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Superior Court of California
County of Fresno
By: I. Herrera, Deputy

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF FRESNO**

JULIAN SANTANA, ADAM AMESCUA,
individually, and on behalf of other
aggrieved employees pursuant to the
California Private Attorneys General Act;

Plaintiffs,

vs.

LION RAISINS, INC., a California
corporation; and DOES 1 through 100,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 19CECG01344

Honorable Rosemary McGuire
Department 403

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR
ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE PRIVATE
ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT,
CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE § 2698, ET
SEQ.**

Violation of California Labor Code §
2698, et seq. (California Labor Code
Private Attorneys General Act of 2004)

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

COME NOW, Plaintiffs JULIAN SANTANA (“Plaintiff SANTANA”) and ADAM AMESCUA (“Plaintiff AMESCUA”)(collectively “Plaintiffs”), individually, and on behalf of other aggrieved employees pursuant to the California Private Attorneys General Act, and allege as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This representative action is brought pursuant to the California Labor Code section 2698, et seq. The civil penalties sought by Plaintiffs exceed the minimal jurisdiction limits of the Superior Court and will be established according to proof at trial.

2. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the California Constitution, Article VI, Section 10, which grants the superior court “original jurisdiction in all other causes” except those given by statute to other courts. The statutes under which this action is brought do not specify any other basis for jurisdiction.

3. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendant because, upon information and belief, Defendant is a citizen of California, has sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise intentionally avails itself of the California market so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over it by the California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

4. Venue is proper in this Court because, upon information and belief, Defendant maintains offices, has agents, and/or transacts business in the State of California, including the County of Fresno. The majority of acts and omissions alleged herein relating to Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees took place in the State of California, including the County of Fresno.

PARTIES

5. Plaintiff JULIAN SANTANA is an individual residing in the State of California, County of Fresno.

6. Plaintiff ADAM AMESCUA is an individual residing in the State of California, County of Fresno.

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7. Defendant LION RAISINS, INC. at all times herein mentioned, was and is, upon information and belief, an employer whose employees are engaged throughout the State of California, including the County of Fresno.

8. At all relevant times, LION RAISINS, INC. was the “employer” of Plaintiffs within the meaning of all applicable state laws and statutes.

9. At all times herein relevant, LION RAISINS, INC. and DOES 1 through 100, and each of them, were the agents, partners, joint venturers, joint employers, representatives, servants, employees, successors-in-interest, co-conspirators and assigns, each of the other, and at all times relevant hereto were acting within the course and scope of their authority as such agents, partners, joint venturers, representatives, servants, employees, successors, co-conspirators and/or assigns, and all acts or omissions alleged herein were duly committed with the ratification, knowledge, permission, encouragement, authorization and/or consent of each defendant designated as a DOE herein.

10. The true names and capacities, whether corporate, associate, individual or otherwise, of defendants DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiffs who sue said defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based on that information and belief allege, that each of the defendants designated as a DOE is legally responsible for the events and happenings referred to in this Complaint, and unlawfully caused the injuries and damages to Plaintiffs as alleged in this Complaint. Plaintiffs will seek leave of court to amend this Complaint to show the true names and capacities when the same have been ascertained.

11. LION RAISINS, INC. and DOES 1 through 100 will hereinafter collectively be referred to as “Defendants.”

12. Plaintiffs further allege that Defendants including the unknown defendants identified as DOES, directly or indirectly controlled or affected the working conditions, wages, working hours, and conditions of employment of Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees so as to make each of said Defendants employers and employers liable under the statutory provisions set forth herein.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

13. At all relevant times set forth herein, Defendants employed Plaintiffs and other aggrieved hourly-paid or non-exempt employees who worked for Defendants in the State of California (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “other aggrieved employees”).

14. Defendants, jointly and severally, employed Plaintiff SANTANA as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately October 2018 to approximately November 2018 in the State of California, County of Fresno.

15. Defendants, jointly and severally, employed Plaintiff AMESCUA as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee from approximately September 2019 to approximately September 2019 in the State of California, County of Fresno.

16. Defendants hired Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees, and failed to compensate them for all hours worked, missed meal periods or rest breaks.

17. Defendants had the authority to hire and terminate Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees; to set work rules and conditions governing Plaintiffs’ and the other aggrieved employees’ employment; and to supervise their daily employment activities.

