Delaware Corporation,	Complaint Filed: December 23, 2010 FAC Filed: January 27, 2011
25	and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,	Trial: October 2, 2017
26	Defendants.	
27		
28	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	-
	SETTLEMEN	TAGREEMENT

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EX-1

This Settlement Agreement is made and entered into by and between Representative Plaintiff Alyssa Jones ("Plaintiff"), and Defendants J.C. Penney Corporation, Inc. ("JCP") and J.C. Penney Company, Inc. ("Defendants") (collectively, the "Parties"). The Parties hereby agree that this entire action shall be settled on the terms and conditions set forth in this Settlement Agreement, subject to the approval of the Court pursuant to the section 2699 of the Labor Code, Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Labor Code sections 2698 *et seq.* ("PAGA").

7

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. 8 On December 23, 2010, Plaintiff filed a class action complaint against Defendants 9 in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, alleging one cause of action for 10 violation of Labor Code section 1198 and California Code of Regulations, Title 8, section 11070(14) ("Section 14"). On January 27, 2011, Plaintiff amended her complaint to reflect that her 11 12 lawsuit was only a representative enforcement action pursuant to PAGA with one cause of action 13 for violation of Section 14 (the "Lawsuit"). On March 18, 2011, Defendants removed the action to 14 the United States District Court for the Central District of California and on June 9, 2011, the 15 district court remanded the Lawsuit. On July 8, 2011, Defendants removed the Lawsuit a second 16 time and on or about October 5, 2011, the Lawsuit was remanded to the Los Angeles Superior 17 Court. On March 26, 2012, Defendants filed an Answer to the First Amended Complaint. On July 18 25, 2012, Defendants filed a motion to compel arbitration. After the Court denied arbitration, 19 Defendants appealed the order. The court of appeal affirmed the order denying arbitration and the 20 Lawsuit was remitted to the trial court on November 13, 2014. On April 30, 2015, the Court granted 21 Defendants' motion to stay, and the matter was stayed until May 2, 2016.

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2. The parties litigated this case extensively, including two trips to the federal court, one to the court of appeal, multiple motions to compel, and various stays.

3. Plaintiff's Lawsuit is premised on her allegation that, in violation of Section 14,
Defendants denied her and other allegedly similarly aggrieved employees the opportunity to be
seated even where the nature of the work reasonably permitted seating under the totality of
circumstances, and that Defendants cannot sustain their burden to prove it was infeasible to provide
suitable seating.

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- ] -SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT 4. Defendants deny liability and Plaintiff acknowledges that neither this Settlement
 Agreement, nor promises made pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, shall be taken or construed
 to be an admission or concession of any kind with respect to liability or alleged wrongdoing by
 Defendants. Plaintiff acknowledges that Defendants deny any wrongdoing or liability related to
 her or the Allegedly Aggrieved Employees (as defined in Paragraph 9.c).

5. 6 Plaintiff and her counsel have conducted necessary discovery and performed a 7 thorough analysis of the law and facts relating to the claims asserted in the Lawsuit. The Parties 8 also participated in a day-long mediation with David A. Rotman, Esq., a very experienced mediator, 9 on February 7, 2017. Based on Plaintiff's investigation, written discovery, and taking into account 10 the defenses that Defendants proposed to raise in connection with both liability and the amount of 11 any civil penalty that might be imposed by the Court pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(e)(2), 12 the expense and time necessary to pursue the action through trial, the risks and costs of further 13 prosecution of the Lawsuit, the uncertainties of complex litigation, and the benefits that will accrue 14 to the State of California's Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and the 15 Allegedly Aggrieved Employees, Plaintiff and her counsel believe that a settlement with 16 Defendants on the terms set forth herein is fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of 17 Plaintiff, the LWDA, and the Allegedly Aggrieved Employees.

6. By entering into this Settlement Agreement, Defendants are not admitting that the imposition of any PAGA civil penalty in connection with the Lawsuit is proper or warranted. Defendants have entered into this Settlement Agreement solely to avoid the expense, risk, and nuisance of continued litigation. The Parties agree that an express condition of this settlement is that there has been no finding of liability on the merits, and that this Settlement Agreement and ensuing judgment therefore cannot be a basis for a finding of collateral estoppel or res judicata on the issue of liability.

2107,47,40 2405,47,40 7. The settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement requires Defendants to pay up
to the total maximum amount of Three Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents
(\$3,200,000.00) ("Maximum Settlement Amount") to cover all payments to the LWDA, Allegedly
Aggrieved Employees, notice and administration costs, attorneys' fees, interest and costs, and

