

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

Seilhamer v. Guitar Center Stores, Inc.
Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 23STCV00544

*The Superior Court for the State of California authorized this Notice. Read it Carefully!
It's not junk mail, spam, an advertisement, or solicitation by a lawyer. You are not being sued.*

You may be eligible to receive money from an employee class action lawsuit ("Action") against Guitar Center Stores, Inc. ("Defendant" is used herein as a placeholder) for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was brought by two former employees, Benjamin Seilhamer and Trevor West ("Plaintiffs"), and seeks payment of (1) back wages and other relief for a class of non-exempt employees ("Class Members") who worked for Defendant during the Class Period (January 11, 2020 through July 11, 2025); and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") for all non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period (January 11, 2022 through July 11, 2025) ("Aggrieved Employees").

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

Based on Defendant's records, **your Individual Class Payment is estimated to be \$<<Estimated Class Payment>> (less withholding) and your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$<<Estimated PAGA Payment>>**. The actual amount you may receive likely will be different and will depend on a number of factors. If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment, then according to Defendant's records, you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment because you did not work for Defendant during the PAGA Period.

The above estimates are based on Defendant's records showing that **you worked <<Clocking Weeks>> workweeks** during the Class Period and **you worked <<PAGA Periods>> pay periods** during the PAGA Period. If you believe that you worked more workweeks during either period, you can submit a challenge by the deadline date. See Section 4 of this Notice.

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

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

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

Defendant will not retaliate against you for any actions you take with respect to the proposed Settlement.

SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT

<p>You Don't Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement.</p>	<p>If you do nothing, you will be a Participating Class Member, eligible for an Individual Class Payment and an Individual PAGA Payment (if any). In exchange, you will give up your right to assert the wage claims against Defendant that are covered by this Settlement (Released Claims).</p>
<p>You Can Opt-out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement.</p> <p>The Opt-out Deadline is September 1, 2026.</p>	<p>If you don't want to fully participate in the proposed Settlement, you can opt-out of the Class Settlement by sending the Administrator a written Request for Exclusion. Once excluded, you will be a Non-Participating Class Member and no longer eligible for an Individual Class Payment. Non-Participating Class Members cannot object to any portion of the proposed Settlement. See Section 6 of this Notice.</p> <p>You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. Defendant must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees and the Aggrieved Employees must give up their rights to pursue Released Claims (defined below).</p>
<p>Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement.</p> <p>Written Objections Must be Submitted by September 1, 2026.</p>	<p>All Class Members who do not opt-out ("Participating Class Members") can object to any aspect of the proposed Settlement. The Court's decision whether to finally approve the Settlement will include a determination of how much will be paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiffs who pursued the Action on behalf of the Class. You are not personally responsible for any payments to Class Counsel or Plaintiff, but every dollar paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiffs reduces the overall amount paid to Participating Class Members.</p> <p>You can object to the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiffs if you think they are unreasonable. See Section 7 of this Notice.</p>
<p>You Can Participate in the October 2, 2026 Final Approval Hearing.</p>	<p>The Court's Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on October 2, 2026. You don't have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone or by using the Court's virtual appearance platform. Participating Class Members can verbally object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing. See Section 8 of this Notice.</p>
<p>You Can Challenge the Calculation of Your Workweeks/Pay Periods.</p> <p>Written Challenges Must be Submitted by September 1, 2026.</p>	<p>The amount of your Individual Class Payment and PAGA Payment (if any) depend on how many weeks you worked at least one day during the Class Period and how many pay periods you worked at least one day during the PAGA Period, respectively. The number of Class Period Workweeks and number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked according to Defendant's records is stated on the first page of this Notice. If you disagree with either of these numbers, you must challenge it by September 1, 2026. See Section 4 of this Notice.</p>

1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?

Plaintiffs are former employees of Defendant. The Action accuses Defendant of violating California labor laws by failing to pay overtime wages, minimum wages, wages due upon termination and reimbursable expenses and failing to provide meal periods, rest breaks and accurate itemized wage statements. Based on the same claims, Plaintiffs also sought civil penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq.) ("PAGA"). Plaintiffs are represented by attorneys in the Action: Samuel A. Wong, Kashif Haque, Jessica L. Campbell, and Kristy R. Connolly from Aegis Law Firm, PC ("Class Counsel.")

Defendant strongly denies violating any laws or failing to pay any wages and contends it complied with all applicable laws.

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE ACTION HAS SETTLED?