18. Defendants exercised sufficient authority over the terms and conditions of Plaintiffs’ and the other aggrieved employees’ employment for them to be joint employers of Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees.

19. Defendants directly hired and paid wages and benefits to Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees.

20. Defendants continue to employ hourly-paid or non-exempt employees, within the State of California.

21. Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees worked over eight (8) hours in a day, and/or forty (40) hours in a week during their employment with Defendants.

22. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants engaged in a uniform policy and systematic scheme of wage abuse against their hourly-paid or non-exempt employees. This scheme involved, *inter alia*, failing to pay them for all hours worked, missed meal periods and rest breaks in violation of California law.

23. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees were entitled to receive certain wages for overtime compensation and that they were not receiving wages for overtime compensation.

24. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees the required rest and meal periods during the relevant time period as required under the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Orders and thus they are entitled to any and all applicable penalties.

25. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees were entitled to receive all meal periods or payment of one additional hour of pay at Plaintiffs’ and the other aggrieved employee’s regular rate of pay when a meal period was missed, and they did not receive all meal periods or payment of one additional hour of pay at Plaintiffs’ and the other aggrieved employee’s regular rate of pay when a meal period was missed.

26. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees were entitled to receive all rest periods or payment of one additional hour of pay at Plaintiffs’ and the other aggrieved employees’ regular rate of pay when a rest period was missed, and they did not receive all rest periods or payment of one additional hour of pay at Plaintiffs’ and the other aggrieved employees’ regular rate of pay when a rest period was missed.

27. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees were entitled to receive at least minimum wages for compensation and that they were not receiving at least minimum wages for all hours worked.

28. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees were entitled to receive all wages owed to them upon discharge or resignation, including overtime and

1 minimum wages and meal and rest period premiums, and they did not, in fact, receive all
2 such wages owed to them at the time of their discharge.

3 29. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
4 knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees were entitled
5 to receive all wages owed to them during their employment. Plaintiffs and the other
6 aggrieved employees did not receive payment of all wages, including overtime and minimum
7 wages and meal and rest period premiums, within any time permissible under California
8 Labor Code section 204.

9 30. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
10 knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees were entitled
11 to receive complete and accurate wage statements in accordance with California law, but, in
12 fact, they did not receive complete and accurate wage statements from Defendants. The
13 deficiencies included, *inter alia*, the failure to include the total number of hours worked by
14 Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees.

15 31. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
16 knew or should have known that Defendants had to keep complete and accurate payroll
17 records for Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees in accordance with California law,
18 but, in fact, did not keep complete and accurate payroll records.

19 32. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
20 knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees were entitled
21 to pay equal to half the usual or scheduled day's work in an amount no less than two (2)
22 hours nor more than four (4) hours at the employee's regular rate of pay for each workday in
23 which Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees were required to report to work and were
24 furnished less than half the usual or scheduled day's work.

25 33. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
26 knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees were entitled
27 to pay equal to no less than two hours at Plaintiffs' and the other aggrieved employees
28 regular rate of pay for each day in which Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees were

1 required to report for work a second time in one workday and were furnished less than two
2 hours of work on the second reporting.

3 34. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
4 knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees were entitled
5 to reimbursement for necessary business-related expenses and costs.

6 35. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
7 knew or should have known that they had a duty to compensate Plaintiffs and the other
8 aggrieved employees pursuant to California law, and that Defendants had the financial ability
9 to pay such compensation, but willfully, knowingly, and intentionally failed to do so, and
10 falsely represented to Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees that they were properly
11 denied wages, all in order to increase Defendants' profits.

12 36. At all material times set forth herein, Defendants failed to pay overtime wages
13 to Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees. Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved
14 employees were required to work more than eight (8) hours per day and/or forty (40) hours
15 per week without overtime compensation.

16 37. At all material times set forth herein, Defendants failed to use the
17 commissions/non-discretionary bonuses/non-discretionary performance pay to calculate the
18 regular rate of pay used to calculate the overtime rate for the payment of overtime wages
19 where Plaintiffs and the other class members earned commissions/non-discretionary
20 bonuses/non-discretionary performance pay and overtime wages in the same workweek.