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payment to Plaintiff as a service award. Payment of the Maximum Settlement Amount by 1 2 Defendants is strictly for the purpose of compromising a disputed matter. Under no circumstances 3 shall Defendants be required to pay more than the Maximum Settlement Amount to cover all payments to the LWDA, Allegedly Aggrieved Employees, notice and administration costs, 4 5 attorneys' fees, interest, costs or any other expense, penalty, cost or fee associated with the Lawsuit. 8. 6 The settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement also requires Defendants to 7 institute a pilot project to determine the feasibility of providing seats for appropriate cash stands at 8 JCP stores in California, with the intent to implement seats at appropriate cash stands in all JCP 9 stores in California depending on the results. 10 **TERMS OF SETTLEMENT** 9. 11 NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, promises, and 12 warranties set forth herein, the Parties agree, subject to the Court's approval, as follows: 13 It is agreed by and between Plaintiff and Defendants that the Lawsuit and a. any claims and causes of action which were or are the subject of the Lawsuit be settled and 14 15 compromised as between Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and on behalf of the LWDA, and each and 16 every Allegedly Aggrieved Employee, Defendants and the Releasees (as defined in Paragraph 15), 17 subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Settlement Agreement and the approval of the 18 Court. b. 19 Effective Date: The "Effective Date" shall be the date the Court signs the 20 Order for Approval of Settlement under Labor Code section 2699 and Judgment by Court ("Order 21 and Judgment"). 22 Consideration: In consideration for this Settlement Agreement, Defendants c. 23 agree to pay up to the Maximum Settlement Amount of \$3,200,000.00 to cover all payments to the 24 LWDA, Allegedly Aggrieved Employees, notice and administration costs, attorneys' fees, interest and costs. The Maximum Settlement Amount shall be distributed as follows: 25

26 Counsel for Plaintiff and the Alleged Aggrieved Employees (1)27 (Initiative Legal Group APC) shall receive One Million Three Hundred Seventy Five Thousand 28 Dollars (\$1,375,000.00) as reasonable attorneys' fees under PAGA, and Twenty Five Thousand

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#### - 3 -SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1 Dollars (\$25,000.00) in interest and costs;

2 (2) The actual costs of administration, up to a maximum payment
3 of Twenty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$24,000.00) shall be paid to the Claims Administrator (as
4 defined in Paragraph 9.f);

5 (3) Plaintiff shall receive Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) as a
6 PAGA service award (any portion of the \$10,000 not awarded to Plaintiff will be retained by
7 Defendants); and

8 (4) The remainder of the Maximum Settlement Amount, once the
9 amounts above have been deducted (the Net PAGA Settlement Amount, "NPSA"), will be
10 distributed as required by Labor Code section 2699(i), and in accordance with the terms of this
11 Settlement Agreement, subject to the Court's approval as required by Labor Code section 2699, as
12 follows:

(a) The LWDA shall receive seventy-five percent of the
final NPSA, up to an estimated One Million Three Hundred Twenty Four Thousand Five Hundred
Dollars (\$1,324,500.00), to settle the claims for PAGA penalties based on the alleged violations of
the Labor Code as alleged in the Lawsuit on behalf of Defendants' current and former nonexempt
employees who worked at JCP's Store Nos. 0250, 1778, 2648, 2649, 2823 and/or 2937 at any time
between December 23, 2009 and January 5, 2017, and whose duties included operating a cash
register ("Allegedly Aggrieved Employees"); and

(b) The Allegedly Aggrieved Employees shall receive
twenty-five percent of the final NPSA, up to an estimated Four Hundred Forty-One Thousand Five
Hundred Dollars (\$441,500.00), which shall be allocated to each Allegedly Aggrieved Employee
on a pro rata basis using the number of pay periods worked as an Allegedly Aggrieved Employee.
Defendants calculate that the Allegedly Aggrieved Employees worked approximately 156,483 pay
periods during the statutory period.

d. <u>Notice to Allegedly Aggrieved Employees</u>. Allegedly Aggrieved
Employees will receive the Notice attached hereto as Exhibit A. Settlement checks mailed out to
Allegedly Aggrieved Employees shall be valid for 120 days from the date of issuance. Funds

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1 represented by settlement checks returned as undeliverable and those settlement checks remaining un-cashed for more than 120 days after issuance will be tendered to the California Department of 2 3 Industrial Relations Unpaid Wage Fund (see Cal. Lab. Code § 96.6). Ninety days after the checks 4 are mailed, the Claims Administrator will provide the Parties a list of all Allegedly Aggrieved 5 Employees whose checks have not been cashed and their contact information.

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e. Tax Treatment of the Allegedly Aggrieved Employee Payments: The individual settlement payments to Allegedly Aggrieved Employees shall be considered a civil 8 penalty and shall not be subject to withholdings. The Claims Administrator shall be responsible 9 for timely issuing an appropriate Form 1099 to each Allegedly Aggrieved Employee, if necessary.

f. 10 Costs of Claims Administrator: The Parties have selected CPT ("Claims 11 Administrator") to act as the Claims Administrator. The Claims Administrator has agreed to 12 perform all necessary administration duties for no more than Twenty-Four Thousand Dollars 13 (\$24,000.00). These administration duties shall include, without limitation, the calculation, 14 processing, and mailing of all settlement checks and tax forms, and notices to all Allegedly 15 Aggrieved Employees, the LWDA, Plaintiff's counsel and any tax authorities, performing address updates and verifications as necessary prior to the mailing, and performing a single address follow 16 17 up on any returned mail. The Settlement Administrator will also be responsible for establishing a 18 qualified settlement fund ("QSF"). All administration costs approved by the Court shall be paid out of the Maximum Settlement Amount. If the actual costs of administration are less than \$24,000, 19 the difference shall be distributed by the Claims Administrator to the LWDA. 20