So far, the Court has made no determination whether Defendant or Plaintiffs are correct on the merits. In the meantime, Plaintiffs and Defendant hired an experienced, neutral mediator in an effort to resolve the Action by negotiating to settle the case rather than continuing the expensive and time-consuming process of litigation. The negotiations were successful. By signing a lengthy written settlement agreement ("Agreement") and agreeing to jointly ask the Court to enter a judgment ending the Action and enforcing the Agreement, Plaintiffs and Defendant have negotiated a proposed Settlement that is subject to the Court's Final Approval. Both sides agree the proposed Settlement is a compromise of disputed claims. By agreeing to settle, Defendant does not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims. Plaintiffs and Class Counsel strongly believe the Settlement is a good deal for you because they believe that: (1) Defendant has agreed to pay a fair, reasonable and adequate amount considering the strength of the claims and the risks and uncertainties of continued litigation; and (2) Settlement is in the best interests of the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. The Court preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, authorized this Notice, and scheduled a hearing to determine Final Approval.

3. WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT TERMS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

- A. Defendant Will Pay \$2,418,495.00 as the Gross Settlement Amount (Gross Settlement). Defendant has agreed to deposit the Gross Settlement into an account controlled by the Administrator of the Settlement. The Administrator will use the Gross Settlement to pay the Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, Class Representative Service Payments, Class Counsel's attorney's fees and expenses, the Administrator's expenses, and penalties to be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA"). Assuming the Court grants Final Approval, and there are no objections to the Settlement, Defendant will fund the Gross Settlement not more than 14 business days after the Court grants final approval and the Judgment entered by the Court becomes final.
- B. Court Approved Deductions from Gross Settlement. At the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiffs and/or Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve the following deductions from the Gross Settlement, the amounts of which will be decided by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing:
- i. Up to 35% of the Gross Settlement Amount to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and up to \$35,000.00 for reimbursement of their litigation expenses. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.
 - ii. Up to \$10,000.00 as a Class Representative Service Payment to each of the Plaintiffs for filing the Action, working with Class Counsel, and representing the Class.
 - iii. Up to \$26,000.00 to the Administrator for services administering the Settlement.
 - iv. Up to \$200,000.00 for PAGA Penalties, allocated 75% (or \$150,000.00) to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (or \$50,000.00) in Individual PAGA Payments to the Aggrieved Employees based on their pay periods worked during the PAGA Period.

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

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

IRS 1099 Forms.

- E. Need to Promptly Cash Payment Checks. The front of every check issued for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments will show the date when the check expires (the void date). If you don't cash it by the void date, your check will be automatically cancelled, and the monies will be deposited with the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in your name. If the monies represented by your check is sent to the Controller's Unclaimed Property, you should consult the rules of the Fund for instructions on how to retrieve your money.
- F. Requests for Exclusion from the Class Settlement (Opt-Outs). You will be treated as a Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Class portion of the Settlement, unless you notify the Administrator in writing, not later than September 1, 2026 that you wish to opt-out. The easiest way to notify the Administrator is to send a written and signed Request for Exclusion by the September 1, 2026 Response Deadline. The Request for Exclusion should be a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative setting forth a Class Member's name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement electing to be excluded from the Settlement. Excluded Class Members (i.e., Non-Participating Class Members) will not receive Individual Class Payments, but will preserve their rights to personally pursue wage and hour claims against Defendant.

You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Class Members who exclude themselves from the Class portion of the Settlement (Non-Participating Class Members) remain eligible for Individual PAGA Payments and are required to give up their right to assert the Released PAGA Claims against Defendant.

- G. The Proposed Settlement Will be Void if the Court Denies Final Approval. It is possible the Court will decline to grant Final Approval of the Settlement or decline to enter a Judgment. It is also possible the Court will enter a Judgment that is reversed on appeal. Plaintiffs and Defendant have agreed that, in either case, the Settlement will be void: Defendant will not pay any money and Class Members will not release any claims against Defendant.
- H. Administrator. The Court has appointed a neutral company, Atticus Administration (the "Administrator") to send this Notice, calculate and make payments, and process Class Members' Requests for Exclusion. The Administrator will also decide Class Members' challenges to Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods, mail and re-mail Settlement checks and tax forms, and perform other tasks necessary to administer the Settlement. The Administrator's contact information is contained in Section 9 of this Notice.
- I. Participating Class Members' Release.
All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from all claims arising during the Class Period that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts stated in the Operative Complaint. Except as provided by the Aggrieved Employees' PAGA Release, Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.
- J. Aggrieved Employees' PAGA Release.
All Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties arising during the PAGA Period that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice.

4. HOW WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR CALCULATE MY PAYMENT?

- A. Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual Class Payments by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members, and (b) multiplying the result by the number of Workweeks worked by each individual Participating Class Member.

- B. Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing \$50,000.00 by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees and (b) multiplying the result by the number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by each individual Aggrieved Employee.
- C. Workweek/Pay Period Challenges. The number of Workweeks you worked during the Class Period and the number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked during the PAGA Period, as recorded in Defendant's records, are stated on the first page of this Notice. You have until September 1, 2026 to challenge the number of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods credited to you. You can submit your challenge by signing and sending a letter to the Administrator via mail, email or fax. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

You need to support your challenge by sending copies of pay stubs or other records, otherwise the Administrator will accept Defendant's calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods based on Defendant's records as accurate. You should send copies rather than originals because the documents will not be returned to you. The Administrator will resolve Workweek and/or Pay Period challenges based on your submission and on input from Class Counsel (who will advocate on behalf of Participating Class Members) and Defendant's Counsel. The Court has the power to make the final determination on challenges.