21 38. At all material times set forth herein, Defendants failed to provide
22 uninterrupted meal and rest periods to Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees.

23 39. At all material times set forth herein, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and
24 the other aggrieved employees at least minimum wages for all hours worked.

25 40. At all material times set forth herein, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and
26 the other aggrieved employees all wages owed to them upon discharge or resignation.

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1 41. At all material times set forth herein, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and
2 the other aggrieved employees' wages within any time permissible under California law,
3 including, *inter alia*, California Labor Code section 204.

4 42. At all material times set forth herein, Defendants failed to provide complete
5 and accurate wage statements to Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees.

6 43. At all material times set forth herein, Defendants failed to keep complete and
7 accurate payroll records for Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees.

8 44. At all material times set forth herein, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and
9 the other aggrieved employees half the usual or scheduled day's work in an amount no less
10 than two (2) hours nor more than four (4) hours at the employee's regular rate of pay for
11 workdays in which Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees were required to report to
12 work and were furnished less than half the usual or scheduled day's work.

13 45. At all material times set forth herein, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and
14 the other aggrieved employees for two hours at Plaintiffs' and the other aggrieved employees
15 regular rate of pay for each day in which Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees were
16 required to report for work a second time in one workday and were furnished less than two
17 hours of work on the second reporting.

18 46. At all material times set forth herein, Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiffs
19 and the other aggrieved employees for necessary business-related expenses and costs.

20 47. At all material times set forth herein, Defendants failed to properly
21 compensate Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees pursuant to California law in order
22 to increase Defendants' profits.

23 48. California Labor Code section 218 states that noting in Article 1 of the Labor
24 Code shall limit the right of any wage claimant to "sue directly . . . for any wages or penalty
25 due to him [or her] under this article."

26 49. At all times herein set forth, PAGA was applicable to Plaintiffs' employment
27 by Defendants.

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1 50. At all times herein set forth, PAGA provides that any provision of law under
2 the California Labor Code that provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the
3 LWDA for violations of the California Labor Code may, as an alternative, be recovered
4 through a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of herself and other
5 current or former employees pursuant to procedures outlined in California Labor Code
6 section 2699.3.

7 51. Pursuant to PAGA, a civil action under PAGA may be brought by an
8 “aggrieved employee,” who is any person that was employed by the alleged violator and
9 against whom one or more of the alleged violations was committed.

10 52. Plaintiffs were employed by Defendants and the alleged violation was
11 committed against them during their time of employment and they are, therefore, aggrieved
12 employees. Plaintiffs and the other employees are “aggrieved employees” as defined by
13 California Labor Code section 2699(c) in that they are all current or former employees of
14 Defendants, and one or more of the alleged violations were committed against them.

15 53. Pursuant to California Labor Code sections 2699.3 and 2699.5, an aggrieved
16 employee, including Plaintiffs, may pursue a civil action arising under PAGA after the
17 following requirements have been met:

- 18 a. The aggrieved employee shall give written notice by certified mail
19 (hereinafter “Employee’s Notice”) to the Labor & Workforce
20 Development Agency (hereinafter “LWDA”) and the employer of the
21 specific provisions of the California Labor Code alleged to have been
22 violated, including the facts and theories to support the alleged
23 violations.
- 24 b. The LWDA shall provide notice (hereinafter “LWDA Notice”) to the
25 employer and the aggrieved employee by certified mail that it does not
26 intend to investigate the alleged violation within thirty (30) calendar
27 days of the postmark date of the Employee’s Notice. Upon receipt of
28 the LWDA Notice, or if the LWDA Notice is not provided within

thirty-three (33) calendar days of the postmark date of the Employee's Notice, the aggrieved employee may commence a civil action pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699 to recover civil penalties in addition to any other penalties to which the employee may be entitled.

54. On February 15, 2019, Plaintiff SANTANA provided written notice by U.S. Certified Mail to the LWDA and to Defendant LION RAISINS, INC. of the specific provisions of the California Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations.

55. On February 15, 2020, Plaintiff AMESCUA provided written notice by electronic submission to the LWDA and by U.S. Certified Mail to Defendant LION RAISINS, INC. of the specific provisions of the California Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations.