21 g. Funding the Settlement and Timing of Payment. Within twenty calendar 22 days of the Effective Date, Defendants will deposit the Maximum Settlement Amount into the QSF 23 to be established by the Claims Administrator. Within twenty-one calendar days of the funding of 24 the Settlement, the Claims Administrator will issue payments to: (a) Allegedly Aggrieved 25 Employees, along with the Notice; (b) the LWDA; (c) Plaintiff; (d) Plaintiff's Counsel; and (e) itself. Plaintiff's counsel will provide Defendants' counsel with fully executed W-9 form within 26 27 five days of the Effective Date.

> h. Additional Consideration. Defendants shall institute a pilot project to

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SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1 determine the feasibility of providing seats for appropriate cash stands at JPC stores in California, 2 with the intent to implement seats at appropriate cash stands in all JCP stores in California depending on the results. Defendants retain all rights to make and implement all decisions 3 regarding the manner in which they implement seating at JCP stores in California, if any, or any 4 changes to JCP's seating policy and practices, if any, following this pilot project. Defendants also 5 6 retain all rights to make and implement all decisions regarding all aspects of store design, including 7 the availability and use of chairs or other seating in JCP stores in California. Defendants shall have 8 one year from the Effective Date to complete this implementation, if any.

9 10. <u>Non-Approval of the Settlement Agreement of Settlement</u>: If the Court should, for 10 any reason, not approve the settlement as set forth in this Settlement Agreement, then this 11 Settlement Agreement shall be considered null and void, and neither this Settlement Agreement, 12 nor any of the related negotiations or proceedings, shall be of any force or effect and shall be 13 inadmissible for any purpose in any proceeding, and all Parties to this Settlement Agreement shall 14 stand in the same position, without prejudice, as if the Settlement Agreement had been neither 15 entered into nor filed with the Court.

16 11. <u>Invalidation</u>: Invalidation of any material portion of this Settlement Agreement
17 shall invalidate this Settlement Agreement in its entirety, unless the Parties subsequently agree in
18 writing that the remaining provisions of the Settlement Agreement are to remain in full force and
19 effect.

20 12. Taxes: Defendants and Plaintiff agree that all tax obligations, if any, which may 21 arise from the payments set forth above shall be the sole obligation of Plaintiff, and that Plaintiff 22 will indemnify Defendants against any and all costs, penalties, taxes or other payments made or 23 required as a result of the allocation of those payments, if any, or the reporting of those payments. 24 Plaintiff agrees to notify Defendants promptly of any claims made for costs, penalties or taxes 25 related to those payments. Plaintiff acknowledges that Defendants make no representations as to 26 the tax consequences or characterization of the nature of any payment made pursuant to this 27 Settlement Agreement.

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13. <u>Attorneys' Fees and Costs</u>: Except as provided in Paragraph 9 above, Plaintiff, on

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SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1 the one hand, and Defendants, on the other, each agree to bear their own costs and attorneys' fees 2 and waive any statute, rule of court, provision or legal proposition which might otherwise be relied 3 upon to obtain costs, fees or expenses in connection with Plaintiff's allegations and cause of action released herein. Each Party agrees that it is not a prevailing party within the meaning of the Labor 4 5 Code, Wage Orders, or any other statute applicable to Plaintiff's legal claims. Plaintiff's counsel 6 acknowledges that if this settlement is approved it will have no claim for or legal right to attorneys' 7 fees or costs independent of any claim that Plaintiff may have, and upon approval of the settlement 8 Plaintiff's counsel waives and releases any such claim or legal right.

9 14. Liens: Plaintiff acknowledges that she is solely responsible for the resolution,
10 waiver, satisfaction, and/or discharge of any equitable or contractual claims, subrogation claims or
11 liens, known or unknown, past or future, asserted against the settlement proceeds of this settlement
12 by any person or entity that provided benefits or payments of any kind to Plaintiff. Plaintiff agrees
13 to indemnify Defendants from and against any and all claims, judgments, or suits for any such
14 claims, subrogation claims or liens.

15 15. Release of Claims by Allegedly Aggrieved Employees and the LWDA: Upon the 16 approval by the Court of this Settlement Agreement, and except as to such rights or claims as may 17 be created by this Settlement Agreement, each and every Allegedly Aggrieved Employee (which 18 includes any legal heirs and/or successors-in-interest of each and every Allegedly Aggrieved 19 Employee) and the LWDA, fully release and discharge J.C. Penney Corporation, Inc., J.C. Penney 20 Company, Inc., and all of its and their direct and indirect affiliates, subsidiaries, parents, 21 predecessors, successors and assigns, and all of its and their respective past, present and future 22 partners, principals, officers, directors, employees, attorneys, insurers, representatives and agents, 23 whether acting as agents or in individual capacities, and any company pension and welfare benefit 24 plans (and their respective plan administrators, fiduciaries, insurers and trustees) (collectively, the 25 "Releasees"), from any and all debts, liabilities, demands, obligations, penalties, guarantees, costs, 26 expenses, attorneys' fees, damages, interest, actions or causes of action of whatever kind or nature, 27 whether known or unknown, all claims that are alleged in, or that could have been alleged in the Lawsuit arising out of the alleged failure to provide "suitable seating" under Section 14 (or similar 28