5. HOW WILL I GET PAID?

- A. Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single check to every Participating Class Member (i.e., every Class Member who doesn't opt-out) including those who also qualify as Aggrieved Employees. The single check will combine the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment.
- B. Non-Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single Individual PAGA Payment check to every Aggrieved Employee, including those who opt-out of the Class Settlement (i.e., every Non-Participating Class Member who is also an Aggrieved Employee).

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

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

Submit a written and signed letter with your name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement that you do not want to participate in the Settlement. The Administrator will exclude you based on any writing communicating your request to be excluded. Be sure to personally sign your request, identify the Action as *Seilhamer v. Guitar Center Stores, Inc.*, and include your identifying information (full name, address, telephone number, and approximate dates of employment for verification purposes). You must make the request yourself. If someone else makes the request for you, it will not be valid. **The Administrator must be sent your request to be excluded by September 1, 2026, or it will be invalid.** Section 9 of the Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

7. HOW DO I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT?

Only Participating Class Members have the right to object to the Class portion of the Settlement. Before deciding whether to object, you may wish to see what Plaintiffs and Defendant are asking the Court to approve. At least 16 business days before the October 2, 2026 Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiffs will file in Court a Motion for Final Approval that includes, among other things, the reasons why the proposed Settlement is fair, and why the amounts requested for the Class Representative Service Payments, Class Counsel Fee Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and Administration Expenses Payment should be granted. Upon reasonable request, Class Counsel (whose contact information is in Section 9 of this Notice) will send you copies of these documents at no cost to you. You can also view them on the Administrator's Website www.CAEmployeeSettlementGuitarCenter.com or the Court's website at <https://ventura.ecourt.com/public-portal/?q=Home>.

A Participating Class Member who disagrees with any aspect of the Agreement or the Motion for Final Approval may wish to object, for example, that the proposed Settlement is unfair, or that the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiffs are too high or too low. The deadline for sending written objections to the Administrator is September 1, 2026.

Be sure to tell the Administrator what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. Make sure you identify the Action as Seilhamer v. Guitar Center Stores, Inc. and include your name, current address, telephone number, and approximate dates of employment for Defendant and sign the objection. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

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

8. CAN I ATTEND THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING?

You can, but don't have to, attend the Final Approval Hearing on October 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in Department 6 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. At the Final Approval Hearing, the judge will decide whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and how much of the Gross Settlement will be paid to Class Counsel, Plaintiffs, and the Administrator. The Court will invite comment from objectors, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel before making any decisions. You can attend (or hire a lawyer to attend) either personally or virtually via LACourtConnect (<https://www.lacourt.org/lacc/>). Check the Court's website for the most current information.

It's possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the Administrator's website www.CAEmployeeSettlementGuitarCenter.com beforehand or contact Class Counsel to verify the date and time of the Final Approval Hearing.

9. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The Agreement sets forth everything Defendant and Plaintiffs have promised to do under the proposed Settlement. The easiest way to read the Agreement, the Judgment or any other Settlement documents is to go to Atticus Administration's website at www.CAEmployeeSettlementGuitarCenter.com. You can also telephone or send an email to Class Counsel or the Administrator using the contact information listed below, or consult the Superior Court website by going to (<https://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/index.aspx>) and entering the following Case Number for the Action: 23STCV00544. You can also make an appointment to personally review court documents in the Clerk's Office at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse by calling (213) 830-0800.

DO NOT TELEPHONE THE SUPERIOR COURT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT.

Class Counsel:

Name of Attorney: Kashif Haque, Samuel Wong, Jessica L. Campbell, and Victoria Harp

Email Address: vharp@aegislawfirm.com

Name of Firm: Aegis Law Firm, PC

Mailing Address: 9811 Irvine Center Drive, Suite 100, Irvine, CA 92618

Telephone: (949) 379-6250

Settlement Administrator:

Name of Company: Atticus Administration

Email Address: CAEmployeeSettlementGuitarCenter@AtticusAdmin.com

Mailing Address: PO Box 64053 St. Paul, MN 55164

Telephone: 1-800-470-0690

Fax Number: 1-888-326-6411

10. WHAT IF I LOSE MY SETTLEMENT CHECK?

If you lose or misplace your Settlement check before cashing it, the Administrator will replace it as long as you request a replacement before the void date on the face of the original check. If your check is already void, you should consult the Unclaimed Property Fund for instructions on how to retrieve the funds at:

https://www.sco.ca.gov/Files-UPD/guide_upd_claiming.pdf.

11. WHAT IF I CHANGE MY ADDRESS?

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