56. Therefore, Plaintiffs have satisfied the administrative prerequisites under California Labor Code section 2699.3(a) to recover civil penalties against Defendants, including unpaid wages and premium wages per California Labor Code section 558 against Defendants, in addition to other remedies, for violations of California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of California Labor Code § 2698, et seq.

(Against LION RAISINS, INC. and DOES 1 through 100)

57. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 56, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

58. PAGA expressly establishes that any provision of the California Labor Code which provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the LWDA, or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies or employees for a violation of the
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California Labor Code, may be recovered through a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself, and other current or former employees.

59. Whenever the LWDA, or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies, or employees has discretion to assess a civil penalty, a court in a civil action is authorized to exercise the same discretion, subject to the same limitations and conditions, to assess a civil penalty.

60. Plaintiffs and the other hourly-paid or non-exempt employees are “aggrieved employees” as defined by California Labor Code section 2699(c) in that they are all current or former employees of Defendants, and one or more of the alleged violations was committed against them.

Failure to Pay Overtime

61. Defendants’ failure to pay legally required overtime wages to Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees is in violation of the applicable IWC Wage Orders and constitutes unlawful or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198.

Failure to Provide Meal Periods

62. Defendants’ failure to provide legally required meal periods to Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees is in violation of the applicable IWC Wage Orders and constitutes unlawful or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a).

Failure to Provide Rest Periods

63. Defendants’ failure to provide legally required rest periods to Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees is in violation of the applicable IWC Wage Orders and constitutes unlawful or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code section 226.7.

Failure to Pay Minimum Wages

64. Defendants’ failure to pay legally required minimum wages to Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees is in violation of the applicable IWC Wage Orders and

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constitutes unlawful or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197 and 1197.1.

Failure to Timely Pay Wages Upon Termination

65. Defendants' failure to timely pay wages to Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees upon termination in accordance with Labor Code sections 201 and 202 constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code sections 201 and 202.

Failure to Timely Pay Wages During Employment

66. Defendants' failure to timely pay wages to Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees during employment in accordance with Labor Code section 204 constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code section 204.

Failure to Provide Complete and Accurate Wage Statements

67. Defendants' failure to provide complete and accurate wage statements to Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees in accordance with Labor Code section 226(a) constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code section 226(a).

Failure to Keep Complete and Accurate Payroll Records

68. Defendants' failure to keep complete and accurate payroll records relating to Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees in accordance with California Labor Code section 1174(d) constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code section 1174(d).

Failure to Pay Reporting Time Pay

69. Defendants' failure to pay reporting time pay to Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees is in violation of the applicable IWC Wage Orders and constitutes unlawful or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code section 1198.

Failure to Reimburse Necessary Business-Related Expenses and Costs

70. Defendants' failure to reimburse Plaintiffs and the other aggrieved employees for necessary business-related expenses and costs in accordance with California Labor Code

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sections 2800 and 2802 constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802.

71. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699, Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of all aggrieved employees, requests and are entitled to recover from Defendants and each of them, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code section 218.5, as well as all statutory penalties against Defendants, and each of them, including but not limited to:

- a. Penalties under California Labor Code section 2699 in the amount of a hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation, and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation;
- b. Penalties under California Code of Regulations Title 8 sections 11010 et seq. in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation, and one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation;
- c. Penalties under California Labor Code section 210 in addition to, and entirely independent and apart from, any other penalty provided in the California Labor Code in the amount of a hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation, and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation; and
- d. Any and all additional penalties and sums as provided by the California Labor Code and/or other statutes.

72. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 2699(i), civil penalties recovered by aggrieved employees shall be distributed as follows: seventy-five percent (75%) to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency for the enforcement of labor laws and education of employers and employees about their rights and responsibilities and twenty-five percent (25%) to the aggrieved employees.

73. Further, Plaintiffs are entitled to seek and recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code sections 210, 218.5 and 2699 and any other applicable statute.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of other aggrieved employees pursuant to the California Private Attorneys General Act, requests a trial by jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of other aggrieved employees pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act, prays for relief and judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000):

As to the First Cause of Action

1. For civil penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 2699(a), (f) and (g) and 558 plus costs/expenses and attorneys' fees for violation of California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512(a), 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802; and

2. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

DATED: February 26, 2021

LAWYERS for JUSTICE, PC

By: _____



Edwin Aiwanian
Attorneys for Plaintiffs