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- 7 -Settlement agreement

"suitable seating" provisions of any other Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order), any 1 2 resulting claim for penalties under PAGA, and/or other provisions of law alleged to have been 3 violated in the Lawsuit through the Effective Date (the "Released Claims"). This includes claims under California law for any claim related to any alleged failure to provide "suitable seating," 4 including any claim for damages, penalties or other remedies resulting from such claims, as well 5 6 as any derivative penalties under PAGA. The Parties agree that, beyond the Maximum Settlement 7 Amount, Defendants shall not owe any further monies to Allegedly Aggrieved Employees, the 8 LWDA, or to Plaintiff's counsel based on the Released Claims.

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16. <u>Waiver of Unknown Claims by Allegedly Aggrieved Employees and the LWDA</u>: With respect to the Released Claims only, the Parties agree that, upon the Effective Date, each and every Allegedly Aggrieved Employee (which includes any legal heirs and/or successors-in-interest of each and every Allegedly Aggrieved Employee) and the LWDA shall have, by operation of the Order and Judgment, waived and relinquished, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the provisions,

14 rights, and benefits of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS/HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM/HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS/HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR.

All Allegedly Aggrieved Employees and the LWDA shall be deemed to have acknowledged that this Settlement Agreement is intended to include in its effect all Released Claims that they do not know or suspect to exist in their favor at the time of approval of this Settlement Agreement.

17. <u>Release of Claims by Plaintiff</u>: In consideration for receiving the PAGA service
 award payment described above, Plaintiff hereby binds herself, and all of her heirs, beneficiaries,
 trustees, administrators, executors, assigns, agents and legal representatives, and hereby releases,
 waives and forever discharges Defendants and the Releasees from, and hereby acknowledges full
 accord and satisfaction of, any and all claims, demands, causes of action, and liabilities of any kind
 whatsoever (upon any legal or equitable theory, whether contractual, common law or statutory,
 under federal, state or local law or otherwise), whether known or unknown, asserted or unasserted.

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SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1	by reason of any act, omission, transaction, agreement or occurrence, that she has ever had, now		
2	has or hereafter may have against Defendants and the Releasees up to and including the date of the		
3	execution of this Agreement ("Plaintiff's Released Claims"). Plaintiff also covenants not to sue		
4	Defendants and the Releasees for any of the claims released herein, agrees not to participate in any		
5	class, collective, representative, or group action that may include any of the claims released herein,		
6	and will affirmatively opt out of any such class, collective, representative or group action. Plaintiff		
7	agrees not to participate in, seek to recover in, or assist in any litigation or investigation by other		
8	persons or entities against Defendants and/or the Releasees, except as required by law.		
9	Notwithstanding any other provision of this Settlement Agreement, this general release does not		
10	release any claims that cannot lawfully be released. This general release is not intended to limit		
11	Plaintiff from filing a charge with, or participating in an investigation conducted by, the Equal		
12	Employment Opportunity Commission; provided, however, that Plaintiff expressly waives and		
13	relinquishes any rights she might have to recover damages or other relief, whether equitable or		
14	legal, in any such proceeding (whether brought by her or on her behalf) concerning events or actions		
15	that arose on or before the date that she signed this Settlement Agreement.		
16	18. <u>Waiver of Unknown Claims by Plaintiff</u> : With respect to Plaintiff's Released		
17	Claims, Plaintiff acknowledges the language of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which		
18	provides:		
19	A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS		
20	WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS/HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING		
21	THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM/HER MUST		
22	HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS/HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR.		
22	Plaintiff expressly waives the protection of section 1542. Plaintiff understands and agrees that		
23	claims or facts in addition to or different from those which are now known or believed by her to		
24	exist may hereafter be discovered. It is Plaintiff's intention to settle fully and release all of the		
23 26	claims Plaintiff now has against Defendants and the Releasees whether known or unknown,		
	suspected or unsuspected, except as to claims that cannot lawfully be released.		
27	19 Standing and No Transfer of Claims: Plaintiff expressly represents and warrants		

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19. <u>Standing and No Transfer of Claims</u>: Plaintiff expressly represents and warrants

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

that she has standing to dismiss any and all claims she has or may have against Defendants and the Releasees, and that she is not a "debtor" within the meaning of the federal bankruptcy statutes.
Plaintiff further represents and warrants that she has not assigned, transferred or conveyed to any person or entity any claim, demand, liability, obligation or cause of action released by this Settlement Agreement. Plaintiff agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Defendants and the Releasees from any claims which may be asserted against them based on, or arising out of, any such assignment, transfer, or conveyance.

