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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

JOHN MEARS, MARIA CHOLICO, on behalf
of themselves and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CALIFORNIA WESTERN SCHOOL OF LAW,
a California corporation; and DOES 1 through
100 inclusive,

Defendant.

CRISTAL TEJEDA a.k.a. CRYSTAL TEJEDA,
individually and on behalf of others similarly
situated

Plaintiff,

v.

CALIFORNIA WESTERN SCHOOL OF LAW
and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive

Defendant.

Lead Case No.: 37-2020-00023126-CU-BC-CTL

[Assigned for all purposes to the Hon. Loren G.
Freestone, Dept. C-64]

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING FINAL
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT AND APPLICATION FOR
ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS;
JUDGMENT**

Date: March 21, 2025

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Dept: C-64

[Filed concurrently with (1) Notice of Motion and
Motion for Final Approval; Memo of Points and
Authorities; (2) Declarations of Erik Dos Santos;
(3) RG/2 Claims Administration LLC Declaration;
(4) Declaration of Plaintiff John Mears; (5)
Declaration of Plaintiff Maria Cholico; and (6)
Declaration of Plaintiff Cristal Tejada]

Non-Lead Case No. 37-2020-00023333-CU-BC-
CTL

Action Filed: July 7, 2020

RECEIVED
February 20, 2025
FILED
Clerk of the Superior Court

MAR 21 2025

By: J. Virissimo, Deputy

1 **[PROPOSED] ORDER AND JUDGMENT**

2 This matter has come before the Honorable Loren G. Freestone in Department C-64 of the San
3 Diego County Superior Court located at 330 West Broadway, San Diego, California 92101 on Plaintiffs
4 John Mears, Maria Cholico, and Cristal Tejeda's Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement
5 pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 3.769.

6 On October 11, 2024, the Court granted Plaintiffs' Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval
7 of Class Action Settlement and entered an Order in accordance therewith.

8 Having duly considered all papers, evidence and oral arguments in this matter to date, including
9 Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval and good cause appearing, the Court **ORDERS, ADJUDGES AND**
10 **DECREES:**

11 1. All defined terms contained herein shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Parties'
12 Settlement Agreement and Release ("Settlement Agreement"), a copy of which is attached hereto as
13 **Exhibit A.**

14 2. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims asserted in this litigation and personal
15 jurisdiction over Plaintiffs, Defendant, and Class Members, as defined in the Settlement Agreement.

16 3. The applicable requirements of the California Code of Civil Procedure section 382 and
17 California Rules of Court, Rule 3.769, have been satisfied with respect to the Settlement Class and the
18 settlement. The Court makes final its earlier provisional certification of the following Settlement Class for
19 purposes of settlement only.

20 A. Settlement Class: All CWSL students who enrolled to attend in-person classes
21 during the Spring 2020 Term.

22 4. Plaintiffs John Mears, Maria Cholico, and Cristal Tejeda are confirmed as the Class
23 Representatives; Shegerian & Associates, Inc. is confirmed as Class Counsel; and RG/2 Claims
24 Administration LLC is confirmed as the Settlement Administrator.

25 5. The Notice of Class Action Settlement that was approved on October 11, 2024 and
26 transmitted to the Settlement Class fully and accurately informed the members of the Settlement Class of
27 all material elements of the settlement, including their opportunity to request exclusion from the settlement
28

1 or object to the settlement; was the best notice practicable under the circumstances; was valid, due and
2 sufficient notice to all members of the Settlement Class; and complied fully with the laws of the state of
3 California, the United States Constitution, due process, Rule 3.766 of the California Rules of Court, and
4 all other applicable laws. The Court finds and determines the notice provided was the best notice
5 practicable, satisfying the requirements of law and due process.

6 6. No Class Members have submitted a timely or untimely request for exclusion.

7 7. No member of the Settlement Class has objected to the terms of the Settlement.

8 8. The settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate, and in the best interest of the members of
9 the Settlement Class as a whole. Specifically, the settlement was reached following meaningful discovery
10 and investigation conducted by Class Counsel; is the result of serious, informed, adversarial, and arm's-
11 length negotiations between the parties, and that the terms of the settlement are, in all respects, fair,
12 adequate and reasonable. The Court has considered all of the evidence presented, including evidence
13 regarding the strength of Plaintiffs' case; the risks, expense, and complexity of claims presented; the likely
14 duration of further litigation; the amount offered in the settlement; the extent of investigation and
15 discovery completed; and the experience and views of Class Counsel. The Court also considered the lack
16 of objections from members of the Settlement Class.

17 9. The settlement is to be effectuated in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

18 10. A full opportunity has been afforded to the members of the Settlement Class to participate
19 in the hearing on Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval, and all members of the Settlement Class and other
20 persons wishing to be heard, have been heard. The members of the Settlement Class have had a full and
21 fair opportunity to exclude themselves from the settlement.

22 11. Upon the date of this Order and the funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, and except
23 as to the right to enforce the terms and conditions of this Agreement, each Participating Class Member
24 will release the Released Parties of the Class Release as defined in the Settlement Agreement.

25 12. The Gross Settlement Amount of \$250,000.00 shall be funded within 30 calendar days of
26 the Effective Date, after issuance of this Order. Defendant shall deposit the Gross Settlement Amount into
27 a Qualified Settlement Fund with the Settlement Administrator.

1 13. The Settlement Administrator shall distribute the settlement funds in accordance with the
2 Settlement Agreement.

3 14. The Court approves and orders payment in the amount of \$15,000.00 to RG/2 Claims
4 Administration LLC, for performance of its settlement administration services.

5 15. In addition to any recovery that the Plaintiffs may receive under the Settlement Agreement as
6 a Class Member, and in recognition of each Plaintiffs' efforts on behalf of the Settlement Class, the Court
7 hereby approves the payment of service fee awards to Plaintiffs in the amount of \$5,000 each.

8 16. The Court approves the payment of attorneys' fees to Class Counsel in the sum of \$83,333.33
9 and the reimbursement of litigation expenses in the sum of \$13,211.50. Class Counsel has sufficiently
10 explained the basis for the fee award based on a percentage of the fund. The Court finds such amounts to be
11 fair and reasonable. The Court orders RG/2 Claims Administration LLC to make this payment in accordance
12 with the Settlement Agreement.

13 17. In accordance with California Rule of Court 3.771(b), the Parties shall give notice of this
14 Judgment to all Settlement Class Members through the website established by the Settlement
15 Administrator for this Settlement.

16 18. Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 664.6 and Rule 3.769(h) of the
17 California Rules of Court, this Court reserves exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over this action, the
18 Plaintiffs, Settlement Class Members, and Defendant, for the purposes of:


19 (a) supervising the implementation, enforcement, construction, and interpretation of the
20 Settlement, the Preliminary Approval Order, the plan of allocation, the Final Approval
21 Order, and the Judgment; and

22 (b) supervising distribution of amounts paid under this Settlement.

23 19. An accounting summary regarding the distribution of the settlement funds and the status
24 of any unresolved issues shall be filed by 9/18/2025. A final accounting hearing regarding the
25 distribution of the settlement funds shall be held on 9/25/2025 at 10:00 a.m./p.m. in
26 Department C-64 of San Diego County Superior Court.

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2 **IT IS SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED.**
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4 Dated: 3/21/2025
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6 Hon. Loren G. Freestone
7 Judge for the Superior Court
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