8 20. <u>Statements Regarding the Settlement</u>: The Parties and their counsel agree that they
9 will not issue any press releases or press statements, hold any press conferences, or initiate any
10 communications with the press or media about this Settlement Agreement.

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#### PAYMENT TO THE ALLEGEDLY AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES AND RELEASE

12 21. Within 20 days after approval of this Settlement Agreement by the Court, 13 Defendants will provide to the Claims Administrator information concerning the list of Allegedly 14 Aggrieved Employees including their social security numbers. The Claims Administrator will 15 perform address updates and verifications prior to the first mailing. Within 21 days after receipt of 16 the list of Allegedly Aggrieved Employees, and subject to the approval of the Court, the Claims 17 Administrator will mail a settlement Notice (in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A) and check to 18 each Allegedly Aggrieved Employee by first class mail. The Claims Administrator will perform one address follow-up on returned mail, and will re-mail the Notice and check to an updated address 19 20 (if any) within ten calendar days of receipt of the returned mail. The Parties intend that reasonable, 21 but not extraordinary, means are to be used to locate Allegedly Aggrieved Employees. If no other 22 address is found, no further action is required.

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23 22. The Claims Administrator shall also be responsible for taking care of all required
24 tax reporting and issuing Form 1099s with the settlement payments, if necessary. Upon completion
25 of its calculation of payments, the Claims Administrator shall provide Plaintiff's counsel and
26 Defendants' counsel with a report listing the amount of all payments made to each Allegedly
27 Aggrieved Employee but without the social security numbers of the Allegedly Aggrieved
28 Employees.

#### ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

23. <u>Plaintiff's Motions to Compel</u>: The parties agree that, to the extent it has not already
occurred, Plaintiff shall take her pending Motions to Compel Defendants' Further Responses to
Special Interrogatories, Sets Three and Five, and Requests for Production, Set Five (the "Discovery
Motions"), set for hearing on February 27, 2017, off calendar. If the Court should, for any reason,
not approve the settlement as set forth in this Settlement Agreement, Defendants agree not to object
to the timeliness of the Discovery Motions if Plaintiff re-files them within 45 days after the
settlement is not approved.

9 24. <u>Construction</u>: The Parties agree that the terms and conditions of this Settlement 10 Agreement are the result of lengthy, intensive arm's-length negotiations between the Parties and 11 that this Settlement Agreement shall not be construed in favor of or against any Party by reason of 12 the extent to which any Party or his, her, or its counsel participated in the drafting of this Settlement 13 Agreement.

14 25. <u>Choice of Law</u>: This Settlement Agreement shall in all respects be interpreted,
15 enforced and governed by and under the laws of the State of California (other than its choice-of16 law provisions). In interpreting the language of this Settlement Agreement, both Parties to the
17 Settlement Agreement shall be treated as having drafted this Settlement Agreement after
18 meaningful negotiations.

26. <u>Captions and Interpretations</u>: Paragraph titles or captions contained herein are
inserted as a matter of convenience and for reference only and in no way define, limit, extend, or
describe the scope of this Settlement Agreement or any provision hereof. Each term of this
Settlement Agreement is contractual and not merely a recital.

23 27. <u>Modification</u>: This Settlement Agreement may not be changed, altered, or modified,
 24 except in a writing signed by counsel for all Parties. Any material changes, alternations, or
 25 modifications to the provisions of this Settlement Agreement must be approved by the Court.

28. <u>Integration Clause</u>: This Settlement Agreement contains the entire agreement
 among the Parties relating to the settlement and transaction contemplated hereby, and all prior or
 contemporaneous agreements, understandings, representations, and statements, whether oral or

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SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

written and whether by a Party or that Party's legal counsel, are merged herein. In entering into
 this Settlement Agreement, none of the Parties has relied on any representation or promise not
 expressly set forth in this Settlement Agreement.

4 29. <u>Counterparts</u>: This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts, and has 5 the same force and effect as if all signatures were obtained in one document. Execution of a 6 facsimile copy shall have the same force and effect as execution of an original, and a facsimile 7 signature shall be deemed an original and valid signature.

Enforcement of Settlement Agreement: Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699, this 8 30. 9 Settlement Agreement must be approved by the Court and will be enforceable by the Court pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6. Even after the entry of judgment, the Parties jointly 10 request and reserve the Court's continuing jurisdiction under section 664.6. All terms of this 11 Settlement Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of 12 California, without giving effect to conflict of laws principles. 13 14 Dated: 41 Plaintiff Vivsla Jones 15 Dated: 16 for Defendants 17 J.C. Penney Corporation, Inc., and J.C. Penney Company, Inc. 18 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:** 19 Dated: INITIATIVE LEGAL GROUP APC 20 21 By: 22 Counsel for Plaintiff Alyssa Jones 23 Dated: 4/18/17 24 **ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE LLP** 25 By: 26 Counsel for Defendants J.C. Penney Corporation, Inc., and 27 J.C. Penney Company, Inc. 28 OHSUSA:766421767.6 - 12 -SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

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1 alternations, or modifications to the provisions of this Settlement Agreement must be approved by 2 the Court.

28. Integration Clause: This Settlement Agreement contains the entire agreement 3 among the Parties relating to the settlement and transaction contemplated hereby, and all prior or 4 5 contemporaneous agreements, understandings, representations, and statements, whether oral or written and whether by a Party or that Party's legal counsel, are merged herein. In entering into 6 7 this Settlement Agreement, none of the Parties has relied on any representation or promise not 8 expressly set forth in this Settlement Agreement.

9 29. Counterparts: This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts, and 10 has the same force and effect as if all signatures were obtained in one document. Execution of a 11 facsimile copy shall have the same force and effect as execution of an original, and a facsimile 12 signature shall be deemed an original and valid signature.

13 Enforcement of Settlement Agreement: Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699, this 30. 14 Settlement Agreement must be approved by the Court and will be enforceable by the Court 15 pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6. Even after the entry of judgment, the Parties 16 jointly request and reserve the Court's continuing jurisdiction under section 664.6. All terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State 17 of California, without giving effect to conflict of laws principles. 18

19 Dated: 20 Dated: 4/12/17 21 22 23 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:** 24 Dated: 4 17 17 25 26 27 28

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Plaintiff Alyssa Jones Mellisa Liegl for Defendants

J.C. Penney Corporation, Inc., and J.C. Penney Company, Inc.

INITIATIVE LEGAL GROUP APC

Counsel for Plainti

Alyssa Jones

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EXHIBIT A

#### Alyssa Jones v. J.C. Penney Corporation, Inc. et al. Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. BC451823

This notice relates to the settlement of a Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") action. A lawsuit was filed by a former J.C. Penney employee, Alyssa Jones ("Plaintiff"), against J.C. Penney Corporation, Inc. and J.C. Penney Company, Inc. ("JCP") in Los Angeles County Superior Court. Plaintiff brought the lawsuit as a representative action under PAGA, on behalf of the State of California and certain other current and former employees of JCP who were employed from December 23, 2009 to the present. A PAGA action is an action for penalties in which the State of California receives 75% of any penalties collected.

Plaintiff alleges that JCP denied certain employees the opportunity to be seated even where the nature of the work reasonably permitted seating, particularly while performing cashiering duties. JCP strongly denies Plaintiff's claims and asserts that no penalties are due to Plaintiff or to other allegedly aggrieved employees. The Court has made no determination on the merits of Plaintiff's claims, but the parties have decided to resolve the case through settlement, with the approval of the Court.

You have received this notice because JCP's records indicate that you may be one of the employees whom Plaintiff alleges was potentially aggrieved by one or more of the practices about which she complains (you are or were a nonexempt employee of JCP at any time between December 23, 2009 and January 5, 2017, you work(ed) at Store Nos. 0250 (Lakewood), 1778 (Orange), 2648 (Brea), 2649 (Westminster Mall), 2823 (Rancho Cucamonga), and/or 2937 (Chino), and your duties included operating a cash register). The parties have agreed that a portion of the settlement proceeds would be distributed to the allegedly aggrieved employees, including you, after 75% of any penalties collected are paid to the State of California according to California law.

The enclosed check represents your portion of the settlement payment, which is based on your share of the total settlement proceeds that the parties have agreed to be paid to the allegedly aggrieved employees. You may deposit or cash the check without any further obligation on your part and there is no need for you to contact the settlement administrator, the parties, or the Court.

Because you have a constitutional right of privacy to object to the disclosure of your personal contact information, your personal contact information has not been provided to counsel for Plaintiff. The Court has authorized a third-party administrator to send you this notice, and they have agreed to keep your contact information confidential.

If you have questions about this notice, please contact the Claims Administrator, CPT at (877) 705-5021.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN EXPRESSION OF ANY OPINION BY THE COURT AS TO THE MERITS OF THE CLAIMS OR DEFENSES BY EITHER SIDE IN THIS PROCEEDING.

#### PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT REGARDING THIS CASE.

*				
1	PROOF OF SERVICE			
2	STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES			
3	I am employed in the State of California, County of Los Angeles. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within suit; my business address is 1801 Century Park East, Suite 2500, Los Angeles, California 90067.			
5	On April 19, 2017, I served the document described as:			
6	JOINT STIPULATION RE PAGA PENALTY SETTLEMENT; [PROPOSED]			
7	ORDER APPROVING PAGA PENALTIES SETTLEMENT AND JUDGMENT			
8	on the interested parties in this action by sending [ ] the original [or] [ $\checkmark$ ] a true copy thereof [ $\checkmark$ ] to interested parties as follows [or] [ ] as stated on the attached service list:			
9	Michael D. Weil Stephanie Gail Lee			
10	ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE LLP			
11	The Orrick Building 405 Howard Street			
12	San Francisco, CA 94105			
13	[✓] BY MAIL (ENCLOSED IN A SEALED ENVELOPE): I deposited the envelope(s) for mailing in the ordinary course of business at Los Angeles California			
14 15	envelope(s) for mailing in the ordinary course of business at Los Angeles, California. I am "readily familiar" with this firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice, sealed envelopes are deposited with the U.S. Postal Service that same day in the ordinary course of business with postage			
16	thereon fully prepaid at Los Angeles, California.			
17	[] <b>BY FAX:</b> I hereby certify that this document was served from Los Angeles, California, by facsimile delivery on the parties listed herein at their most recent fax number of record in this action.			
18 19	<ul> <li>BY PERSONAL SERVICE: I delivered the document, enclosed in a sealed envelope, by hand to the offices of the addressee(s) named herein.</li> <li>BY OVERNIGHT DELIVERY: I am "readily familiar" with this firm's practice of</li> </ul>			
20				
21	collection and processing correspondence for overnight delivery. Under that practice, overnight packages are enclosed in a sealed envelope with a packing slip attached thereto fully prepaid. The packages are picked up by the carrier at our			
22	offices or delivered by our office to a designated collection site.			
23	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.			
24	Executed this April 19, 2017, at Los Angeles, California.			
25				
<sup>وي</sup> ۲۰ 26	Joseph Liu			
⊳ ♣ 27	Joseph End       Type or Print Name       Signature			
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	PROOF OF SERVICE			

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INITIATIVE LEGAL GROUP APC 1801 Century Park east, Suite 2500, LOS angeles, California 20067

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## Exhibit 4

1	Brian J. Mankin, Esq. [CSB No. 216228]		
2	Brian J. Mankin, Esq. [CSB No. 216228] Peter J. Carlson, Esq. [CSB No. 295611] Fernandez & Lauby LLP		
3	4590 Allstate Drive Riverside, CA 92501		
4	Fax: (951) 320-1444	FILED SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA	
5	bjm@fernandezlauby.com	COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT	
6	Kirk D. Hanson, Esq. [CSB No. 167920] Law Offices of Kirk D. Hanson	SEP 1 3 2017	
7	2790 Truxtun Rd., Suite 140 San Diego, California 92106	BY BABIF DEPUTY	
8	Tel: (619) 523-1992 Fax: (619) 523-9002	JESSICA GADLE, 2-	
9	hansonlaw@cox.net		
	Attorneys for Plaintiff, Amber Garcia, on Beh Employees	alt of the State of California and Aggrieved	
10			
11	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
12	FOR THE COUNT	Y OF SAN BERNARDINO	
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14	AMBER GARCIA, Individually, and on	Case No.: CIVDS1516007	
15	Behalf of All Aggrieved Employees,	[Assigned for all purposes to the Hon. Donna Gunnell Garza, Dept. S24]	
16	Plaintiff,	[ <del>PROPOSED</del> ] ORDER APPROVING	
17	vs.	SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT AND	
18	MACY'S WEST STORES, INC. dba	JUDGMENT ENTERED THEREON	
19	MACY'S; an Ohio Corporation; MACY'S, INC., a Delaware Corporation; and DOES 1	<u>Hearing</u>	
20	through 25, inclusive,	Date: September 13, 2017 Time: 8:30 a.m.	
21	Defendants.	Dept.: S24	
22		Compliant filed: October 30, 2015	
23		Compliant filed: October 30, 2015	
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The Motion to Approve the Parties' Settlement and Release Agreement in accordance with Labor Code § 2699(1)(2) of the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") came before this Court on a regularly noticed motion.

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Plaintiff's Complaint alleges that Defendants failed to accurately report pay on the wage statements issued to their California commission-eligible employees in violation of California Labor Code § 226(a). Plaintiff's Complaint seeks, as a result of such alleged violation, to recover civil penalties under PAGA on behalf of the State of California and all current and former commission-eligible employees, including Plaintiff, who are and/or were employed by Defendants in California between September 27, 2014, and the date of this Order ("Covered Employees").

11 The Court, having considered the settlement, including the proposed PAGA penalties to 12 be paid to the Plaintiff, the Labor Workforce and Development Agency ("LWDA"), and the Covered Employees, embodied in the Settlement and Release Agreement between Plaintiff 13 14 Amber Garcia and Defendants Macy's West Stores, Inc. and Macy's Inc.'s pursuant to Labor 15 Code § 2699(1)(2); having considered the papers filed in support of the Motion and the 16 arguments of counsel; and good cause appearing, HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:

1. In a settlement of a PAGA action brought by an aggrieved employee, the Court "shall review and approve any settlement of any civil action filed pursuant to this part." Cal. Lab. Code § 2699(1)(2).

20 2. Plaintiff's claims alleged that Defendants failed to provide accurate, itemized 21 wage statement to their commission-eligible employees, as mandated by Labor Code § 226(a), 22 and sought civil penalties under California Labor Code §§ 2699 et seq (the "Operative Claims").

23 3. The Court approves the settlement of the above-captioned action, as set forth in 24 the Settlement and Release Agreement and each of the releases and other terms of that 25 agreement.

26 4. The Court finds that the settlement, including the amount of the civil penalties to 27 be paid under PAGA, is fair, just, reasonable, and adequate in that, among other reasons, the Operative Claims (i) raised issues involving the reporting of advance commission pay on wage 28

statements that had not yet been addressed by an appellate court and to that extent remained unsettled under California law, (ii) will be cured by Defendants' agreement to implement the modified commission pay plan attached to the Settlement and Release Agreement, and (iii) did not assert any allegation that Defendants failed to properly calculate and pay Plaintiff and the Covered Employees. *See, e.g., Cotter v. Lyft, Inc.* (N.D. Cal. 2016) 193 F.Supp. 3d 1030, 1037 (setting forth criteria for the amount of PAGA penalties to be assessed); *Fleming v. Covidien* (C.D. Cal. 2011), 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 154590, \*8-9 (same). Accordingly, the Parties are directed to comply with the terms set forth in the Settlement and Release Agreement.

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5. All of the Released Claims, as defined in the Settlement and Release Agreement, are dismissed with prejudice as to Plaintiff and the Covered Employees up through the date of this Order. The Parties are to bear their own costs, except as otherwise provided in the Settlement and Release Agreement.

13 6. In accordance with the Settlement and Release Agreement, Defendants agreed to pay a total of \$12,500,000.00 (the "Settlement Amount"). As part of the settlement, Plaintiff's 14 15 Counsel seeks an award of attorney's fees equal to one-third of the Settlement Amount 16 (\$4,166,666.67), reimbursement of its reasonable litigation expenses in the amount of 17 \$18,811.95, a Service Enhancement Award of \$10,000 for Plaintiff, and settlement administrative costs in the amount of \$35,562 for the Settlement Administrator, Rust Consulting. 18 19 Defendants do not oppose these requests. The Court finds that the Settlement Amount and the payments requested to be made from the Settlement Amount are fair, reasonable and adequate, 20 21 and approves each of these payments.

7. After deducting these approved payments, the balance of the Settlement Amount
will be \$8,268,959.38 ("the Net Settlement Amount"), which shall be allocated as PAGA civil
penalties. Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(i), the PAGA civil penalties shall be paid 75 percent to
the LWDA (\$6,201,719.53), and 25 percent to the Covered Employees (\$2,067,239.85), as set
forth in the Settlement and Release Agreement. The Court authorizes and directs the Settlement
Administrator, Rust Consulting, to issue and send the settlement checks to the LWDA and
Covered Employees, including thee Notice (attached hereto as Exhibit "A") to be included in the

settlement checks to the Covered Employees, in accordance with the terms of the Settlement and Release Agreement.

8. Without affecting the finality of this Order entered herein, the Court retains jurisdiction of all matters relating to the interpretation, administration, implementation, effectuation and enforcement of this Order and the Settlement and Release Agreement pursuant to Cal Civ. Proc. Code § 664.6.

9. This Order is intended to be a final disposition of the above action in its entirety and this matter is dismissed with prejudice.

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10	Dated:	SEP 1 3 2017		-
11			Hon. Donna Gunnell Garza	
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Settlement Administrator (Address) (Phone)

DATE OF MAILING, 2017

[Covered Employee] [Address] [Address]

Re: Amber Garcia v. Macy's West Stores, Inc. San Bernardino County Superior Court Case No. CIVDS1516007

#### Notice of PAGA Settlement and Payment

Dear [Covered Employee]:

According to Macy's records, you were employed as a commission-eligible employee at one of its stores in California at some point during the time period of September 27, 2014, through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2017 (the "Covered Period") and received at least one wage statement reflecting commission wages during this period. Amber Garcia, a former Macy's commissioned employee, filed a lawsuit against Macy's in September 2015 under California's Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA" at Labor Code § 2699), alleging that Macy's failed to provide, maintain, and/or issue to its commission-eligible employees accurate itemized wage statements within the meaning of California Labor Code § 226.. This PAGA action sought civil penalties on behalf of the State of California and commission-eligible employees who worked during the Covered Period.

Macy's disputes that it violated any provisions of the California Labor Code and contends that it properly reported on its wage statements the pay its commission-eligible employees received in compliance with all requirements of California law. Nevertheless, without admitting any wrongdoing, Macy's agreed to resolve this case by way of settlement.

The Court approved the Settlement on \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2017. Under California law, any settlement of a PAGA case results in 75 percent of the awarded penalty being paid to the State of California and 25 percent of the penalty being paid to the employees who worked during the Covered Period. The settlement releases only claims for civil penalties alleged in the complaint under PAGA (Labor Code § 2699) for the wage statements reflecting commission wages that Macy's issued to you during the period of September 27, 2014, through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2017. Your share of the settlement was calculated based on the number of wage statements reflecting commission wages issued to you during the Covered Period and is being paid to you in the enclosed settlement check. You have 120 days to cash the settlement check. If you do not cash the settlement check within 120 days, the check will be voided and a stop-payment will be issued. Your share will be forwarded to the California Department of Industrial Relations Unclaimed Property Department in your name, but you will otherwise be deemed to have irrevocably waived your right to a settlement payment from Macy's.

You can learn more about the lawsuit on the Court's website at \_\_\_\_\_\_ You may also call the Settlement Administrator using the number listed above: